

HB353

Testimony



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MARCH 12, 2013
ROOM 229
2:45 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 353 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

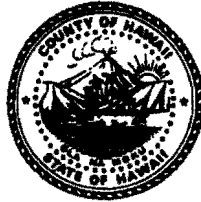
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 353 HD 1. This measure provides a grant for the coffee berry borer (CBB) task force to fund efforts to control and mitigate damage caused by CBB. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure.

CBB has been devastating to the coffee industry on the Big Island. The Department has been working closely with the coffee industry through participation in the CBB task force as well as providing funding and resources to do all we can to support research and outreach into methods for controlling CBB and mitigating damage from this invasive pest. The Department will continue to do all it can to support the coffee industry in fighting this pest. The Department has provided funding to the CBB task force in the past that was matched by federal funding which helped to further leverage state funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Laverne R. Omori
Acting Director

County of Hawai`i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

March 12, 2013

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture

HB 353 HD1: Related to Agriculture

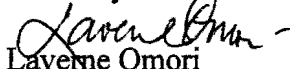
Chairman and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

The County of Hawai`i is in full support of the intent of HB 353 to contain the spread of the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). Coffee farmers in Kona have been hit hard by the CBB and further infestation of this beetle threatens other coffee growing areas, both around Hawai`i Island and throughout the state. Most coffee farmers on this island have worked diligently to contain and suppress the spread of the beetle. For the future of this important agricultural endeavor, it is imperative that the industry get financial support to help with the clearing of coffee berries from the ground; the removal of unmanaged coffee trees and the application of fungal spray on cleaned farms. At the same time it is critical that farmers clean their farms of unpicked berries and to keep up a proactive cultural practice to keep the beetle at bay.

House Draft 2 of this bill amended the timeframe of funding to the CBB Task Force to 2014-15. From a practical perspective, funds need to be applied as soon as possible. We encourage the committee to consider accelerating the funding date to 2013-14. There has already been a significant reduction of saleable beans since 2010 and an erosion in the quality of beans sold in the broader market place. We need to control the CBB before it causes further devastation to the coffee industry on this island. Time is of the essence.

We urge your support for this measure and thank you for taking the actions necessary to maintain and save one of the most globally recognized agricultural crop in the state.

Sincerely


Laverne Omori
Interim Director
Department of Research and Development
County of Hawaii



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
www.hfbf.org

March 12, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 353, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, 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 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.

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

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 353

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229

2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi 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 have 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 represents the matching funds required to leverage these other funding sources.

Please help our rural community by giving us the tools to fight CBB and prevent the spread of this devastating pest to neighbor islands. 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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 11:01:19 AM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| James Kimo Falconer | Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn | Support | No |

Comments: Please vote in support of this bill WITH Amendments. The CBB crisis is happening now and the industry needs support in 2012/13 not 2013/14. The Hawaiian coffee industry has great potential for fantastic growth, please do not let this pest derail that potential. Mahalo, James Kimo Falconer, President, Hawaii Coffee Growers Association

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From: [Jim Wayman](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support HB 353 HD1
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 10:42:35 AM

Jim Wayman
Hawaii Coffee Association

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TESTIMONY ON HB 353 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
March 12, 2013
Room 229 2:45 pm

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB353 WITH AMENDMENT. This bill calls for funding to combat the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) in 2014/2015. This funding should be moved up to 2013/2014 as the industry is in desperate need of help now. The original bill submitted to the House called for an additional \$500,000 for research by PBARC. This should be restored to the bill.

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 8 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.

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.

Farmers 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

From: HAFTRK@aol.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: The Senate Agriculture Committee
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 7:51:17 AM

The Senate Agriculture Committee

The coffee berry borer that is currently plaguing Kona has had a huge impact on my coffee farm. My production is down by 50% and my cost of production is up significantly.

If I cannot get production up and costs down, I will have to stop producing coffee and look into other crops, such as citrus or avocados as a means of sustaining my farm.

Please support HB353

Henry Williams
Seven Stars Coffee
78-6919 Palekana Rd
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 8:13:04 AM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Roger Kaiwi | Kona Coffee Council | Support | Yes |

Comments: I strongly support HB353!

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From: cdseel@cs.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 353
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 5:42:48 AM

Aloha,

As a coffee farmer I am very aware of how crucial it is to pass HB 353. We farmers need immediate assistance to help us battle the coffee berry borer that is greatly affecting our beans and limiting our production. Kona coffee is one of our top agricultural crops and needs to be sustained free from our devastating insect invasion. Further research and implementation of eradication practices is essential and can be assisted with adequate funding.

Thank you for your important consideration,

Carol Seel, Jasminum Farms



March 11, 2013

Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Support for HB353

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members

Greenwell Farms, Inc. is in full support of HB353. We are a farming company, a coffee processing, roasting, and packaging company, and a marketer of green bean and roasted coffees to markets around the world. Our company has purchased coffee cherry from hundreds of coffee farmers in North and South Kona since the mid-1980's.

We have seen first-hand the devastating impact that the coffee berry borer (CBB) infestation in Kona has had on our industry. Since the fall of 2011, we have been testing every single bag delivered to our pulp mill for CBB infestation. The data derived from this testing program over the past two seasons paints a very grim picture for the Kona Coffee Industry. During the past two seasons, the overall average of CBB infestation in coffee delivered to our processing facilities climbed from 10 percent in 2011/12 jumped to over 18 percent this season.

