

**From:** [Kurt Weigelt](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:24:07 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Kurt F. Weigelt, Ph.D.  
Owner of the Beautiful Edge of the World B&B and Coffee Farm, Captain Cook

Dear honorable committee members,

I'm certain you've read and heard *ad nauseum* from the local farmers about the impact of CBB on their ability to make a living and the precarious position the coffee industry finds itself in due to the CBB. I emphatically concur with those views. But I'd like for you to also consider the broader economic ramifications of coffee industry collapse (which it almost certainly will without adequate support). One should expect a reverse multiplier effect of approximately eight. To illustrate, if a farmer received \$10,000 in a given year for the coffee he sells, by the time he has purchased food, fertilizer, pesticide, labor, and on and on, and the recipients of those monies likewise spend the money initially received by the farmer, one can assume a powerful multiplier effect. If the farmer's income is eliminated, substantial adverse economic impact should be expected, not only from a reduced tax base and the need for possible public assistance, but also due to the multiplier effect.

Very briefly and specifically, besides being a coffee farmer I am also the owner of a small bed and breakfast. You may not know that a remarkably high percentage of our guests come specifically to the Kona area to see how the world's best (the opinion of many) coffee is grown, to sample Kona coffee and to buy some to take home.

Please do all that is within your power to see that this important industry does not collapse. It's in everyone's best interest.

Mahalo and best regards,

Kurt Weigelt

**From:** [store@dailyfixcoffee.com](mailto:store@dailyfixcoffee.com)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:42:06 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Sandra Scarr, Daily Fix Coffee

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"

The Hawaii coffee industry is united on this issue—CBB is an emergency. It needs to be treated as an emergency by the State.

Coffee may be lost as one of Hawaii's heritage crops if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon.

The CBB emergency has received precious little attention from the State of Hawaii in the two and half years since it was discovered in Kona. Emergency research is needed to adapt mitigation techniques used in other parts of the world to unique conditions of Hawaii—in ways that are practical for Hawaii farmers.

The scientists at PBARC are some of the best in the world, they are located in Hawaii County, and they have indicated to Rep. Lowen (sponsor of the bill) that they are ready to begin work on research to develop effective CBB mitigation techniques.

The money to combat CBB can and should be found. The HDOA has a budget exceeding \$40+ million. The HDOA receives an additional \$3+ million per year in oil import barrel tax revenues. The Agribusiness Development Corporation continues to receive more than generous appropriations. If the priorities are corrected, the money for CBB mitigation is available.

-HB353 Deserves full funding. For the reasons set for in the Senate Agriculture Committee's report and in the testimony in the legislative record from more than 120 farmers and others, HB353 needs to be fully funded as an emergency measure.

Mahalo!

Sandra Scarr

--

\*\*\*\*\*  
Daily Fix Coffee .....808-322-9445 home  
78-6915 Palekana Road .....808-987-5005 cell  
Holualoa HI 96725 .....<http://dailyfixcoffee.com>  
\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Ben W Dysart](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 4:51:48 PM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
From: Ben W Dysart, Dysart Farms.  
Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

I am a small coffee farmer in Holualoa, HI. As of two years ago my farm became infested with the Coffee Berry Borer and I lost about 10% of my crop. This last year in spite of my efforts to control the pest I lost up to 50% of the picked coffee (different parts of my farm has different levels of infection). My production costs have increased; irrigation and fertilizer have remained the same, but labor has increased because of the pest control efforts. My three acre farm is not a corporate large production effort but I consider myself typical of the Kona Coffee Farmers' small farmer group. As I understand it the following paragraphs present a coherent summary of the "HD1" editing of the original HB353 CBB Research and Farmer Support bill which was introduced by Kona Representative Nicole Lowen. I believe that 99% of the written testimony submitted to the House Finance Committee at the hearing on HB353 were in support of the bill. We need Hawaii's immediate support in this emergency concerning its world recognized uniquely perfect coffee.

–**The Hawaii coffee industry is united on this issue**—CBB is an emergency. It needs to be treated as an emergency by the State.

–**Coffee may be lost as one of Hawaii's heritage crops** if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon.

–**The CBB emergency has received precious little attention from the State of Hawaii** in the two and half years since it was discovered in Kona.

–**Emergency research is needed to adapt mitigation techniques** used in other parts of the world to unique conditions of Hawaii—in ways that are practical for Hawaii farmers.

–**The scientists at PBARC are some of the best in the world**, they are located in Hawaii County, and they have indicated to Rep. Lowen that they are ready to begin work on research to develop effective CBB mitigation techniques.

–**The Abercrombie administration has not treated CBB as an emergency**. Example—Last year when the Legislature passed HB283 appropriating \$196,000 for CBB mitigation, Department of Agriculture Chair Russell Kokubun asked the Governor to veto the bill, while promising that he would replace the appropriation with \$200,000 from the Department's share of the oil import barrel tax. The Governor vetoed the bill—but the Department has not yet spent a single dollar of the promised money—more than eight months later.

–**The Legislature has not treated CBB as an emergency**. Example—Despite more than 90 separate written testimonies from the Hawaii coffee community uniformly supporting emergency action, the House Finance Committee ignored the testimony and stripped more than 75% of the appropriations from the Lowen bill.—Two and a half years have passed since CBB infestations in Hawaii County were discovered—and yet State of Hawaii has not developed a coherent program to effectively address the CBB emergency. No one has taken charge; there has been little coordination; very little progress has been made in developing a comprehensive program for CBB mitigation in Hawaii County.

