

# HB1514

# Testimony

Appropriates moneys for mitigation of, and education relating to, the coffee berry borer. Establishes a pesticide subsidy program for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer. Effective July 1, 2030.

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**KEN H. KAKESAKO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENT**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014  
2:10 P.M.  
ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1514 HD 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Nishihara and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1514 HD1, relating to agriculture. This bill will appropriate money to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for education and mitigation activities to combat the coffee berry borer and the development and implementation of a pesticide subsidy program to assist coffee growers with offsetting the cost of purchasing pesticides containing beauveria bassiana.

The HDOA supports this measure. Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer poses a significant problem for coffee farmers in Hawaii, and the additional funds will help the HDOA in its efforts contain the infestation. We would also request that the blank amount for a temporary position be amended to include \$50,000 for one temporary program specialist position to help with the implementation of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE  
and  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014  
2:10 PM  
State Capitol, Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1514, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

House Bill 1514, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for the control of coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*), as well as provide funds to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) for education and mitigation relating to coffee berry borer. This measure would also create a pesticide subsidy program at the HDOA for pesticides containing the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*, which has been shown to kill the coffee berry borer. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) **supports this measure** and offers the following comments.

As an island state, Hawaii faces a broad array of invasive species problems, including stinging fire ants, rapidly growing invasive plants that alter watershed forest composition and function, marine algae that smother our coral reefs, and mosquitoes that may carry deadly diseases. The coffee berry borer is one of these problems, in that it damages coffee trees that are highly valued as an agricultural commodity in Hawaii.

Control of coffee berry borer infestations, education about its impacts, and the provision of mitigation services are worthy investments in protecting the coffee industry in Hawaii. Because coffee berry borer is one of many serious invasive species impacting Hawaii's economy, agriculture, environment, and way of life, the Department suggests that an appropriation for the control of coffee berry borer be considered within the context of other budgetary requests for invasive species control in Hawaii under consideration during this legislative session. As written, this bill would provide as much as \$3,000,000 from the general fund to the HDOA for control efforts. The Department supports this effort, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priority invasive species projects across the State.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**JESSE SOUKI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [AGL Testimony](#)  
Cc: [soilculture@aol.com](mailto:soilculture@aol.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:41:14 AM

---

## **HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Shaffer	Soil Culture Consulting	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senate Agriculture Committee Members: I am a agronomist providing education and consulting for coffee farmers in Australia, Guatemala, Hawaii and Mexico for over 20 years. I am also certified organic 100% Kona coffee farmer and I support the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for control and mitigation of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii County. My company Soil Culture Consulting currently provides in depth consulting for over 1,000. acres of coffee farms where there is coffee berry borer pressure. Personally i have witnessed the very significant benefits from government programs that provide access to low cost inoculant of Beauveria bassiana fungi which is an effective component of berry borer management for coffee farmers. Use of beauveria bassiana fungi frequently and at high density is easy and practical and highly effective.....but Beauveria bassiana inoculate needs to available at low cost. The price we are paying right now in Hawaii for Beauveria bassiana inoculant is not at all sustainable and we will fail to manage CBB effectively if we cannot get a lower cost of application soon. Failing to manage CBB will cause much economic loss including directly to farms and also to the 200 year old brand of Kona Cofee. Beauveria bassiana is effective, simple to apply and there a a relatively low risk to environmental damage by its use. 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. I recognize and appreciate Kona Representative Nicole Lowen’s introduction and support of this appropriation. I am 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. If the Legislature is serious about saving coffee in Hawaii, the full \$3 million should be restored to the bill. I am 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 this bill to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA. Respectfully submitted, Bob Shaffer, agronomist Soil Culture Consulting Kona keei farm Honaunau, HI 808-328-8966

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senate Agriculture Committee Members:

I am a Kona coffee farmer and I support the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for control and mitigation of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii County. I recognize and appreciate Kona Representative Nicole Lowen's introduction and support of this appropriation.

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 coffee is no longer commercially harvestable.

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.

I am 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. If the Legislature is serious about saving coffee in Hawaii, the full \$3 million should be restored to the bill.

