

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 24, 2017
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

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

Chairperson Luke 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.

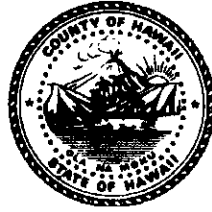
HB186 HD1 is needed because the original bill enacting the legislation would have sunset on June 30, 2019. The bill adds an additional 2 years to the program which will enable most coffee farmers who want to use the product but who have not yet become aware of the program. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture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

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy, Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 22, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke
Finance Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke and members:

RE: **HB 186, HB 1006, HB 481, HB 904**

You have a number of bills on today's agenda dealing with invasive species, including HB 186, HB 1006, HB 481, HB 904, and others. I am reluctant to single out one bill over another. Rather, I will defer to your good judgment as to the extent to which each approach should be funded, and simply 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 rapid ohia death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer beetle, 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

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Agriculture
Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Friday, January 27, 2017; 8:30 a.m.

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

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 186, 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 an impact on Hawaii's tourism industry.

Currently, while there seems to be no evidence that the coffee berry borer has reached Kauai or Oahu, eradication of the pest on Hawaii Island and Maui will help to prevent its spread to other islands. Therefore, continuing the ongoing efforts to control this pest is imperative.

Passing H.B. 186 would also support the Administration's attempt at achieving greater sustainability by increasing the production levels of all the crops that are grown locally. Passing the two-year extension would also achieve the five-year period for implementing this 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HAWAII COFFEE COMPANY™

1555 Kalani Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Ph: 808-847-3600
Fax: 808-847-7900
www.hicoffeeco.com



Written Testimony of
Daniel Dinell
President, Hawaii Coffee Company
before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 24, 2017; 12:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: HB186 HD 1 RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER BEETLE.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Hawaii Coffee Company (HCC) **supports** HB 186 HD1, which extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2021 and appropriates funds.

HCC has been in the coffee roasting business since 2000 and today is the world's largest roaster of Kona Coffee. Our 100 plus employees at our plant in Kalihi and other locations around the state, including in Captain Cook, the heart of the South Kona coffee district, earn a livelihood milling, roasting, packing, distributing, and retailing coffee. We have a major retail presence throughout Hawaii, are a leading provider of coffee to Hawaii hotels and restaurants as well as an exporter of products around the globe.

HCC does not own or operate any coffee farms, but we support coffee farmers by buying millions of dollars of coffee cherry in the Kona district, pulping and drying it into coffee parchment and milling it into green coffee beans. We help with education and even facilitate labor to assist farmers in the rigorous and proven CBB control method that includes application of *Beauveria bassiana*.

HB 186 HD1 deserves this committee support. We hope this measure will pass from this Committee to the full House and ultimately the Senate and the Governor sign it into law. It will help the farmers combat this pest and afford this very expensive fungicide to control CBB.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bruce.corker@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee: As one of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost heritage 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 effective systems to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. The two-year extension of the current HDOA subsidy program through June 30, 2021, and substantial additional funding for the extension period, 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, Chair KCFA Legislative Committee

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Support

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

On behalf of myself and over 600 Kona Coffee farmers, I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii heritage agriculture crops. 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 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, is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii.

As a coffee farmer I ask for your support and urge passage of HB186.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Sugai,
Sugai Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 783
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
808 322-7717
kona@kona.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dee.fulton.wv@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Fulton	Mauna Mama Kona Coffee	Support	No

Comments: I am a small-farm organic coffee farmer. My business has lost money the last two years. Please extend the support for the subsidy bill for Bassiana. I can use all the help I can get to try to stay in business and the use of this approved natural CBB antibiotic is essential. Thank you. Dee Fulton

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 7:10 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mosk@talk21.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
monika schweizer	kona coffee farmers association	Support	No

