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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:52:42 PM

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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 |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Richard Makrevis, co owner Blue Moon Kona Coffee | Blue Moon Kona Coffee Co. | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Please support HB353 to provide CBB mitigation and research funding. Our small family Kona coffee farm depends on its passage. Mahalo, Richard and Celeste Makrevis, Blue Moon Kona Coffee, Kailua-Kona, HI.

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**From:** [Marlin658@aol.com](mailto:Marlin658@aol.com)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support HB 353 HD1 SD1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 10:11:31 PM

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The Coffee Berry Borer Beetle was discovered in Kona in 2010. At the conclusion of the 2012 Crop, the Berry Borer Beetle had infested 100% of the Kona coffee farms. As a coffee farmer with 22.7 acres and 8.4 acres of coffee farms, the losses in yields as well increased maintenance costs have decreased our revenues significantly. Coffee's that were traditionally graded as Extra Fancy and Fancy are now making #1 grade and Prime grade. This results are lost revenue not only for the farmers but in State excise Tax revenues.

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 to provide funding to mitigate CBB on the Big Island and also to prevent the spread of CBB to other coffee growing Islands in Hawaii. I strongly support HB 353 HD1 SD1.

Very truly yours,

Captain Cook Coffee Company  
Steven M. McLaughlin  
Chief Executive Officer



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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 10:15:19 PM

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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 |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Debra Dumaguin | DBA Dumaguin Farm | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

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Ka'u Farm Bureau  
PO Box 1109  
Naalehu, Hawaii 96772  
808-929-9550



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Friday, March 22, 2013  
Room 211  
9:00 AM

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 353 HD1 SD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

**Ka'u Farm Bureau strongly supports HB353** and respectfully asks you to do the same.

Ka'u is the only origin outside of Kona that currently has Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) infestations.

Ka'u is an emerging coffee origin with a bright future, having earned numerous international awards for quality. Our rural community depends on coffee production as it transitions from a plantation-based mono-crop system to a sustainable, diversified and resilient economy.

Working collaboratively with UH-CTAHR, HDOA, USDA, Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC), The Coffee Berry Borer Task Force, and countless industry groups and individuals has helped our members begin to control CBB. **Were it not for the financial assistance of from HDOA and a USDA TASC grant, we would be overrun. HB 353 HD1 SD1 represents the matching funds required to leverage future funding sources.**

The most recent statistics published in 2009 by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) pegs the farm gate value of Hawaiian coffee at nearly \$30MM. with a combined corporate tax rate of 6.4% and wholesale GET at .5% this represents *at minimum* \$2.1MM annually to the State of Hawaii in terms of revenue. In reality, the statistics are dated; the industry is more valuable today than in 2009, and does not take into account value added products like parchment, green bean, roasted coffee and beverages. Layer on top of that tourism dollars generated by the coffee industry and it's clear to see that the actual value of the industry in terms of revenue to the State is many times greater and incalculable (by me). Folks, **the Hawaiian coffee industry is in grave peril**. If we don't get this invasive pest under control, and quickly, its demise may be imminent.

There are many factors in play, yet we are managing to control CBB on Ka'u coffee farms with the help of the abovementioned stakeholders; combined with the cooperation and good will of the producers and support businesses whose livelihoods depend upon this Hawaiian signature crop. Try to imagine Kona without Kona coffee. The crisis cannot be overstated. Please approve this critically important funding measure so we can work together, to leverage these funds to manage CBB and prevent the spread of this devastating pest to neighbor islands before it's too late.

The investment you make today will pale in comparison to the loss of the Hawaii Coffee industry.

Many thanks for your support.

I remain sincerely,

Christopher A. Manfredi  
President

**From:** [David Gridley](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB353 HD1 SD1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:38:02 PM

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I STRONGLY SUPPORT 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 the 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 the coffee cherry produced in Kona was damaged by CBB resulting in large losses for coffee farmers and processors of Kona Coffee. Consumers were faced with large price increases as well.