I am 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 this bill to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Garriss - Aina Ku Hina

Keauhou, HI

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rloo07@yahoo.com](mailto:rloo07@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:29:18 PM

---

## **HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosalyn Loong	K.T.L. Kona Coffee Farm	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senate Agriculture Committee Members: I am submitting testimony on behalf of members of my 3rd generation Kona coffee farm. We are Kona coffee farmers and support the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for control and mitigation of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii County. I recognize and appreciate Kona Representative Nicole Lowen's introduction and support of this appropriation. I also speak for the many cherry farmers who earn money only for the sale of cherry to the local mills and don't have access to retail sales. The cost of chemicals to fight the CBB is staggering. These farmers cannot afford the high price to affectively fight the CBB. In the meantime the pest grows more out of control each year. 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. I am 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. If the Legislature is serious about saving coffee in Hawaii, the full \$3 million should be restored to the bill. I am 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 this bill to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA. Respectfully submitted, Kem Loong, Sr. Kem Loong, Jr. Rosalyn Loong Andrea Bonifacio Andres Bonifacio

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [AGL Testimony](#)  
Cc: [jwayman@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:jwayman@hicoffeeco.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:00:25 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: HB 1514 in STRONG SUPPORT To be heard on Thursday March 13, 2014 at 2:10 in room 229 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 and the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force recommends funding of \$1,500,000 for this purpose. The scientific community and industry estimates that it will cost \$1,500,000 to administer the recommended treatment program to the entire Big Island of Hawaii. That includes having the farmers pay 50% of the cost in a one for one match program. 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 seems 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, Jim Wayman VP Hawaii Coffee Association

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [john@olsontrust.com](mailto:john@olsontrust.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:08:01 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John C. Cross	Edmund C. Olson Trust II	Support	Yes

Comments: I represent the Edmund C. Olson Trust II and Kau Farms Mgmt. We are growers of both coffee and macadamia nuts in the district. We strongly support this bill to assist the industry in continuing efforts to keep the Coffee Berry Borer under control and most importantly keep this pest from infesting the other coffee farms on the neighboring islands.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gbiven@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:gbiven@hicoffeeco.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:13:40 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gloria Biven	Royal Kona Coffee Visitor Center Mill & Museum	Support	No

Comments: Please accept my support to this bill. It is most needed to assist in sustaining our heritage and industry of coffee and especially Kona Coffee in Hawaii. Something we all should be so proud to be a part of. Thank you in advance. Gloria Biven

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jprater@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jprater@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:00:18 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Prater	Pua Kea Coffee	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Senate Agriculture Committee Members, As a Kona Coffee Farmer, I support the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for CBB control. I strongly believe the subsidy program should be administered by the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture and not outsourced to private entities. The CBB if not controlled can mean the demise of the entire Kona Coffee industry. Respectfully submitted, Joan E. Prater, Owner Pua Kea Coffee 82-986 Paikapahu Street Captain Cook, HI 96704

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



P O Box 5436, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745 [www.KonaCoffeeFarmers.org](http://www.KonaCoffeeFarmers.org)  
email: [info@KonaCoffeeFarmers.org](mailto:info@KonaCoffeeFarmers.org)

March 12, 2014

Dear Senate Agriculture 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 appropriation.

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. 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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkaiwi@hicoffeeeco.com](mailto:rkaiwi@hicoffeeeco.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:42:08 AM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roger Kaiwi	Kona Coffee Council	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB1514. Please help Kona Coffee Farmers with the tools to fight and control CBB. Roger Kaiwi

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jkimof@msn.com](mailto:jkimof@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:29:51 AM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james Kimo Falconer	MauiGrown Coffee, Inc	Support	No

Comments: Dear Members: On behalf of the Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn, whose members make up over 70% of the coffe growing acreage in the State, I urge you to support this funding to continue the fight against the Coffee Berry Borer. This funding is imperative to continue the good work being done as well as prevent it's spread to the outer island growing areas. Mahalo James Kimo Falconer, President Hawaii Coffee Growers Association

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ata.ynotaustin@gmail.com](mailto:ata.ynotaustin@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1932 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:48:23 AM

---

**HB1932**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
YNOT Austin INC	YnotAustin Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
and  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 2:10 pm  
By  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
and  
J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1514 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Ruderman, and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1514 HD1, which appropriates moneys for control and containment of the Coffee Berry Borer.

The Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) is a severe beetle pest of coffee, first discovered by staff of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, in south Kona in late 2010. CTAHR was a founding member of the Executive Board for the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force Along with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the Hawai'i Agricultural Research Center, the USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, and state and local coffee associations. Since this time, these parties have collaborated closely to develop management methods for this terrible pest, to educate and assist coffee growers in implementing prevention and control efforts, and to take direct action to suppress this pest. Although it is still limited to the Island of Hawai'i, further spread is a very real threat, particularly to the Island of Kaua'i, where half the coffee in the state is grown.

HB 1514 HD1 would appropriate funds both for education and mitigation activities under the direction of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and for an accompanying program of administered by the Department of Agriculture to assist coffee growers with the high cost of the biological pesticide necessary to control CBB.

We concur with the recommendation in HB 1514 HD1 *Proposed* of an appropriation of \$250,000 for education and mitigation activities by CTAHR. These efforts will focus on on-farm training and assistance to growers with proper timing and pesticide application practices, integration of the biological pesticide with site sanitation, pruning and other horticultural and harvest practices essential for effective beetle control, and collection of information from farms to further refine CBB control practices and determine the economic impact of control practices.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1514 HD1.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 13, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1514, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229  
2:10 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Kouchi, Vice Chair Rudermann, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFBF stands in strong support of HB 1514, HD1 with proposed amendments.**

Coffee is one of Hawaii's signature crops; one that helps bring fame and tourists to Hawaii. Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. While the full tally is yet to be made, farms on Hawaii Island have experienced deep losses. Some have failed. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the value of the remaining crop. CBB is a serious threat to Hawaii's agriculture industry and the state's economy. While CBB is battled worldwide, no other coffee growing origin shares Hawaii's high labor costs and restrictions on pesticides that may be used elsewhere to fight this destructive pest. This places the industry at a competitive disadvantage when compared to the rest of the coffee-growing world.

Fighting CBB is a priority in other coffee-producing countries. The USDA has expressed its support targeted toward research, education and mitigation. The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. A non-profit CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. CTAHR and HDOA have been responsive and effective in their combined efforts. Industry has committed countless private sector dollars and has leveraged both State and Federal funds. The State must continue to do its part.

We respectfully ask that you add the following appropriations:

\$150,000 to UH CTAHR for a project coordinator

\$1.3MM for a Bauveria subsidy program

\$50,000 HDOA Program Administrator

\$1.5MM Total

These funds will treat all of Kona and Ka'u for one year when combined with other funding sources and industry contributions. They will provide for education and communication surrounding a fully-developed Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) for one year.

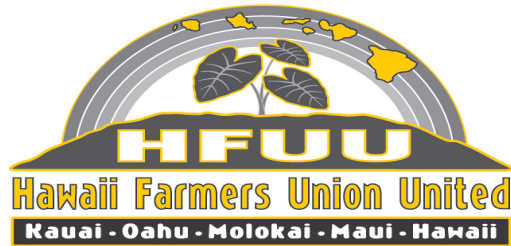
Thus:

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 1,450,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for education and mitigation activities to combat the coffee berry borer.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \$ 50,000 ~~or so much thereof as may be necessary~~ for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the department of agriculture to develop, operate, and implement a pesticide subsidy program established under section 4 of this Act; provided that the department of agriculture may expend up to \$ 50,000 to hire a temporary program specialist ~~positions~~ for the pesticide subsidy program.

This appropriation should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries. Please pass this bill as amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.