Comments: As a coffee farmer in Kona, I am concerned that coffee is sold under the Kona label with insufficient content of Kona coffee. Only blends containing at least 49% Kona coffee should be allowed to use the name. Kona coffee is a distinct brand, with a distinct flavour.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 11:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: testimony@coffeeofkona.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Shriner	Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Representatives, As a coffee farmer as well as the President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, I request that you pass this bill. Coffee Berry Borer has devastated our heritage crop in Kona. As it continues to spread to our neighbor islands, the costs to farmers continue to escalate. This bill is a vital support effort for the approximately 1,000 coffee farmers as well as their families and employees who drive agribusiness in Hawaii. Mahalo, Suzanne Shriner President, Lions Gate Farms President, Kona Coffee Farmers Association

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: coleme12@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and other Committee Members: With all due respect, as a Kona coffee farmer in Hawaii, it is my request that the allocation already approved for support of farmer minimal access to Beauveria bassiana as a means for helping control both on organic and conventional farms the coffee berry borer beetle is vital for extension, since the dates of carry out were delayed as HDOA put an effective program in place. Farmers need to be supported directly by the State of Hawaii to deal with this serious problem, and outside independent means direct substantial resources to things other than working directly with farmers and the Hawaii effort with HDOA enactment means that neutrality and direct impact can notably impact a pest problem which challenges/threatens nearly all Hawaii coffee farmers. Please extend this allocation as requested and keep the agriculture in Hawaii fictional and healthy and keep farmers above water on our farms with this support! I fully support and request your support for HB 186. Sincerely, Colehour Bondera KANALANI OHANA FARM

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shoregirlstudios@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mila Horak	Onila Farms	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee: I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186. My Husband and I are coffee growers in Honaunau. The Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) threatens our crop, and the most effective way to reduce the damage caused by CBB is the application of the fungus Beauveria bassiana. We spray the fungus one a month. The current HDOA-administered subsidy program for Beauveria bassiana is assisting farmers to mitigate costs, and develop 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, is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii. Thank you for your time. As coffee farmers, we ask for your support and urge passage of HB186.

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Dear Mr. Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186**. Our two Kona coffee farms [Honalo Farm, 3000 trees; Cynthiana Farm, 900 trees] have annual infestations of coffee borer beetles. As fledgling farmers, we were shocked to realize how vulnerable our coffee crop was to beetle damage, and how much work it was for each farm to battle this harmful pest. Indeed, it is a lot of work for every coffee farmer to battle the beetle. Thus, we really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-administered subsidy program for Botanigard and Mycotrol, which are rather expensive pest-control materials. Without this governmental support, we (and other coffee farmers) could not maintain the economic viability of the coffee business. Having enough quality coffee at the end of the growing season is exceedingly important. For us, the investment to get started was huge and then to have to battle the beetle; it's been work, work, work, spend, spend, spend. **We thank you for the support thus far.**

The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a risk that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii-heritage agriculture crops. 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 effective integrated pest management (IPM) 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, is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii**, the sole center of commercial production in the USA.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and urge passage of HB186. We, as new small farm owners/operators, request your continued support to mitigate this agricultural problem.

Mahalo in advance for your support and passage of HB186.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff
cmaryanoff@comcast.net
Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC
22 Feb 2017

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kopepua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: With my Strong Support I urge you to continue the HDOA administered Subsidy Program. As a Kona coffee farmer, we need HB186 in order to protect the long term viability of our precious Kona coffee. Mahalo.

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From:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:Wednesday, January 25, 2017 7:14 AM
To: AGR testimony
Cc: bruce.corker@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Jan 27, 2017 08:30AM
HB186
Submitted on: 1/25/2017

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room
312

Submitted By Organization—Bruce Corker
Kona Coffee Farmers Association

Support

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture
Committee:

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii heritage agriculture crops. 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 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, is a reasonable step 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,
President Kona Coffee Farmers Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mauka248@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: As a Kona Coffee farmer, this is absolutely critical to our success in combating CBB

