

HB 186, HD1

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 13 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 186 HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER BEETLE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 186 HD1, relating to coffee berry borer beetle. The Department supports this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

The Department's Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program has helped support coffee farmers on the island of Hawaii to purchase and use two insecticide products that can be effective, in combination with other Integrated Pest Management techniques, in controlling the Coffee Berry Borer. The two products are *Botanigard* and *Mycotrol-O* with the active ingredient of *Beauveria bassiana*, a fungus that is very specific for insect pest control and is not associated with off-target complications. Both insecticides contain the exact same amount of the active ingredient at 11.3% but one of them is OMRI approved, *Mycotrol-O*, for use on organic farms. This assures that all farmers have access to a product that will aid in combating the pesky beetle.

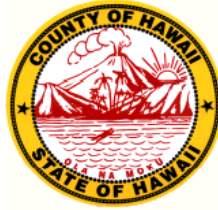
HB186 HD1 is needed because the original bill enacting the legislation would have sunset on June 30, 2019. The bill adds an additional 2 years to the program which will enable most coffee farmers who want to use the product but who have not yet become aware of the program. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture is continuing to



reach out to coffee farmers statewide and making them aware that this cost share program exists. The more farmers that have access to the product(s), the more the Coffee Berry Borer will be reduced and assist in area wide management of the pest. This program is available to coffee farmers throughout the islands and comes at a time when the pest insect has been recently discovered on the island of Maui. Moving this bill forward will allow further research to continue into Integrated Pest Management of the Coffee Berry Borer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

Office of the Mayor

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Dear Chair Gabbard and members:

Re: Invasive species—HB 186 (coffee beetle)

HB 481 (fire ant)

HB 1301 (liability)

HB 1339 (restructuring)

You have several bills on today's agenda dealing with invasive species, including HB 186, HD1; HB 481, HD1; HB 1301, HD2; and HB 1339, HD1. Although I am reluctant to single out one bill over another, and defer to your good judgment as to the merits of each, I do want to urge that funding to fight the coffee berry borer beetle (HB186) and little fire ants (HB481) should be approved if at all possible.

Beyond that, I primarily want to thank you for the attention that this issue is getting from you. The Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top-priority that deserves all our attention. Even our best efforts are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that we work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems.

With the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawaii County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including coffee berry borer beetle, little fire ants, coqui frogs, rapid ohia death and probably others. But all our islands, and all our constituents, are at risk. My primary request to you would be "Please don't give up." As a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own. We need as much assistance from you as you can offer.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor
County of Hawaii

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am a Kona coffee farmer in the North Kona District of Hawaii Island and am a member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association. I strongly support the passage of HB186.

The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost heritage agriculture crops for the State of Hawaii. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui.

The most effective way to reduce the damage caused by CBB is the application of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. The current HDOA-administered subsidy program for *Beauveria bassiana* is assisting farmers to develop more effective systems to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee.

The extension of the current HDOA subsidy through June 30, 2021, and additional funding are reasonable steps toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and urge passage of HB186.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker
Rancho Aloha
Holualoa, Hawaii County
bruce.corker@gmail.com



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 186, HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER BEETLE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 186, HD1, which extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program.

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.

A recent CTAHR economic analysis estimates FY2013 crop losses due to CBB at \$7.68 million, with a resultant \$571,000 annual loss in state tax revenues. The extension of the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

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

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

STATE SENATE
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
 Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
 Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
Monday, March 13, 2017; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 186 HD 1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER BEETLE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 186 HD 1, which extends the sunset date of the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2021, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer, and appropriates funds.

The ILWU represents almost 200 workers at Kauai Coffee. They are part of a highly valued industry that not only plays a key role in Hawaii's agricultural economy, but also has a positive impact on Hawaii's tourism industry.

Currently, there is evidence that the coffee berry borer beetle has been found in all four counties. As a consequence, it becomes more important to continue and to ramp up our efforts to better manage the beetle if not eradicate it entirely. Therefore, continuing the current program and providing adequate funding to at least maintain the on-going efforts is imperative.

Passing H.B. 186 HD 1 would also support the Administration's attempt at achieving greater sustainability by increasing the production levels of all crops that are grown locally. Passing this bill will provide for the two-year extension, that would also achieve the five-year period for implementing the original pesticide subsidy program, since it took longer to develop and make the program available to assist coffee growers.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 186 HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 10:26 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mr.david.l.foster@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

HB186

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Foster	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a coffee farmer I am struggling to deal with the increased cost of coffee production due to the infestation of the coffee berry borer insect. With regular spraying of Botanigard, I have been able to reduce this infestation to below 10%. Above that percentage and my profits would diminish further, but the high cost of the chemicals to deal with this pest creates a 'damned if I do' or 'damned if I don't' scenario. My neighbors, for example, have already decided they cannot afford to spray without financial help, which exacerbates my problem. Please extend the subsidies to June 30, 2021, so that I can continue to produce Kona Coffee. This help will be greatly appreciated.

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
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 4:06 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: kurtinasia@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

HB186

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurt Weigelt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee: I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 186, relating to coffee berry borer beetle. I've been a coffee and macadamia nut farmer in Captain Cook for 19 years. My farm is rather small (five acres), and I've never had a harder time making ends meet. Higher cost for labor, increased postal rates, no drop in fertilizer prices despite lower global oil prices, increase in the cost of dry milling and roasting. All of this is on top of rather serious damage caused by CBB. As I'm sure you know, the cost of the fungus is extremely high, but if I don't spray 10-35% of my crop can be infested and useless. If you are able to support the farmers with a subsidy, it certainly would be appreciated. Thank you for consideration. Kurt Weigelt PO Box 888 Captain Cook, HI 96704 (808) 328-7424 E-mail address: kurtinasia@hotmail.com Code: 9907496

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 3:25 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM*

HB186

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 2:57 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: jimmonk@alum.mit.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

HB186

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Monk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please approve HB186. I am a Kona coffee farmer and have benefited from the current program, but see a continuing need to combat the CBB menace. This bill is important for the coffee farmers all over the state as the CBB beetles are now moving to the various islands of the state. My name is Jim Monk and I can be reached at 808-328-1666. My coffee business is Monk's Delight Kona Coffee. Thanks.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 2:46 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mauka248@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

HB186

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a member of KCFA and Kona Coffee farmer for 29 years. CBB has been a difficult and expensive problem to deal with. The DOA subsidy program has been a big help and I urge its continuance. Bob Smith

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 2:43 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: stephanie.k.mock@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

HB186

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Mock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB186 as I am a supporter of Hawaiian agriculture and local farmers. It is imperative we assist local farmers in protecting their crops from the coffee berry borer; this pest that can wipe out entire fields and/or farms and threaten all of the islands' production. Please continue to assist Hawaii farmers in combating local pests that threaten our environment, farms, and local economy.

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To: AEN Testimony
Cc: kopepua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

HB186

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a small time Kona coffee farmer of many years and a Kona Coffee Farmers Association member, I urge you to vote in favor of extending the HDOA Beauvaria bassiana Subsidy Program to help us combat the dreadful pest-the Coffee Berry borer. We need your support! Mahalo nui.

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