February 25, 2014  
Hawaii Farmers Union United  
1768 Kalawi Pl.  
Wailuku Maui HI 9679

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair Senate Agriculture  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mike Gabbard  
Chair Senate Energy and Environment  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUPPORT FOR HB1514, HD1 CBB APPROPRIATION (WITH AMENDMENTS)  
Joint Senate AGL/ENE Committee Hearings March 13, 2014 at 2:10PM**

Vincent Mina  
President  
Maui

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard and Committee Members:

**SUMMARY**

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Farmers Union United in strong support of HB1514, HD1, making appropriations to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (“CTAHR”) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (“HDOA”). For the reasons discussed below we request that at the appropriate point in the legislative process the measure be amended to restore the \$250,000 appropriation to CTAHR in the first line of Section 2 and the \$2,750,000 appropriation to HDOA in the first line of Section 5.

Simon Russell  
Vice-President  
Maui

David Case  
Secretary  
Kona

The CBB infestation threatens Kona Coffee, one of Hawaii’s signature origin crops. This pest has now spread southeast of Kona to Ka’u, another signature coffee region. It is also recently reported in other parts of Hawaii County and potentially threatens the entire Hawaii coffee industry.

Ray Maki  
Treasurer  
Kauai

The HDOA appropriation would fund an area wide, HDOA administered subsidy program to defray the cost to farmers of purchasing and applying *Beauveria bassiana*, a naturally occurring fungus whose various strains are used around the world to control CBB infestations. Funds appropriated to CTAHR would be used to educate farmers in the application of *B. bassiana* and other mitigation efforts required for long range CBB control.

Pamela Boyer  
Member  
Oahu

**DISCUSSION**

Hawaii County's recent report entitled "Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline 2012" documents about 4,750 acres in Kona and Ka’u planted to coffee-- about 4,150 acres in Kona and 600 acres in Ka’u. *Id.* ff p. 80, at Figs. 28, 29 and 27, respectively. Kona produces about 4 million pounds of parchment coffee per year with a gross value of about \$30 million. *C.f. Id.* at 83-84. This revenue is replicated an estimated four times in the Kona communities where some 700 family farms—600 located on King Kamehameha School leaseholds—are located and annually employ about 1,000 workers. *Id.*

David Fisher  
Member  
Maui

Steve Sakala  
Member  
Kona

Botanigard and Mycotrol are the respective, FDA approved, conventional and organic, commercial applications of *B. bassiana*. Research and on-farm experience in Kona confirm

that an ideal method of control requires spraying 1qt/acre of Botannigard or Mycotrol every three weeks year round at a cost of \$50/qt. plus an additional \$12/acre for surfactant to spread the *bassiana*. That comes to 16 applications per acre @ \$62 per acre. That's about \$1,000 per year times 4,750 acres equals \$4.75MM [(16X\$62) X 4,750 = \$4.75MM]. We estimate that funded for a 50% subsidy plus the cost of an employee and administration would come to about \$2.75MM per year for HDOA and \$250,000 for CTAHR.

The payments to coffee farmers to be made under this Bill are not gifts, but an investment in necessary incentives to encourage farmers to apply these products while at the same being educated about field sanitation and the range of integrated pest management practices required for long-range CBB containment. Similar education and subsidies are the demonstrated effective measures to mitigate CBB infestations wherever they occur around the world.

For example beginning in 1990 the Government of India faced CBB infestations in three of its southern states. It conducted a 12-year national research project, which concluded among other things that both extension education and subsidies were critical to obtain effective control of the CBB infestations.

The various extension programmes carried out over the last twelve years have been successful in creating an awareness about the coffee berry borer problem and motivating the growers to take up control measures, which is evident from the low levels of CBB incidence reported from many of the estates and the reduced rate of spread of the pest in the recent years. The incentive provided to the growers especially pesticides at subsidized rates during the early years, played an important role in convincing the growers about the possibility of controlling the pest if control measures are adopted on time. (Emphasis added.)

See *Integrated Management of Coffee Berry Borer* (Central Coffee Research Institute: Karnataka, India) CFC/ICO/02 (2002) at 59.

