

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FEBRUARY 14, 2013
ROOM 308
3:30 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 353
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 353. This measure appropriates funds from the agricultural development and food security special fund to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of coffee berry borer (CBB) infestations. The measure would also provide a grant-in-aid to the CBB task force for the control of CBB and mitigation of damage. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of 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 and we would request that the funding provided in this bill would also have a similar requirement. We would also request that funding be provided through general funds.





LATE TESTIMONY

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February 14, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 353 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson 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 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

LATE TESTIMONY

February 14, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 353
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Room 308
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson 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

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MeI Harano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This will help the family owned small farms on AG-5 lots tremendously. Many operations have given up or cannot afford the time and expense to adequately address the CBB infestation problem. Please support passage of this measure.

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HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gloria Biven	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this bill. It is important that we continue to support our investment in Hawaii, that bieng coffee. This would help offer much needed education & support from the continuing destruction of the CBB (Coffee Berry Borer). I know the community has been working hard at combating CBB but it is not a one time problem. CBB is a lingering problem. Coffee has deep roots in Hawaii, along with financial income to many families who depend on our coffee heritage. Thank you for your support on what could be devistating problem. Gloria Biven

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finance1-Christie

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: dtwiggsmith@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desmond Twigg-Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha dear Legislators: Please show your support for Hawaii farmers and pass HB353! This new bug has cost us at least 20% or more of our crop and severely reduced the quality. HELP!

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LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Saxbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The US has long history of coffee, the loss of this industry will be detrimental to earnings of farmers, laborers, including tourism. As a gentleman farmer, rather than a corporation, our crop of 2 acres was devastated, and without a study or combined information through grants is our only option. What I see as the only course we can take. Thank you for your time.

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HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Rosenberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello-I support this bill. Farmers need help!

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: boxer750il@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wesley Sugai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I'm a 4th generation Kona Coffee Farmer and have a small 4 acre farm in Kealahou, Kona. Unfortunately, my farm has been decimated by the CBB. By trial and error, we are finding out what works and what doesn't help to control the infestation, but it is very time consuming and costly. My crop has been reduced by 50% and will probably stay that way for the foreseeable future. Please support this bill to help us control this raging pest. Thank you, Wesley J. Sugai

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: tjilly55@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM*

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/14/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
thaddeus lilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: drscott1@Hawaii.rr.com
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HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Mandel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a coffee farmer in Honaunau, I wish to let the legislature know that many small coffee farmers are now out of business due to the CBB. This pest is having grave effect on the ability of the average coffee farmer to continue to stay in business. As more coffee farmers stop producing coffee, more lands will be abandoned, and create reservoir for the CBB. We need all the help we can get to help preserve the Kona Coffee Industry. Mahalo, Scott Mandel

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Cc: fredpiercemiv@yahoo.com
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HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Pierce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: P_INDUSTRIAL@HOTMAIL.COM
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LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Pierce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: healingangel10@yahoo.com
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HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L. Lucena	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB535 and I ask that HB353 be supported and passed - When it passes, please advise me as to where I need to apply for this assistance - Thank you

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: lorie@rustyshawaiian.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM*

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorie Obra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Bumette	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help support the Kona Coffee Farmer. It has cost each farmer a lot of extra money fighting the coffee borer for the past 2+ years. The labor is expensive, the equipment is very expensive and the bacteria is even more expensive. The Kona Coffee market has finally gotten to be viable and worth all the work. Please vote to help the hard working farmers in Kona who grow the only AMERICAN grown coffee in the USA and the BEST tasting coffee in the world.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: kiyokwhite@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

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HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerwin White	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As one individual Kona Coffee farmer for almost 30 years in Honaunau, South Kona, I would like to show my support for the HB353, which will provide funding for the research and control of the CBB which is seriously impacting the Kona Coffee industry.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: jwayman@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Wayman	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	Yes

Comments: I strongly support. The Hawaii Coffee industry is in jeopardy of collapse due to the rampant spread of CBB.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: reprieve@bellsouth.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/14/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Kelleher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill will greatly assist ALL farmers growing coffee, as we all have the CBB problem. For those who previously could not afford the treatment for their orchards, they now will be, which will positively affect all growers throughout Kona.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: mattbinder@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

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HB353

Submitted on: 2/14/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote YES on this bill. It is crucial to the coffee farmers of Hawaii. Thank you, Matt Binder Kealakekua

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: dwoolley@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM*

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/14/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB353 on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM

LATE TESTIMONY

HB353

Submitted on: 2/14/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 14, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 353 Chair Luke ande Members: I am David Bateman, co-owner of Heavenly Hawaiian Farms, a 37.5 Acre Kona coffee farm, in Holualoa. I sit on the Kona Coffee Council and Hawaii Coffee Assn Boards and am appointed to the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force as the KCC representative. I write in strong support of HB 353, HD 1, Proposed. This amended bill would fund additional critical support to our efforts to fight, control, contain and mitigate the CBB infestation damage that has devastated our industry over the last three years. Some 50% of our 800 farms (4,000 acres total) have suffered 50-100% infestation and corresponding losses. Many farmers need immediate help to fight the infestation. SHAC (Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council)and the CBB Task Force has been granted \$330,000 from the USDA and \$200,000 from this legislature through the HDOA for 2012-13. The Hawaii coffee industry is contributing about \$50,000 in kind. Our work has begun with targeting the most heavily infested (50%+) epicenter of the outbreak in TMK 8-4(approx 800 acres in South Kona). We are working directly with those farmers to offer intensive education on proper mitigation protocols (field sanitation, spraying Botanigard and use of alcohol traps for monitoring infestation levels) along with financial assistance through the supply of Botanigard, the only approved effective product to fight the CBB. This is a very expensive product and most farmers cannot afford it. It costs approx \$180-200/gallon. We are recommending application rates of about one quart per acre, to be applied at least once a month, year round. Farmers are required to sign an agreement with SHAC regarding the use of this product on their farms. We also require the farmer to provide the equipment and labor to apply it. The entire \$530,000 will be expended this year on database development, education, area wide sanitation of infested areas, and monitoring the spread of CBB. We desparately need financial help for the 2014-15 coffee season to continue our efforts to help our Kona farmers. The proposed \$300,000 funding from this legislature is planned to be matched with another \$200,000+ from the USDA for the 2013-14 season. Application for those funds is being initiated. All these new funds will continue the work already begun to further research, control/mitigate the infestation. Our Kona coffee farmers desperately need your help. Please support this critically important bill and pass this measure out of committee. Thank you, David Bateman

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