–**The money to combat CBB can and should be found**. The HDOA has a budget exceeding \$40+ million. The HDOA receives an additional \$3+ million per year in oil import barrel tax revenues. The Agribusiness Development Corporation continues to receive more than generous appropriations. If the priorities are corrected, the money for CBB mitigation is available.

Thank you for the opportunity to request that the CBB emergency appropriations be restored to the original levels and that the committee adopt Rep. Lowen's "Original HB353" —which is uniformly supported by farmers, processors, roasters and blenders.

Ben Dysart, Member of the Kona Coffee Farmer's Association, Holualoa HI

**From:** [danielle orlowski](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 5:47:42 PM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
From: Danielle and Jean ORLOWSKI, HALA TREE Coffee Plantation  
Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
-Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

Dear Sir, Madam,

A year ago my husband and I bought a coffee farm in Captain Cook. It is a very old and neglected land, nevertheless we fell in love with it and working very hard to bring it back to its old glory.

Our farm was abandon and last year crop was almost 100% CBB invested. We have no farming back ground and the coffee farmers association was a tremendous help to us. We went to all seminars about CBB and keep informed about new practices.

Still it is all new to us and Hawaii Coffee Farmers, the practice of keeping your crop safe from CBB is very time consuming and pricy, not mentioning ineffective. In fact I see more and more small old coffee farms with its crops uncollected; beans still on the trees, which make matters worst.

All coffee farmers understand the urgency to put an effective plan to contain the CBB infestation; its need to be treated as an emergency by the State.

HB353 Deserves full funding. For the reasons set for in the Senate Agriculture Committee's report and in the testimony in the legislative record from more than 120 farmers and others, HB353 needs to be fully funded as an emergency measure.

Kona Coffee is known for being one of the best coffee in the world and the pride of Hawaiian.  
Please help us save KONA COFFEE.

Sincerely  
Danielle and Jean Orłowski

**From:** [Jim Wayman](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Strongly Support HB 353 HD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 7:54:44 AM

---

Jim Wayman  
Hawaii Coffee Association

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
TESTIMONY ON HB 353 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE  
March 22, 2013  
Room 211 9:00 Am

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB353 HD1 SD1.

The Coffee Berry Borer Beetle was discovered in Kona in 2010. At the end of that season CBB was present on approximately 10% of coffee farms in Kona. At the end of this past season CBB had spread to 100% of the farms in Kona and caused significant damage to the coffee crop. Estimates are that 28% of all coffee cherry produced in Kona was damaged by CBB resulting in large losses for coffee farmers and processors of Kona Coffee. Consumers took large price increases as well.

In past years the rule of thumb was that it took 5.5 pounds of coffee cherry to produce 1 pound of green Kona coffee. This season that ratio has changed with it now taking 7 pounds of coffee cherry to produce 1 pound of green Kona coffee. By example for a processor taking in 2,000,000 pounds of coffee cherry from Kona coffee farmers:

- At 5.5 pound of cherry producing one pound of green coffee, 2,000,000 pounds of coffee cherry would yeild 363,636 pounds of green Kona coffee.
- At the new conversion rate of 7 pounds of coffee cherry producing 1 pound of green Kona coffee, 2,000,000 pounds of coffee cherry would yield only 285,714 pounds of green Kona coffee.
- This results in a loss of 77,922 pounds of green Kona coffee. At a value of \$12.00 per pound of green Kona coffee the resultant loss for a processor processing 2,000,000 pounds of cherry is \$935,061 in market value.
- Industry wide this represents a loss of over \$9,000,000 lost market value. In addition to the market value loss, the cost to produce that lost coffee remains as a cost of doing business adding addional losses to the Hawaii coffee industry.
- It should be noted the State of Hawaii is losing Excise Tax revenues on this lost market value.

At this time CBB has only impacted coffee production on the Big Island. Funds are need to mitigate CBB on the Big Island but are also needed to prevent the spread on CBB to other coffee growing islands in Hawaii.

Coffee farmers and coffee processors are going out of business due to increased costs

and lost revenues from damaged coffee. The Hawaii Coffee Industry needs support from the Hawaii Legislature as soon as possible .

Thank you,

Jim Wayman  
Hawaii Coffee Association



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 22, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 353, HD1, SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 11  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFBF strongly supports HB353, HD1, SD1** and respectfully asks you to do the same. Since the introduction of Coffee Berry Borer in Kona in 2010, CBB continues to dramatically threaten one of Hawaii's most successful signature crops. The Hawaiian coffee industry is vitally important to the State in terms of jobs and revenue generated through taxes and tourism.

As of 2009 (the most recent year statistics were published by USDA) the value of the farm gate coffee crop was nearly \$28,000,000. These statistics fail to account for the multiplier effect of value-added coffee products, which virtually all coffee sold is. The real value of the coffee crop is many times greater.

Coffee Berry Borer threatens the Hawaiian coffee industry not only on Hawaii Island, but statewide. The importance of controlling the most destructive pest known to coffee cannot be overstated. The industry is in peril, with the cost of controlling the pest causing many growers to abandon their farms. Please make the investment in this industry by supporting researchers and the CBB Task Force in their mission to control this devastating pest.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



**From:** [Harold](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#)  
**Cc:** [WAM Testimony](#); [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#); [cea@smithfarms.com](mailto:cea@smithfarms.com)  
**Subject:** =?ANSI\_X3.4-1968?Q?TESTIMONY\_IN\_STRONG\_SUPPORT\_OF\_=3FHB353/HD1/SD1=3F\_?= =?ANSI\_X3.4-1968?Q?=3FHearing\_on\_March\_22,\_2013\_at\_9:00\_am,\_Room\_211?=  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 1:07:42 PM

---

The CBB Crisis is a real disaster with economic consequences to the farms in Kona and the other coffee growing islands. Our five acre farm has had losses up to 50% on some picking cycles.

