

**LATE**

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM\*

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	Support	No

Comments:

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**Edmund C. Olson Trust II  
Ka'u Farms Management, LLC  
O.K. Farms, LLC  
Ka'u Coffee Mill. LLC  
P.O. Box 280  
Pahala, Hawaii 96777**



February 26, 2014, Finance Committee, Room 308, 5:00p.m.

To: House Finance Committee  
Chair, Sylvia Luke

From: John C. Cross, Land Manager, Edmund C. Olson Trust II

RE: HB 1514, Regarding the Coffee Berry Borer, CBB.

Dear Chairperson Sylvia Luke, Vice Chairs Johansen, Nishimoto, and Members of the Finance Committee, My name is John C. Cross and I represent the combined interests of the Edmund C. Olson Trust II and its Coffee Growing entities, Ka'u Farms Management and O.K. Farms LLC. We farm over 120 acres Coffee in Ka'u and Hilo districts of the Big Island. The Trust also owns Ka'u Coffee Mill above Pahala town where we process, mill and roast coffee for the farmers in the district as well for our own production. Ka'u Coffee Mill is the largest processor in the district of Ka'u.

The Coffee Berry Borer or CBB, has been found in our fields and that of our neighboring independent farmers. We are aggressively taking active steps to keep this pest under control and with the eventual goal for complete eradication. We have seen some our smaller independent farmers having difficulty understanding the threat of the pest and the proper methods for control. The cost of application equipment and chemicals can be daunting. However, the research that has been performed so far by the UH, CTAHR and the Hawaii Coffee Association has shown to be very effective at controlling the CBB. We need all of the farmers to be fully educated on the CBB and have all the tools available to them to control this pest.

Having the Department of Agriculture team up with CTAHR, the HCA, and the independent farmers like ourselves will make up a formidable battle team. We will work together to keep this insect under control on the Big Island and most importantly NOT let it escape to the other coffee growing islands in the State.

**WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Thank you for listening to my testimony. I am available to answer any questions you have and share with you our ongoing attempts at control.