At HDOA's request private interests formed The CBB Task Force Nonprofit Corporation and earlier used federal funding to set up a pilot project to test and document the results of *B. bassiana* spraying. These efforts, however, are severely hampered by slow procurement and lack of funds and employees. The bugs are not waiting for procurement and are already way ahead of the funding. What is needed now is an effective, government operated, education and mitigation program and the funds to cover necessary extension staff and administration of direct HDOA subsidies for all the affected farms until this pest can be brought under control. It is an approach that has been successfully employed in countries around the world. We therefore urge your Committees to approve adoption of HB1514, HD1, amended to restore its funding to enable HDOA and CTAHR to implement these proven methods for CBB mitigation and control.

I will not be able to personally attend the March 13th hearing, but that does not diminish the importance the Hawaii Farmers Union United attaches to this issue. We urge your Committees to pass HB1514, HD1 and restore the funding and approve HB1514, HD 1.

Mahalo,  
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

*Vincent Mina*

Vincent Mina, President

ec: Rep. Nicole Lowen  
Rep. Richard Creagan

**I am writing 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 and the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force has recommended funding of \$1,500,000 for this purpose. The scientific community and industry estimates that it will cost \$1,500,000 to administer the recommended treatment program to the major coffee growing regions of the Big Island of Hawaii; Kona and Ka'u. The bill states that farmers will have to pay 50% of the costs in a one-for-one match program.

The fact that Hawaii's most famous and productive coffee growing regions have been heavily impacted by the coffee berry borer beetle since 2010, and the fact that since it was first discovered in a remote area in South Kona it has spread throughout Kona and to Ka'u, makes this an EMERGENCY SITUATION. The monies we are requesting are needed to provide for the implementation of a Big Island wide "Kill and Contain" program.

If a successful "Kill and Contain" program can be implemented on the Big Island as soon as possible, it is hoped that it this will stop the spread of this major coffee pest before it spreads to other coffee growing regions on Maui and Kauai.

This is definitely a case where the cost of preventing the spread of the Coffee Borer Beetle will be much less expensive to the State, the Counties and Hawaii's coffee industry than fighting the infestations once they are spread throughout our islands.

This is extremely important for the future Hawaii's famous coffee industry.

Bobbie Becker, owner

Maui Mountain Coffee Farm

Olinda, Maui, HI 96768a

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [caveguy@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:caveguy@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:56:01 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lars Lind	Olinda Organic Farm	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and urge you to support it also. I own a coffee farm in Upcountry Maui. So far the coffee berry borer (CBB) has not made its way from the Big Island to the other Hawaiian Islands, but it is just a matter of time until that happens. The Big Island coffee growing industry has been heavily impacted by damage from the CBB and the funds from this bill are desperately needed to kill and contain this terrible pest. Hawaii is the only state which grows coffee and is known for this quality product. Please let Hawaii continue to grow coffee by supporting this bill to help eradicate this terrible pest. Mahalo, Rob Lind, Olinda Organic Farm, Maui

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)





**Testimony to the Joint Senate Committee on Agriculture and  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014**

RE: **Support For HB1514** – Coffee Berry Borer; Appropriations; Subsidy Program.

Chair Nichihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

Greenwell Farms is a coffee farming, processing, and marketing company in Kona, Hawaii. We export Kona Coffee to locations in Europe, across the Mainland, USA, and all around the Pacific Rim. For decades, we have relied upon the coffee produced by many farmers in North and South Kona to supply us with the highest quality coffee.

The Coffee Berry Borer Epidemic on the Big Island has been a significant threat to the economic viability of one of our State's most import agricultural crops. The coffee growing districts of Kona and Ka'u have been heavily impacted by the coffee berry borer beetle since it was first discovered in 2010. Since then, 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.**

The program made possible by the appropriations provided in HB 1514 facilitates a "Kill and Contain" program on the Big Island and 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.

