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March 24, 2014

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association, on behalf of its more than 300 members, supports the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for control and mitigation of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii County. The KCFA recognizes and appreciates Kona Representative Nicole Lowen's introduction and support of this bill.

In late 2010, CBB--an exotic insect from Africa--was first identified infesting coffee beans in Kona. From that initial small infestation, this invasive insect pest has increased exponentially to the level that the beetle now exists in the billions, and has infested many farms to the point where some crops cannot be commercially harvested. The CBB Emergency threatens the continued economic viability of coffee as a commercial crop in Hawaii County, and ultimately throughout the State. In order to save what is now Hawaii's premier specialty agricultural product, an appropriation of \$3 million is an initial step in the right direction.

Successful CBB mitigation programs in other coffee producing regions of the world have focused on the acquisition and distribution to farmers of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana* by ministries and departments of agriculture in those regions. A distribution program of that type administered by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) would start Hawaii on this same path of CBB control successfully developed in those other regions. The program would be simple,

straightforward and efficient—similar in operation to the program for subsidizing organic certification expenses already run by the HDOA for Hawaii’s organic farmers. As with the organic certification program, the distribution of *Beauveria bassiana* could be structured as a cost sharing program with farmers.

KCFA is concerned that the original \$3 million appropriation for mitigation was reduced to \$2.75 million in the “Proposed HB1514/HD1” and then amended to replace the dollar amounts with blanks in HB1514/HD1 and in HB1514/SD1. **If the Legislature is serious about saving coffee in Hawaii, the full \$3 million should be restored to the bill.**

KCFA is also concerned that HB1514 expressly provide that the subsidy program for mitigation of CBB be directly administered by the HDOA. With prior legislative funding for CBB, the HDOA has outsourced mitigation and control functions to private entities. This outsourcing has resulted in prolonged delays and programs of questionable utility.

Please amend HB1514 to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker, Chair

Legislative Committee

Kona Coffee Farmers Association



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: geneclapp@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:14:44 AM

HB1514

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: This is an important bill to protect the Hawaii coffee growers from the threat of the borer beetle. I support this bill strongly.

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikeda@ucc-hawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 5:08:47 PM

HB1514

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makoto Ikeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1514. The purpose of this act is to provide funding for the control and containment of the coffee berry borer beetle. The Hawaii Coffee Association its members recommends funding of \$2,500,000 for this purpose. The scientific community and industry estimates that it will cost \$2,500,000 to administer the recommended treatment program to the entire Big Island of Hawaii. That includes having the farmers pay 25% in matching funds. The coffee growing districts of Kona and Ka'u have been heavily impacted by the discovery of the coffee berry borer beetle in 2010. Since the initial discovery the beetle has spread from a remote area in South Kona to the entire Kona growing district and has spread to Ka'u and its surrounding areas, at great financial cost to the growers, processors and consumers of these coffees. THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. We are asking for what may seem to be a large amount of money but these funds are needed to provide for the implementation of a Big Island wide "Kill and Contain" program. It's is like putting out a forest fire in that it must all be contained or it will continue to spread. "Kill and Contain" on the Big Island may save coffee growers on other islands from having to fight this pest on their island if it can be contained on the Big Island. Thank you for your consideration. This is extremely important for the future of coffee in Hawaii. Thank you, Makoto Ikeda

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Written Testimony of Weston Yap
Risk Consultant and Sales Manager for AgriLogic Insurance Services, LLC

Before the House Ways and Means Committee on HB 1514, in **STRONG SUPPORT**

March 24, 2014

Aloha e members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Weston Yap from Honolulu, Hawaii. My work provides agricultural production and revenue protection programs, subsidized by the federal government, to Hawaii's food growers.

Please accept this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1514, that provides funding for the control and containment of the coffee berry borer beetle. As a crop insurance provider I have the opportunity to tour farms across the Big Island. Some coffee farmers state they have lost as much as 30% of their harvest in 2013. Drops in production affect not just the farmer, but the workers who harvest, the roasters and processors, the packaging manufacturers, the cargo workers, our retailers, as well as Kona's ability to command a premium reputation across the world. When our coffee shows up at a European buyer's shop with bites in it, they may drop the price or reject the product.

The Hawaii Coffee Association recommends a funding goal of \$2,500,000 for this purpose. The scientific community and industry estimates that it will cost \$2,500,000 to administer the recommended treatment program to the entire Big Island of Hawaii. That includes having the farmers pay 25% in matching funds.

These funds will enable the community to implement a Big Island wide "Kill and Contain" program. Mitigation on the Big Island may save coffee growers on other islands from having to fight this pest.

My company AgriLogic is able to provide a measure of help in the form of coffee production insurance, but our Federally subsidized crop insurance is not able to make the farmer's revenue "whole" after a loss occurs. This eradication program represents hope for our farmers that future attacks can be prevented.

Mahalo for your consideration, and for protecting the quality of Hawaiian Coffee.

Sincerely,

Weston Yap, CPCU
Sales Manager

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