--HB353 Deserves full funding. For the reasons set for in the Senate Agriculture Committee's report and in the testimony in the legislative record from more than 120 farmers and others, HB353 needs to be fully funded as an emergency measure.

We need help NOW!

Harold

Farm: Ho'onanea  
Brand: Kona Perfect  
Location: 75-5515 Kealia Street, Holualoa, HI 96725

Harold M. Hoogasian, President  
Hoogasian Flowers, Inc.  
615 Seventh Street  
San Francisco, California 94103-5691  
415-229-2732 or 1(800) BAY-AREA  
fax 415-229-2700  
[harold@hoogasian.com](mailto:harold@hoogasian.com)

The Four Way Test  
of the Things We Think Say or Do:  
Is It The Truth?  
Is It Fair To All Concerned?  
Will It Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?  
Will It Be Beneficial To All Concerned?

Find Out More About Rotary:  
[www.sfrotary.com](http://www.sfrotary.com) or [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Positive Thoughts and Peace, Always!

**From:** [Roger Kaiwi](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB353  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 12:58:17 PM

---

Aloha , I'm writing in Strong Support of HB353 HD1 SD1. Since the discovery of CBB in 2010 the farmers as well as the industry has suffered greatly. We have seen it grow from just a select few farms to everyone in the Kona District. We have suffered from poor conversion ratios as well as increased expenses to attempt to control the infestation on our farms. Please pass this much needed legisltion!

Roger Kaiwi  
Kaiwi Farms

**From:** [COLEHOUR BONDERA](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** support of HB353/HD1/SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 8:57:32 PM

---

March 20, 2013

to: Chair David Ige & Members of Senate Ways and Means Committee  
from: Colehour Bondera, Kanalani Ohana Farm  
re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB353/HD1/SD1 — hearing at 9:00am, room 211 on March 22, 2013

Aloha Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair & Members:

Since all of the players in Hawaiian coffee (including farmers, processors, retailers as well as consumers) recognize that coffee berry borer beetle (CBB) has now evolved into an emergency, we all need to work together to be sure that Hawaii does not lose a primary heritage/specialty crop (which Kona coffee is, and was so recognized internationally in 2010 by a Parmigiano-Reggiano award as a product of geographical origin that merits protection!)

Research needs to be happening, while at the same time farm operators and staff of farm owners are actively working with designated field tech people from PBARC and/or CTAHR to ensure that all active and feral coffee is seriously and equally getting needed attention.

This pest exists around the world where coffee is grown, and other countries have worked hard to be sure that their coffee crops are not destroyed. Hawaii needs to allocate full funding as laid out by this piece of legislation to look for the best and quickest solutions and get them happening on the ground!

Our small certified organic Kona coffee farm is the place where the staff of PBARC came when CBB was first identified to verify and collect samples. This was after a fellow member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, Jason Stith of Mahina Mele organic farm first sent samples of the difficulty to CTAHR now more than two years ago.

Our farm has been waiting patiently for CTAHR and PBARC and HDOA to not only provide research results from their work, but more-so to work with the farmers so that the reasons set forth in the Senate Ag Committee report and the testimony in the legislative record from over 120 farmers and other parties can be addressed with full funding for HB353.

In the meantime other work and funding can continue to be sought, but as an emergency, CBB deserves complete and serious attention. It is understood that this emergency has come at a time when the economy is slowly coming out from a recession... So funding allocated will allow us to plan implementation well so that actions can be taken quickly!

Thank you for prioritizing this need, so that our and other Kona coffee family farms can survive what is a bad moment in a heritage crop history. Let's make Kona coffee continue to stand out for Hawaii and let's fund efforts to ensure that Hawaii coffees are perceived as the special and unique products which they

are...

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera  
KANALANI OHANA FARM

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dealii@aloha.net](mailto:dealii@aloha.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:09:13 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Fike	Kona Coffee Council	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



March 20, 2013

To: David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

CC: Members of the Committee  
Representative Nicole Lowen

From: Stefanie Delmont, President  
Kona County Farm Bureau

Cecelia B Smith, President  
Kona Coffee Farmers Association

David S. Case, President  
Kona Chapter, Hawaii Farmers Union United

**Re: House Bill 353/SD1 [Emergency Coffee Berry Borer Research and Mitigation]**

Dear Senator Ige:

On behalf of three farmer-based organizations from the North and South Kona Districts of Hawaii County, we are jointly urging you and your committee to fully fund and pass HB353/SD1. This bill is critical to the future economic viability of coffee growing in Kona—and ultimately in all coffee growing regions in Hawaii.

Kona's coffee farms (the vast majority of which are small family farms) are facing an EXTREME EMERGENCY which threatens the future of Kona coffee—one of Hawaii's historic heritage crops. In late 2010 an exotic insect from Africa, the Coffee Berry Borer ("CBB"), was first identified infesting coffee beans in Hawaii County. From that initial small infestation, this invasive insect pest has increased exponentially to the level where the beetle now exists in the billions, and has infested many farms to the point where some crops cannot be commercially harvested. This has already forced some farms to close.