The tragedy of the existing infestation rate is that green bean produced from cherry purchased in the cherry market in Kona can NOT meet Hawaii Department of Agricultural standards for anything but the lowest of green bean grades and a much higher percentage of coffee is now falling below the lowest acceptable standard for Kona Coffee.

We are convinced that, if left unchecked, CBB infestation in Kona will destroy the industry's ability to meet green bean standards that our Hawaii coffees have come to be famous for.

Funding to help mitigate this CBB crisis is vital to our industry's future. **Please PASS HB353.**

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas F. Greenwell', written in a cursive style.

Thomas F. Greenwell, President

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

**HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TESTIMONY ON HB 353 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
March 12, 2013
Room 229 2:45 PM**

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 353 HD1 WITH AMENDMENT. 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 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 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. This is the proposed amendment I would like to see restored to the bill. The bill currently provides for funding for the 2014-15 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.

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

Dave Bateman
Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, March 07, 2013 3:00:31 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/7/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: My family farm has lost 50% of our crop this year. However the remaining 50% has lost it's edge of superior taste. For the 700-800 Family Farms in Kona who are struggling to maintain some income, along with the other economic hardships of the past 4 years, this has been devastating. We must be sure that what we plan to do will be MOST effective. Contracting with Consultants in Latin America who have been successful would be appealing. Best Practices have changed during this year, and farmers need to know what they should be doing for prevention.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: TABRAHAM08@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 5:08:44 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TROY ABRAHAM | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: i support urgent support for protection of agriculture and farms

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: sales@islandsuncoffee.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 2:59:21 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Al Woolley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: If the coffee industry in Hawaii is to continue to prosper we must control this infestation and need help before it spreads to the other islands and there is no longer coffee grown in Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: dwoolley@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 2:56:55 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Donna Woolley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: It is very important to our industry to combat this terrible pest that could wipe out the entire coffee industry in Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: puaonaona@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 2:39:33 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| kirstee biven | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I strongly support HB353 with amendment to move the timing from 2014/2015 to 2013/2014 as every effort is needed to assist the coffee industry to deplete or contain the Coffee Berry Borer in Hawaii. As a roaster, I have had allocation and limited amount of coffee to roast to supply to our customers. We need to react now... Thank you for your considerations--kirstee

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: mauioma@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:03:00 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| David Gridley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB353 WITH AMENDMENT! This bill calls for funding to combat the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) in 2014/2015. This funding should be moved up to 2013/2014 as the industry is in desperate need of help now. The original bill submitted to the House called for an additional \$500,000 for research by PBARC. This should be restored to the bill. 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 coffee 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 ;arge price increases as well. WE NEED THE HELP OF THE HAWAII STATE GOVERNMENT NOW BY WAY OF IMMEDIATE FUNDING TO HELP CONTROL THIS PEST. WE NEED TO ACT NOW OR THIS DEVASTATING KONA COFFEE PROBLEM WILL BECOME A DEVASTATING PROBLEM FOR THE ENTIRE HAWAIIAN COFFEE INDSTRY!! Thank you Sincerely David Gridley Maui Oma Coffee Roasting Company President

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 8:14:24 AM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jesse Kaiwi | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I strongly support HB353.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: Sloo@naneagolfclub.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 8:16:27 AM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Stacie Loo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please pass HB353 , Kona coffee Industry needs all the help we can get.

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From: konaedge@gmail.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: A DIRE EMERGENCY FOR COFFEE FARMERS AND THE STATE
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 5:04:13 PM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee
From: Kurt F. Weigelt, Ph.D.
Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

Please note, I am not one to frequently run to the government for help, but I believe this matter is truly urgent and truly important. Your help is needed. To state that the situation created by the appearance of CBB is an emergency, with severe impact on both the coffee farmers (presently in Kona but surely in the future on the farmers in the entire state) and with adverse consequence to the state's economy would not be an overstatement. The problem is real, big, and getting bigger. As a coffee farmer myself, and as a former professor of economics and political science I am certain this is the case, and the track record of the state in dealing with this emergency situation is, heretofore, not good.

I am a great fan of Governor Abercrombie and of the state legislature in general, but on this matter promises have been broken and what limited action taken has been dreadfully slow. Please examine priorities and please take appropriate action expeditiously.

Thank you for receiving my testimony.

Best regards,
Kurt Weigelt
Captain Cook, Hawaii

I am writing in strong support for HB353 with amendment.

I believe this bill calls for funding to combat the Coffee Berry Borer for the years of 2014/2015. This is a serious issue NOW. This funding should be moved up to the years of 2013/2014 as we have had many farms going through stress and strain these past 2 years in hope of some ease of control. No, not the case. We must continue and not pause which this will do if we must wait for 2014/2015. The berry borer is not on a time schedule. Neither are our farmers and families who work for our great world known Hawaiian Coffees.

Mahalo, Gloria Biven

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jlenhart@hicoffee.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:38:41 PM

HB353

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 12, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: If the beetle cannot be stopped in Kona it will spread to the other islands and soon Hawaii will no longer have a viable coffee industry.

