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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 5:10 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** [decker\\_bryce@yahoo.com](mailto:decker_bryce@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2352 on 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2352

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bryce Decker, PhD.  
Organization: Kona Coffee Farmers' Assovciations  
E-mail: [decker\\_bryce@yahoo.com](mailto:decker_bryce@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

I am a retired academic, an alumnus of UH Manoa, and for 25 years, a professor of geography on its faculty. In retirement, I been active in coffee affairs in Kona. I oppose this bill because the Department of Agriculture needs to allocate resources to combat the coffee berry borer, which threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. There are some 600 hundred coffee farmers affected. Bills that favor a single large producer while neglecting 99 per cent of them in real trouble with the borer strike me as very unwise policy. We can do better.

Hawaii 100% Kona Coffee Company

PO Box 1025 Captain Cook, HI 96704

Tel.: 808-345-5589

We OPPOSE SB2352 HD1.

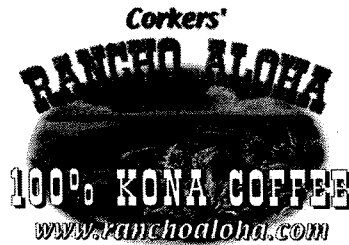
This is an inappropriate use of the State of Hawaii creditworthiness to fund the construction of a facility for a foreign owned company.

In the meantime the Kona coffee industry suffers from inadequate or no assistance from the state in its battle against the coffee berry borer infestation.

If the state of Hawaii and the legislative representatives that support this bill gave a damn about the voters, citizens, and tax payers they would NOT approve this bill.

We will remember how you vote on this issue!!!

Page Trygstad & Yoko Harada, Owners



RANCHO ALOHA, PO Box 417, HOLUALOA, HAWAII 96725  
808-322-9562

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am Bruce Corker, a coffee farmer in Holualoa in the No. Kona District, Hawaii County, and offer this testimony in OPPOSITION to SB2352/SD1 .

This bill raises serious questions about the priorities of the State of Hawaii.

Coffee farmers in West Hawaii are in a dire emergency because of the recent introduction of coffee berry borer. The future of Hawaii's premier specialty agriculture crop (Kona coffee) is uncertain because of this pest. Yet in more than one and one-half years since CBB was discovered here, the HDOA has been unable to come up with the relatively small amount of money to hire and assign an entomologist to Kona to focus on developing a program for mitigation of CBB. The HDOA repeatedly cites lack of resources from the State Legislature as the reason.

Nonetheless, this Committee is giving a hearing to a bill to provide special financial assistance to a "Big Ag" corporation—while providing no apparent support for the hundreds of Kona coffee farmers who face economic devastation.

Where are the Legislature's and the Agriculture Committee's priorities? Why does the HDOA support allocation of economic resources to Kauai Coffee Co. when it is unable to hire and place an entomologist in Hawaii County? And why do the Legislature and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture seem so out of sympathy with the specialty crop farmers who now make up the heart of Hawaii agriculture?

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sandrascar@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2352 on 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2352

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sandra Scarr  
Organization: Daily Fix Coffee (Kona)  
E-mail: [sandrascar@aol.com](mailto:sandrascar@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

**Comments:**

My name is Sandra Scarr, and I am a coffee farmer in the Kona Region, Hawaii County, and offer this testimony in OPPOSITION to SB2352/SD1 .

This bill raises serious questions about the priorities of the Legislature.

Coffee farmers in West Hawaii are in a dire emergency because of the recent introduction of coffee berry borer (CBB). The future of Hawaii's premier specialty agriculture crop (Kona coffee) is uncertain because of this pest. Yet in more than one and one-half years since CBB was discovered here, the HDOA has been unable to come up with the relatively small amount of money to hire and assign an entomologist to Kona to focus on developing a program for mitigation of CBB. The HDOA repeatedly cites lack of resources from the State Legislature as the reason.