At this time CBB has only impacted coffee production on the Big Island. Funds are needed to mitigate CBB on the Big Island but are also needed to prevent the spread of CBB to other coffee growing regions 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 RIGHT NOW!!!

PLEASE HELP US BY PASSING THIS BILL BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE TO SAVE OUR INDUSTRY!!

Thank you.

Sincerely  
David Gridley  
Maui Oma Coffee Roasting Company  
Hawaii Coffee Association



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Research, Education and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

3/12/2013

**Senate Committee on Agriculture**  
**Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair**  
**Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair**

**Public Hearing: 3/12/13, 2:45 PM, Room 229**

**Re: HB 353 HD1, Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 353 HD1-Relating to Agriculture.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the "in-house" research agency of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). ARS has nearly 100 research stations located throughout the United States where a variety of different types of studies are conducted to support American farmers, ranchers and consumers of agricultural commodities. Here in the State of Hawaii, USDA- ARS is primarily located at the US Pacific Basin Agricultural Center (PBARC), in Hilo, HI. From this location, ARS scientists serve agricultural producers across the entire State of Hawaii, and others in the Pacific Basin. Due to the large number of invasive pest species found in Hawaii, many of the highly trained PBARC staff are entomologists, pathologists and horticulturalists who are well suited to conduct targeted research on pest biology and control in sustainable production systems. They are known worldwide as experts on controlling tropical and subtropical pests such as fruit flies, nematodes, plant diseases and other invasive species that can be detrimental to Hawaiian agriculture.

Even before the coffee berry borer (CBB) was introduced into Hawaii, PBARC scientists were heavily engaged in conducting studies on control measures such as *Beauveria bassiana* (a microbial control agent of many insects pests, including the CBB), so that Hawaiian farmers would have a fighting chance if this or other similar pests were introduced into the State. PBARC does not do this work alone, rather it participates in wider task forces eliciting collaboration between Farming Groups, Scientists, Regulators and other Government Institutions. This has been the case with many crops, including the work currently being done to address the CBB issue. More specifically, a Task Force was formed in response to the discovery of the Coffee Berry Borer in Kona during late 2010.



**Pacific West Area**  
**Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center**  
**Office of the Center Director**

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March 12, 2013

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, members of the Committee, Page 2

This was done as the CBB is the worst coffee pest in the World and has the potential of negatively impacting the Kona coffee industry for years to come. Further, the CBB Task Force is working to restrict the spread of CBB to other parts of the state using efficacious yet environmentally sustainable control measures such as microbial control, monitoring/trapping and cultural sanitation practices. USDA-ARS scientists are leading much of the new research on the management and control of this pest here in Hawaii; however, few Federal resources have actually been allocated to PBARC for this specific purpose.

When approached to assist the Hawaii coffee growers more directly and rapidly, several targeted project areas were identified through a series of CBB Summits held in 2012 and 2013. PBARC has thus agreed that with supplemental State funding, our scientists would work to address the following key research areas, with most emphasis placed on improving 1) crop sanitation, 2) controlling coffee phenology to minimize pest attack/ impact, 3) insect monitoring through trapping and damage scouting, and 4) optimization of microbial control through highly targeted *Beauveria bassiana* applications. To achieve adequate control of CBB, USDA-ARS and other Task Force members believe that an integrated and cooperative approach to CBB management must be developed and deployed in an area-wide and coordinated fashion. No single effort will result in adequate control by itself.

With supplemental funding USDA-ARS scientists will work on the following four research areas.

#### **1. Plant Phenology Control and Sanitation Measures for Kona**

Management practices that synchronize coffee flowering and thus berry production can restrict the timing of coffee vulnerability to the CBB. Thus the use of organically certified plant growth regulators will also be investigated to aid in crop sanitation. For developmental purposes, a series of controlled experiments and field scale treatments need to be conducted to determine if plant growth regulators can be used to regulate flower production in coffee and then where used, how these methods affect overall coffee production and timing of yield. These more restricted production cycles should shorten the time that coffee is threatened by the CBB and thus require less control of this pest during the growing season. Thus, research will be conducted to develop synchronized flowering of coffee varieties for improved horticultural methods that would reduce CBB infestation levels. Cost estimate: \$175,000- for technical support (\$40,000 x 3= \$120,000) and supplies/ equipment (\$35,000) and travel for research (\$20,000).