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UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

To: Senate Agriculture Committee

March 11, 2013

From: Kona Cooperative Extension Service

Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229

To Whom This May Concern,

On behalf of the Kona Cooperative Extension Service we would like to thank you for the opportunity to show our support for HB353 and oppose changes reflected in HB353/HD1.

As extension agents, we work directly with many growers in the coffee industry and have seen the damage that can occur when CBB is not managed properly. Proper management means that we need to continue to educate growers on integrated pest management programs for CBB control and improve on research that specifically identifies results, methods, and materials useful in Hawaii. If we allow CBB to continue devastating our coffee, we may lose Hawaii's coffee industry.

Researchers such as those at USDA PBARC – Hilo have played a major role in Hawaii's agriculture by providing important information on many of the pests and diseases that damage Hawaii's crops. Through the results of research, agents like ourselves, are then able to provide valuable information to thousands of farmers across the state. Once learned and applied, farmers have shown remarkable improvement in their businesses and continued growth.

Funding is imperative for researchers to continue to assist Hawaii's coffee growers to control CBB. We strongly urge you support Hawaii's coffee industry and the plight of the coffee growers by passing the original bill, HB353

Sincerely,

Ryan Tsutsui
Jr. Extension Agent

Andrea Kawabata
Assistant Extension Agent



Senate Committee on Agriculture

Hearing on HB 353, HD1

3-12-13 2:45 PM in Senate Conference Room 229

SUPPORT FOR ORIGINAL HB353

Aloha Chairman Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee—

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

The Hawaii Farmers Union United represents the interests of family and other small-scale farmers. They are still the backbone of American agriculture and the countless farming communities whose economies rely on them. Hawaii is home to thousands of those farms approximately 600 of which are coffee farms located in the Kona and Ka'u Districts on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

Beginning two years ago the coffee berry borer (CBB) infestation nearly decimated the Kona coffee crop and continues to this day. It was an emergency then and is an emergency now—one that demands an emergency response. Instead the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has mounted a patchwork approach. Apparently relying on a federal grant to the Sustainable Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC) and funding included last year in HB283 that the Legislature directed to HDOA for CBB mitigation costs.

David Case
Secretary
Kona

After the Legislature approved the CBB mitigation funding, HDOA asked the Governor to veto HB283 in favor of direct funding from HDOA's budget. That ill-considered approach resulted in a procurement snafu that has yet to see a single penny distributed for CBB mitigation costs. It has been two years and HDOA has yet to mount a focused effort to deal with the problem. In the meantime the coffee has flowered again, the CBB are now waiting on the ends of the new fruit and we are no closer to an effective solution.

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

It is time for some real leadership on this issue, and fortunately Rep. Nicole Lowen has provided it in the form of HB 353. The bill was thoughtfully drafted in consultation with coffee growers and researchers at the Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. Unfortunately the House Finance Committee has stripped the research money from the bill and delayed the mitigation funding directed to HDOA's own CBB Task Force until next year. HB353, HD1 is now before your Committee. We ask you to follow Rep. Lowen's lead-- restore the funding and time frames of the original HB353.

Moriah Smith
Member
Oahu

HFUU Secretary, David Case, will be at the hearing to deliver our testimony and that of our Kona Chapter.

Respectfully Submitted,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Vincent Mina, President
MFUMaui@hawaii.rr.com



Senate Committee on Agriculture
Hearing on HB 353, HD1
3-12-13 2:45 PM in Senate Conference Room 229
SUPPORT FOR ORIGINAL HB353

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

Aloha Chairman Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee—

I am writing separately in support of the Original HB353 and further support of Vincent Mina's testimony as the President of the Hawaii Farmers Union United. I am writing as the President of the Kona Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union. I also sit as the Kona Coffee Farmers Association's representative and Secretary of the CBB Task Force Nonprofit Corporation Board. I am very concerned that the approach being taken to the CBB emergency lacks leadership and sufficient funding from the State of Hawaii to effectively address the problem. As originally introduced HB353 was a major step in dealing with the CBB infestation. Removing the research funding and delaying the farmer mitigation support cuts the legs off what might otherwise be an effective way of dealing with the problem.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

David Case
Secretary
Kona

Just last Friday (March 8) I attended a KCFA sponsored briefing on the Big Island along with over 100 Kona coffee farmers put on by PBARC (the Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center). PBARC brought in researchers from Cornell and the Northern Mennonite University in Pennsylvania who have been researching the application of *Beauveria bassiana* to other pests. This is the same fungus that is now endemic to Hawaii, which is used around the world to mitigate CBB infestations.

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

The PBARC researchers described their preliminary work on the most effective use of *B. bassiana* in the unique and various coffee growing elevations in the Kona District. They also described promising research that they are beginning to do to develop better attractants to use in the CBB traps with the possibility that they could become more effective (and more economical) methods of control. This is the sort of practical research that HB353 would fund in a focused and effective manner. Stripping the research funding from the bill is very ill advised—even unconscionable.

Moriah Smith
Member
Oahu

So is delaying the funding for the subsidies to small-scale farmers. As has been found in other countries with CBB infestations the participation of the many small-scale farmers growing coffee is crucial to containing the pest, but they can't really afford the additional cost of regular fungus applications. If they are to be part of the solution (and they must be for it to be effective) their costs must be subsidized.