Unfortunately, the CBB emergency has received inadequate attention from the State of Hawaii in the more than 2.5 years since CBB was discovered in Kona. There are pest mitigation technologies that have been effective in other areas of the world in controlling CBB, but those technologies need to be adapted—on an emergency basis-- for conditions in Hawaii. If the State fails to adequately address this emergency, it risks the loss of its coffee growing industry not just on Hawaii Island, but throughout the State. Unless it can be confined to Hawaii County, it is only a matter of time until this insect jumps to the islands of Maui, Oahu, Molokai, and Kauai where the State's other major coffee production areas are located. Every dollar spent now in Hawaii County on research and mitigation will provide direct future benefits throughout the State.

HB353 (the "Original HB353") was introduced by Kona Representative Nicole Lowen. The Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center ("PBARC", a USDA agency based in Hilo with some of the nation's most distinguished scientists) has indicated its readiness to conduct the emergency research.





For the reasons set forth in the Senate Agriculture Committee's report and in the more than 130 separate written testimonies submitted to the Legislature by coffee farmers and others, we urge you to fully fund and pass HB353/SD1.

We would be pleased to address any questions you and committee members may have—in Honolulu, by conference call, or by email.

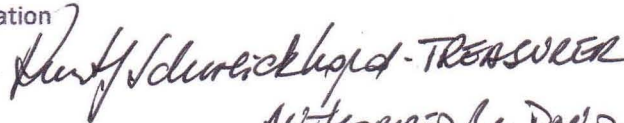
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Stefanie Delmont, President  
Kona County Farm Bureau

  
Cecelia B. Smith, President  
Kona Coffee Farmers Association

David S. Case, President  
Kona Chapter, Hawaii Farmers Union United

 - TREASURER

 AUTHORIZED BY DAVID S. CASE

**From:** [Atsumi Hara](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" -Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:23:08 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Atsumi Hara, Kona View Coffee

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

Kona Coffee is one of the world famous products in Hawaii and is one not only Kona coffee growers like us but all people in Hawaii are very proud of.

Since CBB were found almost three years ago, they were spread out much more quickly than we expected and the Kona coffee is getting to the point that it might be recognized as low quality coffee by the world.

The government has an obligation to support their own products and their suppliers. In order to support this issue, we strongly ask you to recognize its emergency and support of HB353/HD1/SD1.

Kona coffee is in crisis. Fortunately we have the scientists at PBARC located in our state and they are ready to start work on research to develop effective CBB mitigation techniques. We should not delay the research and protect the quality of our product. For that BH353 needs full funding.

Please give your attention to your State's most valuable product if you are proud of being governing Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Atsumi Hara  
v: 808-333-9226  
e: [atsumi@atsumihara.com](mailto:atsumi@atsumihara.com)  
Kona View Coffee



**From:** [Randy Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:42:32 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Randall Phillips, Kona View Coffee

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

Dear Members,

I am a small coffee farmer in Holualoa with two acres in coffee. A "Kona Heritage Corridor" signs stands at the corner of my property. It is my belief that if we do not receive some aid in our fight against CBB we will lose the coffee industry as we know it. I am doing what I can to fight CBB - I spray regularly and strip my trees at the end of the year. Some of my neighbors can't afford these efforts. If nothing further is done Kona coffee will lose whatever perceived value it has. Already it is one of the most expensive coffees in the world. If it becomes sub standard by insect damage no one will buy it at a price necessary to sustain its production here.

We have gotten very little help in protecting the name of our coffee. We have gotten very little help in getting it inspected for grade. And now we are getting very little help in fighting an invasive insect that left unchecked will absolutely and certainly ruin this industry.

All coffee farmers here are united in seeking cost effective means to combat CBB. This is not something that we can do by ourselves. We need research on what is going to work best for our unique coffee growing environment. Please fully fund this Emergency Measure HB353. It is not hyperbole to call this an "Emergency."

Mahalo,

Randall Phillips  
Kona View Coffee

**From:** [john@konaloha.com](mailto:john@konaloha.com)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 11:57:27 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: John Koontz, Konaloha Farms

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –  
Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

Last year, afterspending over \$5,000 on spraying to control CBB, we were amazed that we still had 40% damaged beans on our 5 acre farm. We can't afford to pay to spray, in order to lose 405 of our beans. Please help. Hawaii can't afford to lose one of it's chief agricultural crops.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [john@konaloha.com](mailto:john@konaloha.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 4:28:33 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Koontz	Konaloha Farms	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Louise Hanna](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 1:47:32 PM

---

Dear Sen, David Ige, Committee Chair  
Michelle Kidani, Vice Committee Chair  
Sen. Russell Ruderman  
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

I own a coffee farm in South Kona and I strongly support  
HB353/HD1/SD1.

The CBB infestation of Hawaiian Coffee fields is an economic  
emergency. We are in real danger of losing the Heritage Coffee  
Crop of Hawaii. We desperately need scientific research conducted  
to help us the farmers deal with this emergency. I urge you to fully  
fund HB353/HD1/SD1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Hanna  
Luther Coffee Farm  
Captain Cook, Hawaii

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [geneclapp@pimboston.com](mailto:geneclapp@pimboston.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 4:43:06 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eugene Clapp	Onouli Farm, LLC	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

I am a resident and small business owner from the state of Hawaii. I support bill HB353 because it supports USA grown coffee. Hawaii coffee is the livelihood of much of our state, providing thousands of jobs and global commerce. Hawaii coffee directly affects the coffee industry, ranking in "The Top Ten Coffees in the World". It is vital to preserve the culture and history of our coffee farms from Kona to Ka'u and beyond. More importantly we must protect the labor of love that has allowed Hawaii coffee to become known worldwide. Please support this bill that will allow research, treatment and containment of the coffee borer beetle.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tanya M. Kearns  
Business Owner  
Manila Extract

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [stacyrand@hotmail.com](mailto:stacyrand@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 6:24:39 PM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Aurway	Makua Coffee Company	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Kodo Miyaoka](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 11:19:14 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Kodo Miyaoka, Mauka Meadows Coffee Farm

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" -Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

Aloha,

It would be very appreciated if you could do something more against CBB problems that is getting worse in Kona region. Coffee may be lost as one of Hawaii's heritage crops if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon.

