

**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**George K. Costa**  
Director

**Nadine Nakamura**  
Managing Director

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

4444 Rice Street, Suite 200, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
TEL (808) 241-4946 FAX (808) 241-6399

March 17, 2016

**Friday, March 18, 2016**

**1:45 p.m., Conference Room 414**

**HB 2596 Relating to the Macadamia Felted Coccid**

**LATE**

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair and Members  
Committee on Economic Development, Environment, And Technology  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair and Members  
Committee on Water, Land, And Agriculture  
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Senators,

Aloha. On behalf of the County of Kauai – Office of Economic Development, we are submitting this testimony in support of this legislation which takes a proactive and aggressive approach in addressing invasive species that endanger our natural habitat, ecosystems, industries and, way of life.

We are all too aware of the Coffee Beetle Borer which affected the Kona Coffee Industry on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The Macadamia Felted Coccid is another species that is also causing a great deal of harm to another of Hawai'i Island's diversified agriculture industry – Macadamia nuts. Providing funds to the Department of Agriculture to address and take a positive action is the right step to help this sector and in the long term, prevent it from spreading to other islands and communities. Kaua'i doesn't have a macadamia nut industry unlike Hawai'i County. However, any investment in dollars towards helping the industry benefits continued diversification of the agriculture sector and supports one of Hawai'i's iconic food/agriculture/product brands.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Randy Francisco, Creative Industries & Small Business Specialist at 241-4953 or email at [rfrancisco@kauai.gov](mailto:rfrancisco@kauai.gov).

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify. Aloha,

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Randall Francisco  
Creative Industries & Small Business Specialist. Office of Economic Development



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## HCIA 2014 - 2016 Board of Directors

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Kirby Kester

**Vice-President**  
Alan Takemoto

**Secretary**  
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**President Emeritus**  
Mark Phillipson

**Executive Director**  
Bennette Misalucha

### OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed.

Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

In Strong Support of HB 2596  
Relating to Macadamia Nut Felted Cocci

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE  
And  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

**LATE**

03-18-16 1:45PM in conference room 414

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Slom, and members of the Committees:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in strong support of HB 2596.

As an association of farmers, we understand the hardships detrimental pests can cause to both the land and local crops. HCIA supports the intent to protect the macadamia nut industry which produces one of the top five-grossing agricultural commodities in the State.

We support the efforts of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) in their collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid. We believe the state should expend the necessary resources toward this end.

We thank you for this time and hope that you will vote in favor of HB2596.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha  
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016

THE SENATE

Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Friday, March 18, 2016; 1:45 p.m.

LATE

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2596  
RELATING TO MACADAMIA FELTED COCCID**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2596, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

The ILWU represents hundreds of workers in the macadamia nut industry. Our members cultivate macadamia nuts in Pahala and Keauu and work at the factory that processes the macadamia nuts for sale to residents and visitors alike. Macadamia is one of the top five crops grown in Hawaii and offers jobs, supports tourism, and promotes agriculture, which contributes to the diversification of economic activity in Hawaii.

The macadamia felted coccid causes severe damage to macadamia nut trees and, if not controlled, could devastate the industry. The insect was first found in macadamia grown in Hawaii in 2005. Earlier measures to control infestation and its effects seem to be somewhat ineffective. More research is needed.

A bill (H.B. 1931) was passed in 2014 to provide funding for research on the same problem. Apparently, this funding was insufficient and the problem has not been resolved, thus the request in H.B. 2596 for additional funding. The appropriation will represent a sound investment in maintaining the viability of a valuable industry for Hawaii's economy.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2596. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**From:** EET Testimony  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 8:18 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** FW: Strongly Support HB 2596

**LATE**

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanna DeRego [mailto:heartofpalmhawaii@live.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 5:36 PM  
To: EET Testimony  
Subject: Strongly Support HB 2596

JOINT HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY and  
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2596  
RELATING TO THE MACADAMIA FELTID COCCID

Aloha Chair Wakai and Gabbard; Vice Chair Slom and Nishimoto, and Members of the Committees:

I strongly support HB 2596, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

Hawai'i is the 3rd largest producer of macadamia nuts in the world (570 farms, operating on 17,000 acres),

The macadamia felted coccid (MFC) threatens the entire macadamia nut industry in Hawaii by causing severe tree dieback and then death. If not controlled, we believe the MFC will spread and could devastate Hawaii's macadamia nut industry. We have seen what the coffee berry borer has done to the local coffee industry and we know that we can't afford to wait.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Joanna DeRego

Laupahoehoe, HI

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**From:** EET Testimony  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 8:17 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** FW: Strongly Support HB 2596

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Nishek [mailto:jerry@kauainursery.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 6:28 PM  
To: EET Testimony  
Subject: Strongly Support HB 2596

LATE

JOINT HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY and  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Jerry Nishek

Lihue, HI

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**From:** EET Testimony  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 8:13 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** FW: Strongly Support HB 2596

LATE

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Luana Beck [mailto:hooluanaranch@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 7:31 AM  
**To:** EET Testimony  
**Subject:** Strongly Support HB 2596

JOINT HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY and  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Luana Beck

Mt. View, HI

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**From:** EET Testimony  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 8:13 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** FW: Strongly Support HB 2596

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tom BECK [mailto:yellowohia@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 7:36 AM  
**To:** EET Testimony  
**Subject:** Strongly Support HB 2596

**LATE**

JOINT HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY and  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Tom BECK

HILO, HI