HB353, HD1 is now before your Committee. We ask you to follow Rep. Lowen's lead--restore the funding and time frames of the original HB353.

Respectfully Submitted,
KONA CHAPTER
FARMERS UNION UNITED

David S. Case

David S. Case, President



KONA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

P.O.Box 2341 Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

RE: HB353

Aloha Senator Nishihara, Senator Nouchi and the rest of the Senate Agriculture Committee. I regret not being able to attend in person to present Kona County Farm Bureau's testimony on HB353. I am Stefanie Delmont, President of the Kona County Farm Bureau. I request, even beg that you PASS HB353 in its ORIGINAL form, before much of the funding was stripped from the bill. Kona now, and ultimately the entire Hawaiian coffee industry is under attack and help is needed now. The time is past for leisurely studies with money, maybe, coming sometime. While researching and experimenting with ways to translate and adapt methods that have proven successful elsewhere to Hawaii's conditions is important, more vital now is expenditure and help with mitigation. Everybody has to get on board to work on mitigation – spraying fungus, post harvest stripping of cherry, field and worker sanitation, monitoring and trapping – or all these efforts will be less than successful. While many Kona coffee farmers are working hard at mitigation there is a limit to how much money they can spend on spray and labor with low quality and damaged beans what they see at harvest time. Forget about profit or even breaking even. If everybody doesn't get actively involved in mitigation or decides not to harvest the crop as more costly than what one would receive for it – that is one more place where the CBB can proliferate at what we have found to be astronomical levels. We need help to deal with CBB infested wild coffee and the feral coffee existing on abandoned farmland.

A vital and historic agricultural industry and economic engine for Kona is at serious risk of being just that – history. Please pass HB353 with at least the original stripped out money returned.

Aloha and mahalo,

Stefanie Delmont

Kona County Farm Bureau

From: [Mike Katz](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:47:32 AM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Michael Katz, Green Gecko Coffee Farm

Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

- 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 change; 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.

Please support sustainable agriculture!

From: [itakura.kuniko](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: [Kula Coffee & Pottery L.L.C.](#)
Subject: The Senate Agriculture Committee
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 10:24:01 PM

To The Senate Agriculture Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB 353"
AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB 353/HD1"

We need your help.

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

From Kula Coffee & Pottery L.L.C.
Kuniko Itakura

From: [COLEHOUR BONDERA](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of the "ORIGINAL HB353" and in opposition to "HB353/HD1"
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:04:50 PM

The Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Colehour Bondera, Kanalani Ohana Farm

**Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO
"HB353/HD1"**

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members:

Coffee Berry Borer Beatle (CBB) is an emergency. It needs to be treated as an emergency by the State. If not, coffee could be lost if a program and plan to effectively contain CBB in a cost effective way is not developed soon.

Really, the CBB emergency has received relatively 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.

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 change; 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 your understanding of these issues.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

From: [Sandra Scarr](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 1:25:17 PM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Sandra Scarr, Daily Fix Coffee Co.

Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm,
Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO
"HB353/HD1"

Kona coffee farmers are in the midst of an all-out war to save our industry from annihilation by Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). We need the State's funding to support research on the behavior of CBB in Hawaii, on alternative ways to reduce the CBB population, and on mitigation methods for farmers. Please restore the funds that Rep. Lowen put in her original bill.

From: [Bruce Corker](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#); [Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi](#); [Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz](#); [Sen. J. Kalani English](#); sentheilen@capitol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Glenn Wakai](#); [Sen. Sam Slom](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF "ORIGINAL HB353"/IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 1:18:11 PM

3/10/13

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: Bruce Corker, Kona Coffee Farmers Association

Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1—March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE “ORIGINAL HB353”
AND IN OPPOSITION TO “HB353/HD1”**

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

I am a coffee farmer in Holualoa in Hawaii County and am Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA). The KCFA is a Section 501.c.6 non-profit trade association with more than 300 members which represents the interests of coffee farmers in the North and South Kona Districts. KCFA voting membership is limited to coffee farmers—and does not include coffee buyers, middlemen, processors or commercial coffee marketers.

Kona’s coffee farms (the vast majority of which are small family farms) are facing an EXTREME EMERGENCY which threatens the future economic viability 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. No one has taken charge; there has been little coordination; very little progress has been made in developing a comprehensive program for CBB mitigation.

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. 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 bill provides for an appropriation of \$833,000 in FY 2013-2014 for emergency CBB research and mitigation, and \$500,000 for continued emergency research in FY2014-2015. In January KCFA representatives met with Rep. Lowen and indicated that, although the appropriations are more than two and half years late and are too small to fully address the emergency, the KCFA would support the bill as a step in the right direction.

For the House Finance Committee hearing on February 14, there were more than 90 separate written testimonies from the Hawaii coffee community uniformly supporting the emergency appropriations of the Original HB353.

Ignoring that testimony, the Finance Committee gutted the bill. All of the emergency research funding was removed and the CBB emergency mitigation funds were reduced to \$300,000 and delayed for a full year to FY 2014-2015. Even this \$300,000 amount is far from certain. It will be used only if a minimum of \$200,000 in matching funds is provided from some outside source.