**per year total: \$ 175,000**

#### **2. Traps acquisition and maintenance**

Trapping plays an important role in monitoring the CBB and some use these trap catches to trigger treatment thresholds for applying *Beauveria bassiana*-based microbial control agents. Current lures for CBB traps are inefficient and are not selective to the CBB and thus cause difficulty in determining what insects were actually captured in the traps. Currently detailed microscopic inspection is required to evaluate all of the trapped specimens so that growers are not triggering control applications for the wrong insects. Further assessments are also needed to optimize trap placement and link them to within field activity of the CBB attacking the coffee crop. A combined trap improvement and assessment program will be continued by USDA-ARS with the goal of providing more decision making information to coffee producers. Research will be conducted to evaluate the best existing trap/lure combination for use in CBB detection.

March 12, 2013

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, members of the Committee, Page 3

Studies will be designed to improve traps and lures for detection and control of CBB. Cost estimate: \$75,000/year- for technical support (\$55,000) and supplies and travel needed for tests (\$20,000); this will support trap purchases, deployment, maintenance and experimental assessment of potential new lures.

**per year total: \$ 75,000**

### **3. Infested Berry Assessment and In-field Monitoring Research**

Research is needed to assess the phenology of natural population levels of CBB in infested areas, identify and optimize potential control measures (including in-field sanitation) and assess overall effectiveness of Area-wide control measures implemented by growers. All of these needs are directly supported by the within-field assessment of CBB infestation assessments, that is, to be able to accurately assess CBB levels in the field at times where the beetles are attacking the crop. Current field monitoring protocols were developed for South and Central American coffee growing regions and thus may be less than optimal for Hawaii growing conditions and field sizes/distributions. Additional research is thus required to conduct field and regional-level assessment methods and to optimize the accuracy of berry monitoring to estimate beetle levels for control purposes. Cost estimate: \$75,000/year- for technical support to help in field studies (35,000 x 2 = \$70,000) and supplies and travel for implementing control measures (\$5,000).

**per year total: \$ 75,000**

### **4. Optimization of Microbial Control Application for CBB Management**

A commercial product (Mycotrol), is available for use against the CBB but it is unclear what is the most efficient way to use this product under Hawaii growing conditions. Researchers need to evaluate appropriate application methods, dose of conidial suspensions, longevity of the efficacious spores and best pattern of application to kill the CBB and protect the coffee crop. Additionally, Hawaii coffee growers are interested in identifying local sources of the *Beauveria bassiana* fungus and to test for efficacy using alternative management practices. This work was directly requested by the Hawaii coffee growers. Comparative assessments of commercial and local strains will be conducted and best practices identified. Request 175,000/year- for postdoctoral researcher (\$80,000), technical support (\$40,000) and supplies (\$25,000) and travel needed for assays (\$30,000).

**per year total: \$ 175,000**

Name: Dr. Raymond I. Carruthers  
Title: Acting Center Director  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:41:37 AM

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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 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| andrea Pro   | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: I own a coffee farm in Holualoa, North Kona and I support this bill. We have had to raise the price of our coffee to cover the additional expense of treating our crop for the beetle and I'm concerned that Kona coffee will be priced out of the market and the industry might die if we do not find a way to deal with this expense.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:06:21 PM

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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 Woolley | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 10:00:52 PM

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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 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jose Miranda | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

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**From:** [Patty Wayman](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strongly support HB 353 HD1 SD1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:02:52 AM

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To Whom it may concern,  
I urge you to support HB 353 HD1 SD1 to give support to our Hawaii coffee farmers.  
Thank you,  
Patricia Wayman