Mahalo

Kodo Miyaoka

"Mauka Meadows" Kona Coffee Farm

Bird Feather Hawaii, Inc.

P.O.Box 4865 Kailua Kona,

Hawaii 96745 USA

Ph. 808-557-6878

Fax. 808-322-3337

Coffee is my business. Making people happy with coffee is my happiness.



**From:** [mokione@aol.com](mailto:mokione@aol.com)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB353/HD1/SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 11:51:11 AM

---

Aloha to Chairman David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From Roger and Vivian Rittenhouse owners of Moki's Farm

We would like to encourage your support of HB353/HD1/SD1.

Kona coffee is an important crop on the Big Island where CBB has infested the crop for three years. While a number of effective mitigation activities have been put forward, more research is needed. For the most part the current techniques were developed in other countries where the labor costs are a fraction of what they are here making them extremely onerous for Hawaii farmers. More research is desperately needed to develop more cost effective methods to control this pest.

This problem is currently restricted to the Big Island, I think, but it is only a matter of time before it will be on other islands where coffee is grown.

Please act now so that this problem won't get any bigger than it is now.

Thank you

Roger & Vivian Rittenhouse

**From:** [Jgiblinjr@aol.com](mailto:Jgiblinjr@aol.com)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:0  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 10:56:02 AM

---

To Sen. David Ige and the entire State Ways and Means Committee,

I am a Kona coffee farmer pleading to the committee to help the coffee industry here in Kona to rid us of the CBB problem. I have taken hard hit by the infestation. I had to stump my whole coffee field, cut it down to start growth from scratch, due to the severity of the problem. I had to give up a years production to hopefully drive the CBB away by depriving them of the beans they are living on. I have macadamia nut trees and have seen signs of them infesting them too. "Stumping" my 10 acres of macs nuts is not an option.

My story is not uncommon in our coffee industry, we are taking a massive loss due to this CBB problem. We need your help to pass this bill and support the funding we desperately need for finding a solution to this problem.

Please help us,

John Giblin  
Owner of Ohana Farm Orchards  
Member of Kona Coffee Farmers Assoc.,  
member of Hawaii Farmers Union United, Board of Directors

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [info@ohcf.us](mailto:info@ohcf.us)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:40:30 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pam Cooper	Original Hawaiian Chocolate Factory	Support	No

Comments: PLEASE GIVE SUPPORT TO THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [info@athenaofhawaii.com](mailto:info@athenaofhawaii.com)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 3:06:37 PM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Joachim & Demetria Oster, ATHENA of HAWAI'I COFFEE LLC

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" -Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

We are a true family farm and make a living growing, processing, retailing only 100% Kona coffee. Our farm is part of the HAWAI'I SEAL OF QUALITY program of the HDOA. ATHENA of HAWAII coffee was part of the official gifts governor Lingle brought to the last world fair in China.

Kona and, increasingly so, other Hawaiian coffee are a signature crop not only for Hawaii, but the whole USA. side from that, Hawaiian coffee enables small and very small agricultural operations to make some money on otherwise inferior land. Hawaiian coffee stabilizes real estate values, attracts tourism, slows rural-to-urban migration and offers additional cash income to struggling local families in multiple ways.

2013 we are celebrating 200 years of Hawaiian coffee under rather sad circumstances. To combat the coffee berry borer we urgently need funding for local researchers who will work hand in hand with local coffee farmers. Our environment is unique, so will most likely the methods be to control this pest. This bill needs to be funded as an emergency measure, otherwise this heritage crop may be lost for good or severely damaged.

Please help and support this cause!

**From:** [konacafe@paradisefoundhawaii.com](mailto:konacafe@paradisefoundhawaii.com)  
**To:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [WAM Testimony](#); [Sen. David Ige](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** HB353/HD1/SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 6:43:40 PM

---

To: Chair David Ige and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:  
From: Thomas Butler, Paradise Found Farm  
Re: Testimony in Support of HB353/HD1/SD1  
Even most coffee farmers yet realize the devastation this CBB is causing. I heard testimony yesterday from Suzanne Shriner, who is working closely with the science community and is a coffee farmer herself, that only 10% of the Kona coffee farmers are doing anything about the CBB. We need to find out the best way to combat this pest and to educate the farmers here that it is necessary and possible to treat this disease just as the rest of the global coffee farmers have done. If we don't, we won't be able to compete. By helping now we have a better chance to retain the only coffee producing region in the USA.  
Thank you for considering this bill. Please pass it in the original content.  
Thomas Butler  
paradise Found Farm  
Kona, Hawaii

**From:** [Bruce Corker](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB353/HD1/SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 10:25:25 PM

---

3/20/13

To: Sen. David Ige and the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Bruce Corker  
Rancho Aloha

Re: **Strong Support for HB353/HD1/SD1—Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211**

Dear Sen. Ige and Members of the Committee:

I am a coffee farmer in Holualoa in Hawaii County. I am a member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, the Kona County Farm Bureau and the Kona Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United.