If this Committee and the Hawaii Legislature are serious about supporting farmers and saving Hawaii's coffee growing industry, they should—at a minimum—restore the emergency appropriations of the Original HB353.

Sincerely,

Bruce Corker, Legislative Committee Chair
Kona Coffee Farmers Association

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Bruce Corker
bruce.corker@gmail.com
808.322.9562

From: [Lyman Kona Coffee](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: ["Bruce Corker"](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 3:02:38 PM

Kailua Kona, HI, March 9, 2013

The Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Dr. Hans F. Eckert, owner/operator, Lyman Kona Coffee Farms
Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO
"HB353/HD1"

Aloha,

I am the (fee simple) owner of an eight acre coffee farm in North Kona. Our farm is named after my wife and daughter's ancestors, Missionaries David and Sarah Lyman of Hilo. My farm is a Certified Organic Coffee Estate. I am certified from "Seed to Cup", and have been for 10 years. I work nearly 50 hrs. each week and cannot afford full-time help. As there is no big money in Kona Coffee, unless on a huge scale with every shortcut exploited, you must know that all coffee farmers here love their product and love producing it (and do not do it for the money). My efforts have yielded a number of Gold and Silver medals for my products (KCC). I was at the first CBB meeting in Winter 2010, and everyone since. This pest is absolutely ruinous. When not fought VERY vigorously, it can and will destroy whole crops (as it did the complete crop of Haiti a few years ago). Since Hawaii was the last coffee growing region in the world to GET the CBB, despite the fact that we are, after all, Island, I believe that spreading the bug to all of Hawaii will only be a matter of time.

I did not notice any beetles in my traps until March of 2012. I began spraying organic fungus immediately. However, the bugs spread to horribly fast that I lost over 30% of my crop. I lost a LOT of money on our farm in the year 2012. In addition to over 50 lure traps, I also sprayed 4 times a year—which was the official wisdom at the time of DOA/UH. I am now spraying once a month. We have now been told that a quart per acre should be most successful. ONE QUART of fungus cost \$80.- (eighty) bucks. In addition, the necessary "spreader" fluid cost \$150 per gallon. Every round costs me \$500 dollars or more, not only four but up to 12 times per year. Without State help, I won't be able to continue to produce the Best Coffee in the World. Yes, Kona Coffee (especially Estate, Single Farm Origin) is still very much considered a top notch boutique coffee. I know, because I sell half of my crop to top-level green roasters, about 10, on the Mainland, Asia and Europe.

Please do not fail to recognize that this, our Kona Coffee Hawaiian signature product, is under very heavy attack from CBB and that we, as the 750 or 800 farms, need your help, AND SOON! Once lost, a stellar reputation for top quality, recognized all over the world (at least since Mark Twain raved about it in the 1860s), is extremely hard to regain, and those cases, if at all successful, can take decades.

Please hear us, the voices of those who have been put in your public care.
Do the Right Thing!

Maholo Nui!

With Best Regards and Cordial Aloha!

Dr. Hans F. Eckert, owner/operator

808-325-0909; 808-989-0674

Coffee@LymanKonaCoffee.com

www.LymanKonaCoffee.com

100% Certified Organic Kona Coffee

100% Certified Estate

100% Certified Aah-loha

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, U.S.A.

From: [Atsumi Hara](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 2:42:16 PM
Importance: High

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee
From: Atsumi Hara, Kona View Coffee
Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

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 the original HB353 bill.

Kona coffee is in crisis. We should not delay the research and protect the quality of our product. Please give your attention to your State's most valuable product if you are proud of being governing Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Atsumi Hara
Kona View Coffee
75-5382 Mamalohoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725
v: 808-333-9226
e: atsumi@atsumihara.com

From: [Mama's Kona Coffee](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 6:55:23 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

Aloha,

I am a coffee farmer. Our family has been farming coffee for 4 generations. In 2009 when we took over our mama's farm as she is getting up in years. We started seeing a few little holes in some of our coffee....we paid no heed as to what they were. It wasn't a problem. We had started making plans to improve our harvest, spent money on building our own pulping shed and dry house.

In 2010 we started hearing about stories about bugs eating the coffee beans, but again we weren't too concerned because it hadn't hit us because all the talk was about South Kona and lower elevations.

In 2011 we started seeing small sections of our farm becoming infected. We started noticing a drop in the harvest because of the CBB. We started actively doing what we were told to do by our coffee association and what scientist said to do.

In 2012 all the hard work we did working the land to produce more coffee beans only produced more opportunity for the CBB. Instead of having a banner year, we are thinking maybe we shouldn't be coffee farmers any longer if there is no help to stop this threat. I'm not talking coming in with GMO and poisonous sprays that will kill everything and poison the soil that eventually washes down to the ocean. I'm talking about serious help for people who are trying to maintain a GMO free and organic coffee farm.

Make that money available to help us farm our coffee. Kona is known for some of the best coffee in the world...we are losing our way of life to this CBB. Not everyone is from the mainland, not everyone comes to Kona and has a "gentlemen's" farm, Not everyone uses Kona coffee as a second income. Some of us are from here and born here.

Respectfully,

Michelle Joven

Michelle D. Joven

(808) 315-8224 Business

Mama's Kona Coffee

mamaskonacoffee@gmail.com

<http://www.mamaskonacoffee.com>

100% Kona Coffee direct from our farm on the volcanic slopes of Hualalai in Keauhou Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii.