**PLEASE PASS HB1514.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Thomas F. Greenwell, President

Steve Hicks, CFO

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [AGL Testimony](#)  
Cc: [bendysart@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:bendysart@hawaii.rr.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:12:20 AM

---

## **HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ben Dysart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senate Agriculture Committee Members: I am a Kona coffee farmer and I support the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for control and mitigation of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii County. I recognize and appreciate Kona Representative Nicole Lowen's introduction and support of this appropriation. 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. I am 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. If the Legislature is serious about saving coffee in Hawaii, the full \$3 million should be restored to the bill. I am 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 this bill to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA. Respectfully submitted, Ben Dysart, Kona coffee farmer & member KCFA

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kloo07@yahoo.com](mailto:kloo07@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:59:21 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kem Loong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a Kona coffee farmer and have been battling the CBB for the last three or four years. Each year these pests have been causing more damage to my harvest. The first year I noticed the damage was 2010. At that time it was about 2%. Last year 2013 it ranged from 10% at the beginning of harvest and 20% at the end of harvest. I am not alone with this problem. Most farmers basically float the damaged cherry out and are faced with bringing what's left to the mill who will downgrade the price they pay based on the amount of CBB damage. A one quart container of Botanigard to treat the CBB costs \$57.00 and will only treat 1/3 of my trees. The recommended number of treatments through the year including the months during harvest is four to five times. As you can see, we farmers need some help to effectively control this pest and hopefully save the precious name and reputation of Kona coffee as the greatest coffee in the world. Is it the greatest coffee now??? I don't think so. Please help us! Kem Loong, Sr.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com](mailto:coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:17:30 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Bateman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: HB 1514 in STRONG SUPPORT To be heard on Thursday March 13, 2014 at 2:10 in room 229 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 and the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force recommends funding of \$1,500,000 for this purpose. The scientific community and industry estimates that it will cost \$1,500,000 to administer the recommended treatment program to the entire Big Island of Hawaii. That includes having the farmers pay 50% of the cost in a one for one match program. 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 seems 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, David Bateman, President Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

March 11, 2014

Dear Senate Agriculture Committee Members:

I have been a Kona Coffee farmer for over 25 years and as a Kona coffee farmer, I strongly support the appropriation in the original HB1514 of \$3 million for control and mitigation of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii County. I recognize and appreciate Kona Representative Nicole Lowen's introduction and support of this appropriation.

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- as I have known it for over 25 years-- 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. This is what we need. 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.

I am 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. If the Legislature is serious about saving coffee in Hawaii, the full \$3 million should be restored to the bill.

I am 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 this bill to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA.

Respectfully submitted and with aloha,

Cecelia Smith

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [AGL Testimony](#)  
Cc: [gjstille@gmail.com](mailto:gjstille@gmail.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:40:44 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Stille	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, HB 1514 in STRONG SUPPORT To be heard on Thursday March 13, 2014 at 2:10 in room 229 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 and the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force recommends funding of \$1,500,000 for this purpose. The scientific community and industry estimates that it will cost \$1,500,000 to administer the recommended treatment program to the entire Big Island of Hawaii. That includes having the farmers pay 50% of the cost in a one for one match program. 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 seems 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. Aloha and mahalo for all that you do, Greg Stille

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sgd8@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:sgd8@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:33:11 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Dursin	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Ruderman and Committee Members: As a Kona coffee farmer, I want to voice my strong support for HB1514. It is an excellent step toward helping us deal with CBB. Assistance is badly needed. In order to make the program work effectively, it needs to be fully funded, minimally at the amounts first shown in the bill. Please do not allow the program to be administered by outside sources. It needs Department of Agriculture direct administration with the experience and oversight the department can provide. Thank you for considering my testimony. Susan Dursin Captain Cook, HI

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [moonstruckfarm@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:moonstruckfarm@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:12:47 PM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beth Webb	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an affected coffee farmer on Big Island, I urge you to amend this bill to provide the full \$3 million appropriation--and to require that the subsidy program be directly administered by the HDOA.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rkaiwi1@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1514 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:44:25 AM

---

**HB1514**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacie Loo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB1514. Stacie Loo

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ata\\_ynotaustin@gmail.com](mailto:ata_ynotaustin@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1932 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:46:55 AM

---

**HB1932**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ANTHONY TONY AUSTIN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)