The presence of coffee berry borer (CBB) is an emergency which threatens the economic viability of coffee production in Hawaii County (and ultimately throughout the entire State of Hawaii) if a practical system for mitigation of CBB is not developed very soon.

Emergency research is needed to adapt mitigation techniques used in other parts of the world to unique conditions in Hawaii. Those techniques need to be of practical use for Hawaii farmers.

Section 2 of the bill would enable the skilled scientists at PBARC to begin immediate efforts to develop a practical program of CBB mitigation. Section 3 would provide funds for assisting farmers to adopt those techniques.

CBB is an EMERGENCY—and needs to be treated as such by the State of Hawaii. If the State does not, it risks the loss of yet another of its signature agricultural products.

For all the reasons identified in the Senate Agriculture Committee's report and in the scores of written testimonies from farmers and farmer organizations representing farmers in Hawaii County, your Committee should fully fund and pass this measure.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Corker

**From:** [smithfarms pure kona](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 12:54:25 PM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Cecelia Smith of Smithfarms

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

As a Kona coffee farmer for 25 years, we have never ever experienced as critical a situation as we are being presented with right now! We are extremely worried about the continuity of our 5 acre farm if our Hawaii Legislature does not offer a significant appropriation to the research scientists at PBARC in Hilo. PBARC has said to us in a presentation, they are ready and willing but they need funding. We have NEVER seen anything so devastating as the Coffee Berry Beetle in our 25 years. We are sure we will never go back to the less complicated farming of *even 3 years ago*, but for heaven's sakes- let our Research scientists have a go at helping us now!

The Hawaii coffee industry is united on this issue—CBB is an emergency. It needs to be treated as an emergency by the State. OR....Coffee may be lost as one of Hawaii's heritage crops if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon.

The CBB emergency has received precious little attention from the State of Hawaii in the two and half years since it was discovered in Kona and we need your help. We've actually needed help for 2 years ago because the problem is exponentially growing- *think multiple birthings of many beetles!!!*

For the last 2 years the devastation of our Kona coffee crop has caused excruciating stress. I am 65- where else can I go to farm?

Emergency research is needed to adapt mitigation techniques used in other parts of the world to the unique conditions of Hawaii—in ways that are practical for Hawaii farmers. Please Support HB353/HD1/SD1!



Mahalo nui,  
Cecelia Smith

--  
farmers of 100% Kona Coffee  
Honaunau mauka

**From:** [Robert Smith](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB353/HD1/SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 3:08:59 PM

---

**To:** Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
**From:** Bob Smith of smithfarms  
**Re:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF “HB353/HD1/SD1” –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

I have had a Kona Coffee farm for over 24 years in South Kona. The last 2 years have been devastating because of the Coffee Berry Borer. We need all your help!! Please fund HB353/HD1/SD1!

The Hawaii coffee industry is united on this issue—CBB is an emergency. It needs to be treated as an emergency by our State.

**Coffee may be lost as one of Hawaii’s heritage crops if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon.**

Please help us now!

aloha,  
Bob Smith

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [alainadeh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:alainadeh@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 6:21:54 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alaina deHavilland	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Ann@gandb.tv](mailto:Ann@gandb.tv)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:21:01 AM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rsfoerster@aol.com](mailto:rsfoerster@aol.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 10:02:40 PM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Foerster	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Bob Kraus](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#); [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Cc:** [hanna.louise@gmail.com](mailto:hanna.louise@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB353/HD1/SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 11:35:09 AM

---

To: Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
From: Robert H. Kraus, Jr., Ph.D.  
Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 211

Dear Honorable Senators Ige, Kidani, and Ruderman and Representative Lowen:

I am writing to you as a coffee farmer living in South Kona, Hawai'i. My wife and I own a farm that is planted in about 6.4 acres of coffee trees.

I would like to strongly support the designation of the coffee bean borer (CBB) as an emergency, for certainly it has been as devastating as any emergency I have experienced in my life. For example, we picked 50,000 pounds of coffee cherry in the 2008-9 season and over 55,000 pounds in 2009-2010. However, during the 2010-2011 season, our coffee cherry was 90-95% infested with CBB and we were only able to sell 3,000 pounds of cherry at a severely discounted price! Our crop loss was OVER 90%! This must certainly qualify as an emergency.

We began to apply the fungus *B. bassiana* immediately after it was approved for use in Hawai'i. It is a fungus that naturally occurs in Hawai'i and attacks the CBB. We have spent **thousands of dollars** on our farm alone to apply the fungus to combat the CBB. This cost is prohibitive and is driving the profits into the red! What makes all of this a real emergency issue is that even with all of the research on this fungus from around the world, no one really knows the optimum application technique and conditions for Hawai'i. Beside the fact that our crop has recovered to about 50% of pre-CBB levels, we have no idea if we are throwing our hard earned money down the tubes!

Beyond our own farm, we heard Tommy Greenwell at the 2012 KCFA Coffee Expo tell us that the quality **and the reputation** of Kona Coffee is in serious jeopardy because of the CBB. He buys and processes coffee from many many farms in the Kona district. He should know! This entire industry is in peril and once the reputation of Kona coffee is damaged, it would take decades to rebuild!