From: john@konaloha.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:43:16 AM
Importance: High

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1

As a farmer of world famous Kona coffee, I am asking for help in keeping production of this vital Island crop from disappearing. CBB has made farming this crop almost non profitable, and we are considering other crops to plant. This last year, even though we sprayed with fungus every three weeks (at a cost of over \$6,000), over 40% of our beans showed CBB damage to some degree.

Please help us to get some control over this pest by supporting the original bill HB353.

John Koontz, Konaloha Farms, South Kona District

From: [Ruth Koontz](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 7:08:25 AM
Attachments: [sigimg1.png](#)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

As a farmer of world famous Kona coffee, I am asking for help in keeping production of this vital Island crop from disappearing. CBB has made farming this crop almost non profitable, and we are considering other crops to plant. This last year, even though we sprayed with fungus every three weeks (at a cost of over \$6,000), over 40% of our beans showed CBB damage to some degree.

Please help us to get some control over this pest by supporting the original bill HB353.

Ruth Koontz, Konaloha Farms, South Kona District

Ruth Koontz
Konaloha Coffee
707-496-1942
Ruth@Konaloha.com
www.Konaloha.com



From: [Mary Lou Moss](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Hearing on HB353, HD1
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 10:26:31 AM

My name is Mary Lou Moss from Aina Na Hoku Kai farm in Holualoa, HI. I oppose this bill. We need the CBB emergency funding. Emergency research is needed for CBB.

From: [Dawn Barnes](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Hearing on HB353
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 10:31:56 AM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Dawn Barnes, Kona RainForest Coffee

**Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE “ORIGINAL HB353” AND IN OPPOSITION
TO “HB353/HD1”**

–**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 change; 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.

Dawn Barnes

**Kona RainForest Coffee
P.O.Box 340
Captain Cook, HI 96704
808-328-1941**



From: [Anita Kelleher](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Coffe Borer Emergency In Kona Hawaii
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 1:05:11 PM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee

**From: Blue Corner Coffee Farm
Kailua Kona, Hawaii, 96740**

**Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm,
Conference Room 229**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN
OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"**

As a small farmer in Kailua Kona Hawaii I grow and sell Estate Reserve 100% Kona coffee. This is a Heritage crop for Hawaii. It is intensive labor with not a lot of room for profits. We have been experiencing drought to add to the difficult problem of controlling CBB. I am proud of the coffee I grow and it is a lifestyle I choose and am grateful to have. However the added labor and costs of spraying for CBB is making it impossible to continue on. Many farmer's cannot afford to spray at all which is making the situation even worse as the borer happily multiples and ruins the crops of folks working so hard to keep them at a minimum. If your neighbor cannot or will not spray because of the high cost of Botaniguard and Mycotrol it makes is incredibly difficult to keep this terrible pest at a reasonable level that does not destroy your own harvest. We desperately need help and fast or else many people will lose their farms and life's work. I ask you to consider this and to act in our favor.

Regards,
Anita Kelleher

From: [P. Michael Loftus](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 2:37:55 PM

Members of the Committee:

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 its production. It is clear to me that while we may be able to control the CBB's damage it is beyond our financial ability to eradicate the problem. As a direct result, 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. 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 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 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. 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 Rep. Lowen's original HB353 and to oppose the watered down version known as HB 353/HD1. Thank you.

From: [Ben W. Dysart](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: ["Kona Coffee Farmers Association"](#); [Bob Nelson](#); [mauka248@gmail.com](#); [corkclan@msn.com](#); [Cecilia & Bob Smith](#); [Christine Sheppard](#); [COLEHOUR BONDERA](#); [Kathy Wood](#); [Marvin Feldman](#); [Mary Lou Moss](#); [Paul Uster](#); [Skip Bittenbender](#); [Tommy Greenwell](#); [Clare Wilson](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:15:01 PM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee
From: Ben Dysart, Dysart Farms
Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

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: info@athenaofhawaii.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: To: The Senate Agriculture Committee HB353
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 1:02:01 PM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee
From: Joachim & Demetria Oster, ATHENA of HAWAI'I COFFEE LLC
Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

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. Aside 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.

We urgently need funding for local researchers who can work hand in hand with local coffee farmers. Our environment is unique, so will most likely the methods be to combat the coffee berry borer.

Please help and support this cause!

From: [John Langenstein](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Original HB353 bill
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 11:25:39 AM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee
From: John Langenstein, Langenstein Farms, Inc.
Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE “ORIGINAL HB353” AND IN OPPOSITION TO “HB353/HD1”

CBB infestation has created a very difficult environment for the heritage Kona Coffee industry crop. It is imperative that we take immediate measures to study, fight and proactively prevent the further infestation of the coffee bean borer into our Hawaiian coffee industry which is lead by the 200 year Kona Coffee crop. Please help immediately as this legislation now as it is supported by all of the Kona Coffee Industry. Mahalo for allowing me to share my mana'o,

John Langenstein
Langenstein Farms, Inc.
808-938-4739 cell

From: konacafe@paradisefoundhawaii.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** hearing on HB353, HD1
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 11:13:32 AM

To The Senate Agriculture Committee,

I support the original HB353 and oppose HB353/HD1

This is a devastating pest. As of now we, the coffee farmer, have to learn what to do by experience and there is so much hearsay floating around it is difficult to know what is working and what is wasteful in time and money. Each season we experiment and attempt to measure results. We cannot afford to wait. We need technical and professional help now and if we wait on matching funds that may never appear the industry declines. Real help now will be money well spent.