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: coffee@lymankonacoffee.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Hans F Eckert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a Kona Coffee Farmer. I am in strong support of HB 186.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Sandrascar@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Scarr	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee: On behalf of the more than 300 farmer-members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and Pineapple as lost Hawaii heritage agriculture crops. 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 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, is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii. As a farmer, I can tell you that the cost of spraying my 5-acres of trees is \$150 every 3 weeks. The cost of controlling CBB makes coffee growing without subsidy almost prohibitively expensive. Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and urge passage of HB186. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha, Sandra Scarr, Daily Fix Coffee, Holualoa.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 6:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gmk707@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
greg knowles	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Greg Knowles 83-5706 Napoopoo Road Captain Cook, HI 96704 Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee: I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) is a danger to the production of Hawaii-grown coffee. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui. I have found that 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 helping with the financial cost of fighting this pest. Please help to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. The extension of the current HDOA subsidy is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii. Thanks in advance for supporting this bill. Greg Knowles

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February 23, 2017

Subject: Support for HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/f2017

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Gretchen Lawson, my husband Tom and I own and operate a small coffee farm in north Kona on the island of Hawaii. We are members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association. Coffee Berry Borer is a significant threat to growing coffee in Hawaii. The pest has spread now to three islands in the State and can wreak havoc on the production of a viable crop. Coffee represents a large % of the agricultural exports of this state and as such has a major economic impact for Hawaii. An effective deterrent to Coffee Berry Borer is the spraying of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*.

HB 186 extends the date of the current HDOA subsidy program for the spraying of *Beauveria bassiana* for control of Coffee Berry Borer through June 2021. This is a necessary enticement to encourage all farmers to spray and thus help prevent the spread of the devastating pest. We urge you to vote in support of HB 186.

Thank You for your support of HB 186 and agriculture in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Tom & Gretchen Lawson
Kona sunrise Coffee

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: acaddowj@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Caddow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii heritage agriculture crops. 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 me develop in mitigating CBB damage and protecting my ability to sell Hawaii-grown coffee. The extension of the current HDOA subsidy through June 30, 2021, is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii. I ask for your support and urge passage of HB186.

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I am writing in support of HB186. As a coffee farmer in South Kona we deal constantly with the coffee berry borer. The subsidy program is essential to making coffee farming in Kona profitable while we learn to deal with, and suppress the coffee berry borer. Every year we get better at handling the borer and with your help and the research being conducted by UH ARS will be able to manage or at least contain this pest.

Michael McMullen
MC Kona Farms

Aloha Chair Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

As a coffee farmer on the Big Island, and member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB186. My coffee farm [Honalo farm, 3000 trees] has Coffee Berry Borer. Being new to coffee farming, I am blown away at how much money and how much work goes into combating the CBB. I would really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-administered subsidy program. Without it I could not afford to keep my business running. Having enough coffee left at the end of the season to harvest and sell is how coffee farmers make their living. The investment just to get started as a farmer is huge and then there's the CBB. The amount of time and money that is spent on this bug is ridiculous! If the CBB is not stopped then Hawaiian coffee could go the way of the sugar cane and pineapple industries.

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 effective systems to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. I believe that the extension of the current HDOA subsidy through June 30, 2021, is an extremely effective step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support in passing HB186.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

T. Michael Gomes
Vice President of Operations, Absolutely! Kona Coffee
Absolute Palate, LLC
(808) 322-0652
78-7007 Mana Opelu Lane
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:54 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jimmonk@alum.mit.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: As a Kona Coffee farmer, I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB186. The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a danger that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as a lost Hawaii heritage agriculture crop. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui. The most effective current 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 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, is a reasonable step toward saving the coffee growing industry in Hawaii. Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and urge passage of HB186.

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, February 24, 2017 9:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: randy@Olsontrust.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall J. Stevens	Ka'u Coffee Mill, LLC	Support	No

Comments: As not only the largest coffee farm in the Ka'u District but also the overseer of 150 plus acres of leased coffee fields totaling a monthly expense of \$20,000 per month to apply treatments for CBB a subsidy program will assist in everyones effort to minimize the devastating impact of CBB on the coffee crop. Any and all subsidy programs are vitally important to the survival and success of Hawaii coffee.

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Cc: rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB186 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB186

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacie Kaiwi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support HB186. The small farmers need the help.

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