My own background is as a Ph.D. scientist and I have followed the international literature for CBB with great care. I have also talked extensively with members of the Hawai'i CBB task force and with our local researchers at PBARC and UH about this pest. If there is one key "take home" piece of information that I would like you to know, it is that the CBB in Hawai'i is not like that in South America or Indonesia or Africa. It appears to uniquely adapt to local environments – which means that even here in Hawai'i, the behavior varies. We DESPARATELY need help from our government to learn how to combat this pest – before the quality and reputation of Kona Coffee is damaged beyond repair. As farmers, we can not

individually support such research and as a state, we are in peril of losing a major industry!

I am very impressed with the quality of researchers at PBARC and UH (PBARC in particular) and urge that funding be provided to support their work and focus on this problem. I understand that times are tight, however countless farmers on the island of Hawai'i stand to lose their livelihood, workers they employ will lose their incomes, and the state could ultimately lose a major revenue stream with the demise of the Kona Coffee industry. This peril is at our doorstep.

**I urge you to please support fully funding HB353 as an emergency measure.**

Sincerely,  
Robert H. Kraus, Jr., Ph.D.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cmstaats@comcast.net](mailto:cmstaats@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:13:35 AM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia and Dennis Staats	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We are relatively new coffee farmers located in Holualoa. We have seen a steady increase in CBB during the last 2 years, where in our last pick of Feb 2013 we were almost 30% infected. THIS Result was even after a very aggressive treatment procedures (spray, pruning and other remediation procedures)we established in 2012.This infestation has increased from negligible to the 30% in less than a year. We strongly support this bill to help save our crop and farm.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Downesgrounds@gmail.com](mailto:Downesgrounds@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 5:52:50 PM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Downes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The industry of kona coffee is in serious trouble. Farmers need help controlling the bean borer.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Dave Bateman  
Heavenly Hawaiian Farms  
Kona Coffee Council and CBB Task Force**

**HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
(DECISION MAKING ONLY)  
TESTIMONY ON HB 353 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE  
March 22, 2013  
Room 211 9:00 AM**

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 353 HD1 SD1.** My wife and I own Heavenly Hawaiian Farms, a 37.5 acre Kona coffee farm, on KSBE land, in Holualoa. I am elected to the Kona Coffee council and Hawaii Coffee Association Boards and am appointed to the CBB Task Force as the KCC representative.

HB 353 HD1 SD1 would provide additional critical financial support to our industry wide efforts to continue to fight, control, contain and mitigate the devastating CBB infestation impacts to our Kona coffee industry. Over the last three years since discovery, the CBB has infested every farm in the Kona origin. This industry comprises about 800 farms on 4,000 planted acres. Virtually every tree in Kona is infested. Based on data from the large processors it is estimated that over 50% of the farms have suffered losses as high as 50-100% to their coffee cherry crop. Farmers are going out of business. Our farmers need immediate help to battle this infestation.

SHAC (Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council) and the CC Task Force have been granted \$330,000 from the USDA and \$200,000 from the this legislature through the HDOA in 2012. Those funds will most probably be use dup by June 2013. The Hawaii coffee industry is contributing over \$50,000 in cash and in kind as matching funds. Work has begun in TMK 8-4 (approx 800 acres in South Kona) which is the epi-center of the outbreak and the most heavily infested (over 50%). We are working directly with those farmers to offer intensive education n proper mitigation protocols (field sanitation, spraying imported Botanigard and use of alcohol traps for monitoring infestation levels) along with financial assistance to the farmers through the supply of Botanigard, the only approved effective product to fight CBB. This is a very expensive product (approx \$200/gal and requiring about a quart per acre) which must be reapplied every month, year round, to the coffee orchards. This year's funding of \$530,000 has been/will be used on database development, education, area wide sanitation of infested areas, and monitoring and tracking the spread of CBB.

Your Kona coffee farmers desperately need financial help for 2013-14 coffee season to continue our broad based efforts. The bill currently provides for funding for the 2013-14 coffee season. We will also need similar assistance in the 2014-15 coffee season, but this coming coffee season is more critical in the short term. The proposed \$300,000 funding in this bill will be matched with another \$200,000+ from the USDA for the 2013-14 season. Application for those USDA funds is being initiated by the SHAC board and will be submitted to USDA shortly.

I also strongly encourage you to fund PBARC with the \$500,000. I recommend that you place a limiting condition on this funding specifying that the money is to be used, at least in part, for developing strains of locally grown Beauveria Bassiana sensitive to elevation and moisture variances, so that we may replace the imported Botanigard containing the Guatemalan variety, with a potentially more effective locally grown strain(s) that will contain the CBB.

Thank you for your support of HB 353 HD1 SD1 with the proposed amendment.

Dave Bateman  
Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [davev@konastar.com](mailto:davev@konastar.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 6:26:33 PM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nosybehawaii@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:nosybehawaii@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:08:39 AM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donna evett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Kona coffee farmer, I support this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Elisabeth Siekhaus](#)  
**To:** [Sen. David Ige](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Rep. Nicole Lowen](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF "HB353/HD1/SD1" –Hearing on March 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Room 21  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 4:37:38 PM

---

Dear Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

This testimony is written in strong and urgent support of "HB353/HD1/SD1"

We are coffee farmers in Captain Cook, South Kona, having started 2 ½ years ago a new coffee farm on 10 acres leased from Kamehameha Schools as our retirement and ongoing family project. It took a huge portion of our retirement savings to get the bare acres planted and irrigated as well as maintained without any revenue coming in so far from this start-up.