Respectfully yours,
Thomas Butler
Paradise Found Farm
Kona, Hawaii

From: [David Coy](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 11:46:31 AM

Re: Hearing on HB 353, HD1, scheduled for March 12, 20p13 at 2:45PM, conference room 229

**From: David Coy of Moonstruck Organics
PO Box 101 Honaunau**

I am writing in support of the original House Bill 353. I strongly oppose the HD1 version. I manage an organically certified (by ICS) coffee farm in Honaunau Coffee Lots which has been severely damaged by CBB. I estimate we had a harvest only 15%-20% of normal in 2011 and 60%-70% of normal in 2012. We chose to sell almost all our cherry in 2012 due to the poor quality. This was our first time ever in 6 years of growing to sell cherry. We (I as the farm manager and the leaseholder/owner) need help to fight this infestation. I believe that it is only fair that the state Department of Agriculture bear the major brunt of these costs. It was the DOA safety net that broke down to enable this dreaded pest to establish a stronghold.

We have an opportunity to keep it under control but never to eradicate it (if the scientists working with this pest in other coffee growing countries are to be believed). But to control it requires immediate and serious action.

I've no doubt that allocating the HDOA budget exceeding \$40+ million requires balancing the needs of many varying constituencies who are all worthy. But if you value the valuable name of "Kona Coffee", (and by extension the coffees in other part of Big Island and our neighbor islands) you had better understand the pressing nature of this issue. The quality and quantity of my coffee is now extremely poor and it will get only worse unless I can bring CBB under control.

We pretty much know what needs to be done. The expense of the chemicals and the labor involved in thoroughly stripping the trees is very high. We need programs to further explore the best options for controlling CBB and help with the added labor of those options that would not be necessary had the safeguards for keeping out of Hawaii not failed.

Sincerely,
David O. Coy

From: [Ana Webb](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 10:59:34 AM

Re: Hearing on HB 353, HD1, scheduled for March 12, 20p13 at 2:45PM, conference room 229
From: BethAnne Webb of Moonstruck Organics
PO Box 248 Captain Cook

I am writing in support of the original House Bill 353. I strongly oppose the HD1 version.

My organically certified (by ICS) coffee farm in Honaunau Coffee Lots has been severely damaged by CBB. I estimate I had a harvest only 15%-20% of normal in 2011 and 60%-70% of normal in 2012. We chose to sell almost all our cherry in 2012 due to the poor quality. This was our first time ever in 6 years of growing to sell cherry. We desperately need significant help to fight this devastating infestation and believe that it is only fair that the state Department of Agriculture bear the major brunt of these costs. Somewhere in the inspection and monitoring of imported coffee under the control of DoA, the safety net for our coffee broke down to enable this dreaded pest to establish a stronghold.

We have an opportunity to keep it under control but never to eradicate it (if the scientists working with this pests in other coffee growing countries are to be believed). But to control it requires immediate and serious action.

I've no doubt that allocating the HDOA budget exceeding \$40+ million requires balancing the needs of many varying constituencies who are all worthy. But if you value the valuable name of "Kona Coffee", (and by extension the coffees in other part of Big Island and our neighbor islands) you had better understand the pressing nature of this issue. The quality and quantity of my coffee is now extremely poor and it will get only worse unless I can bring CBB under control.

I have attended all sorts of educational meetings and know what needs to be done. The expense of the chemicals and the labor involved in thoroughly stripping the trees is very high. We need programs to further explore the best options for controlling CBB and help with the added labor of those options that would not be necessary had the safeguards for keeping out of Hawaii not failed.

From: [Scott & Gloria Beattie](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:39:38 PM

To The Senate Agriculture Committee, from R Scott Beattie and Gloria Beattie owners Kahauloa Iki Farm Re: Hearingon HB353,HD1, March 12 2013 at 2:45pm, Conference Room 229 Testimony in support of the "ORIGINAL HB353" /HD1 We Have a 6.6 acre Kona Coffee Farm in Cat Cook Mauka since the introduction of the coffee berry borer 2 1/2 years ago we have lost 20-30% of our crop inspite of following all recomended guidelines to control it . I have plans of increasing acreage in the near future but not until there is a better handle of this pest . Its imperative that the state acts immediately to help the Kona Coffee farmers . This will impact tourism and other areas of the States economy if not dealt with aggressively . sincerely, Scott and Gloria Beattie

From: [Louise Hanna](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: original HB353
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:51:18 PM

To: the Senate Agricultural Committee
Concerning HB353

From:
Louise Hanna
Luther Coffee Farm
Captain Cook, Hawaii

Dear Committee members,
As an owner of a coffee farm in Hawaii I am writing in support of the original HB353. (CBB Research and Farmer Support)

We desperately need enactment of the bill as introduced by Kona Representative Nicole Lowen which provides funding \$500,000 for FY 2013-2014 and \$500,000 for FY 2014-2015 for emergency research on CBB by the Hilo -based Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center (PBARC) which is part of the USDA. The bill also provides funding of \$330,000. for CBB mitigation in FY 2013-2014.