Actually, the proposed bonds will benefit a privately-owned foreign corporation, the present owners of Kauai Coffee operations.

In January 2012, Alexander & Baldwin sold its coffee operations to global coffee giant Massimo Zanetti ("MZ"). MZ is the world's largest privately owned coffee group comprised of 40 companies operating in over 35 countries. In addition to Kauai Coffee, their brands include Hills Bros, MJB, Chock-Full-Of-Nuts, Chase & Sanborn and others.

Why does MZ need HI state-guaranteed bonds? Is this just cheap money, or were the bonds part of an A & B promisory note in the sale?

In any case, it's unintelligible for Hawaii to underwrite bonds floated for the benefit of a huge, privately-owned foreign corporation, while ignoring the economic needs of local farmers.

This bill is an outrageous abuse of legislation to benefit the wealthy.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:40 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sales@itskona.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2352 on 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2352

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mark Shultise  
Organization: LavaRock Farm  
E-mail: [sales@itskona.com](mailto:sales@itskona.com)  
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

**Comments:**

I am a coffee farmer in South Kona and I oppose this bill.

I am amazed that the Hawaii Department of Ag cites that they cannot get Kona an entomologist because they say the Legislature cannot allocate funding. Our more than 700 farms are fighting a Coffee Borer Beetle which is devastating our crops and yet you can find funds to help assure loans to a private company.

I have nothing personal against Kauai Coffee Company and before buying my Kona farm, used to serve and promote their coffee at my office on the mainland.

I cannot fathom why bills and funding seem to involve and sway towards large companies and ignore the farmers who are growing the crop and have more limited finances.

You say this bill will benefit ALL coffee producers in the state, yet it will not be located on the Big Island, will it? We have restrictions about shipping our product to other islands because of CBB.

How is Kauai Coffee Company going to process our coffee when it is in direct competition to Kona coffee?

I oppose this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:08 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** brun0-1000@usa.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2352 on 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2352

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paul Uster  
Organization: Mokulele Farms  
E-mail: [brun0-1000@usa.net](mailto:brun0-1000@usa.net)  
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

**Comments:**

The state is willing to hold the bag for up to \$10M for big agribusiness, but can't even find less than a hundredth of that to hire an entomologist to help small farmers in Hawaii County battle CBB. These are the WRONG priorities for our state.

Please redirect the State's economic resources from backing these special purpose bonds and apply those resources to assisting the efforts of Hawaii County's 700+ family coffee farmers in their struggle to combat the effects of CBB.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:29 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** hanna.louise@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2352 on 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2352

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Louise Hanna  
Organization: Luther Coffee Farm  
E-mail: [hanna.louise@gmail.com](mailto:hanna.louise@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

My name is Louise Hanna, I am a coffee farmer in the Kona Region, Hawaii County. I offer the following testimony in opposition to SB2352.  
I am one of 700 small farmers in the Kona region of the Big Island. I am willing to bear my own production expenses for my coffee, but as a small farmer I cannot fund the research necessary to fight the CBB coffee pest. I respectfully request that the Legislature appropriate funds to hire and support an Entomologist in Kona in Hawaii County, rather than funding a single corporation. As legislatures I hope that you will support the joint needs of 700 small farmers rather than the profits of a single corporate entity. I believe it the roll of government to provide for the needs of the people. The Kona Coffee farmers need your help to muster a unified defense against the CBB infestation. We need local science and research, not hand outs.  
Respectfully,  
Louise Hanna

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2352 on 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/14/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2352

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Comments Only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

**Comments:**

Ten Million Dollars for a coffee processing facility far from the coffee growing area. Seems like it would not really benefit the Hawai'i Island 700 small farms, not really, shipping, no control over product, seems like a benefit for Kauai Coffee, while the farmers on Hawaii Island are devastated because we can't keep out invasive species. How far would ten million go to protecting Hawai'i Island Coffee?