Now, with the arrival of the CBB, prospects of ever making this farm a viable project are in serious danger –everything is totally changed. Any income from our first harvest will have to go to efforts of eradication of the CBB scourge, and we have no certainty of success. We have worked hard to gather all the information provided by the Hawaiian Agricultural Extension, such as workshops and discussion meetings. But the more we learn, the more anxious we get that there is such a piecemeal effort on the part of all of us farmers and so little central organization and help. The Kona coffee farmers and their association are doing what they can and networking to help themselves and each other, but they are united in this plea: More is needed in this emergency which threatens the whole Kona Coffee future and may wipe out not just us individual farmers, but the whole tradition of this special heritage food.

**We learned in one of the workshops that Columbia nearly lost its coffee industry, but that they turned things around thanks to huge government efforts. No such efforts have yet been forthcoming in Hawaii so far, although there has got to be money available in support and development of Hawaiian food crops, of which Kona coffee is a prominent part. Supporting efforts to develop new or to adapt existing mitigation techniques from elsewhere to our Hawaiian conditions makes sense at this stage, rather than a later one when the infestations may be irreversible.**

**Please support his bill and enable our excellent scientists at PBARC already standing by to find techniques! We beg you to fully fund HB353. We have a true emergency here!**

**Sincerely**

**Elisabeth and Wigbert J. Siekhaus**

**Eldawi Farm**

**Captain Cook, HI**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [info@KonaEarth.com](mailto:info@KonaEarth.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 5:38:23 PM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Strawn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kona coffee farmers are a diverse group that rarely agrees on anything. I have never seen total consensus on any subject until now. We are all in agreement, we don't just want this money, we need it. HB353 must be fully funded in order for the Kona coffee industry to have a fighting chance at remaining solvent.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [haftrk@aol.com](mailto:haftrk@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:28:40 PM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Growing and marketing coffee in Kona is barely a sustainable business for me. If the coffee berry borer is allowed to run un-checked, I will definitely not be able to continue producing coffee in Kona.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Janet Jones](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** CBB bill HB353  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 10:08:53 PM

---

WE are in much need of help. The mitigation costs are high in hiring extra labor for spraying, making and hanging countless traps, purchasing chemicals, hiring extra tractor work. The original bill was correct should be passed. Small farms don't make extra money, and this issue could end the coffee market as you have known it.

Janet P Jones  
Coffee Farmer

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pumehana11@msn.com](mailto:pumehana11@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:03:26 AM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanette Baysa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill to fight off the CBB

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jlenhart@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:jlenhart@hicoffeeco.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 8:37:41 AM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Lenhart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Funds are needed to a) stop the CBB in Kona and b) prevent the spread of the CBB to other islands growing coffee.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lnkona@aol.com](mailto:lnkona@aol.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:06:29 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynn gunther	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Jonathan@makahikifarms.com](mailto:Jonathan@makahikifarms.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:26:39 PM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Sechrist	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT HB353. My wife and I farm five acres of Kona Coffee on the Big Island. While we are diligent in our efforts to fight CBB we still see non-zero levels of damage in our coffee. We need support for Hawaii-centric research to help us learn the best way to combat CBB and we need mitigation support for those who cannot or will not take action on their own. Please approve this funding to support one of Hawaii's flagship agricultural products and the hundreds of small and family-run agricultural businesses. Jonathan & Nancy Sechrist Makahiki Farms Captain Cook, Hawaii

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Nancy@makahikifarms.com](mailto:Nancy@makahikifarms.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 1:46:31 AM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Sechrist	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [darog@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:darog@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:55:50 AM

---

HB353

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Hudlow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [eatonom3@comcast.net](mailto:eatonom3@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 8:24:32 PM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Eaton	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [WAM Testimony](#)  
Cc: [pml1022@yahoo.com](mailto:pml1022@yahoo.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 6:57:40 PM

---

### HB353

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Loftus	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Patrick Loftus and I am the owner of Mountain Tree Farms coffee farm in South Kona on the Big Island. Last June I purchased a 9.8 acre coffee farm. At that time, there were approximately 1,100 coffee trees on the farm. Our first harvest produced approximately 2,500 pounds of coffee. Typically, 1,100 trees should produce over 20,000 pounds of coffee. The reduced production is directly attributable to an infestation by the Coffee Borer Beetle ("CBB"). Since that time we have worked diligently to eradicate the CBB from our farm and have invested well over \$50,000 in new improvements to the farm to increase production. It is clear to me that while we may be able to somewhat limit the CBB's damage it is beyond my and other farmer's financial ability to eradicate the problem. Kona Coffee may be lost as one of Hawaii's most important and valuable heritage crops if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon. It is my understanding that the CBB was discovered on the Big Island over two and one-half years ago. Yet, the State of Hawaii and our elected representatives in the legislature have done little or nothing to address this very serious problem. Kona coffee is recognized the world over as the finest coffee and is an outstanding ambassador for the State of Hawaii. You must recognize that this is an emergency situation and that immediate research is needed to adapt mitigation techniques used in other parts of the world to the unique conditions of Hawaii—in ways that are practical for Hawaii farmers. It has also been made clear that the the scientists located in Hawaii at the PBARC are some of the best in the world and they have indicated to Rep. Lowen that they are ready to begin work on research to develop cost effective CBB mitigation techniques based on the peculiarities of the unique Hawaiian conditions. I urge you to support HB353.Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wyasuda@hotmail.com](mailto:wyasuda@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:49:12 PM

---

**HB353**

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wade Yasuda	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)