The Hawaii coffee industry is in dire need of scientific help in order to survive the CBB infestation. Last week I attended a presentation of ongoing study and research presently being pursued by PBARC. in pursuit of a comprehensive approach for farmers to take to survive the CBB which is increasingly devastating our coffee crop. It was obvious from the presentation that this research is our best hope and the best course to follow. So I ask you please to restore HB353 to its original funding level.

Government can not make it rain, but they can use modern science to investigate and establish best practices for farmers in Hawaii. Farmers can not do this as individuals. The research must be provided by government labs.

I oppose HB353/HD1. We need modern research. We need mitigation now, not later. This CBB problem is an emergency.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Louise Hanna
Luther Coffee Farm

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee

From : Danielle and Jean Orłowski, HALA TREE Coffee Plantation

Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm,
Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN
OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

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 worth.

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.

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

Sincerely

Danielle and Jean Orlowski

From: [Robert Smith](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Original HB353 and HB353/HD1
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 4:19:44 PM

Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm,
Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN
OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
I am writing in support of the original HB353 bill.

We Kona coffee farmers are in danger of losing our ability to
profitably farm Kona coffee if we can't reduce the damage that the
Coffee Berry Borer is doing to our coffee.
Sincerely, Robert H. Smith, Smithfarms.com

From: [Jeffery Seel](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: IN Support of the Original HB353
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 7:44:38 AM

Senate Agriculture Committee
Re: HB353...Testimony In Support of the original HB353

I am a Hawaii coffee farmer and need the help of the state in fighting an invasive species (CBB) which is making coffee growing uneconomic.

Coffee is an agricultural product that is not only important as a direct sale product but also is important as a tourist attraction directly in coffee shops and restaurants and indirectly with farm visits.

Most farms are small with 3 or less acres. While small, they number over 600 and as such represent an important resource for the state. CBB is making these farms uneconomical as the coffee bean is destroyed from inside. As such the farmer will pick and process before knowing if the coffee bean is destroyed, incurring the expense without a salable product.

Action is needed to combat this pest before the coffee product from the island of Hawaii is destroyed or before it spreads to other islands.

Thank you

Jeffery Seel
73-4569 Kohanaiki Rd
Kona, HI 96740

From: [Elisabeth Siekhaus](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: : Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:58:33 AM

Dear Legislators,

This is written in strong and urgent support of the original **bill "HB353" and in opposition to "HB353/HD1"**.

We are new 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 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. As far as we can see, no such efforts have yet

been forthcoming in Hawaii so, 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 mitigation techniques makes sense at this stage, rather than a later one when the infestations may be irreversible.

Please support his bill and enable the excellent scientists already working in Hawaii to find techniques! We beg you!

Sincerely

Elisabeth and Wigbert J. Siekhaus

Eldawi Farm

Captain Cook, HI

From: [smithfarms pure kona](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on HB353, HD1, March 12, 2013 at 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229
Date: Saturday, March 09, 2013 4:25:52 PM

To: The Senate Agriculture Committee
From Cecelia Smith of smithfarms
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE "ORIGINAL HB353" AND IN
OPPOSITION TO "HB353/HD1"

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 step-up and 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 about 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 in the next year..Let them try to help us today!

If you pass HB353/HD1 and not the ORIGINAL HB353- you will be giving us the kiss of death.

We've actually needed help for 2 years ago because the problem is exponentially growing- *think multiple birthings of many beetles*- but even now, I believe the Scientists at Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center could- if given necessary funds- do on site help here in Kona, meeting the the challenge of our local environment and give us the help we desperately need. Today!

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?

Please support the Original HB353 and delete HB353/HD1.

We all need your kokua!

with aloha,
Cecelia Smith
808-328-8060

From: [Janet Jones](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: HB353
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2013 5:08:25 PM

Senate Agriculture Committee:

Please support the ORIGINAL bill #HB353. It is sound and needed now. Do not let political meddling confuse this issue. Our bread and butter is at stake. It costs thousands of dollars to hire workers to implement the stripping of trees, making and hanging traps, filling them with chemicals, more chemicals for spraying several times. This is time consuming, and eats up money. We will have to sacrifice a portion of our potential crop to facilitate diminishing the CBB population. THE TIME IS NOW. MOVE ON THIS. The new season is upon us.

From: [Christy Carrico](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill HB353
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:28:49 PM

Hello,

I am a Kona Coffee Farmer and I am asking that the Senate Ag Committee please restore the funding for bill HB353. We farmers need this help desperately.

Sincerely,
Christy Carrico
Honu Kula Coffee Farm

From: Jgiblinjr@aol.com
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: (no subject)
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:38:46 PM

I am a small farmer in South Kona district. We are a small family farm trying to carve out a niche in the Kona coffee industry. We were amazed at the cost of the chemicals required to fight the invasive crop destroying CBB. We would like to respectfully request that you restore the funding in Rep. Lowen's original Bill so we might get some help fighting this problem. I am a member of the Hawaiian Farmers Union United and Kona Coffee Farmers Association and know some of the members might not ask for the help but there are a lot of us hoping this help will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

John Giblin