

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
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 16, 2018  
1:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2305 HD1  
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2305 HD1. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position exemption to correspond to the two-year extension of the program by Act 65, SLH 2017, and to continue the position for a year beyond the program sunset date to process applications for subsidies of costs incurred in the final year of the program. The Department strongly supports this bill and offers one amendment.

The civil service exemption of the program manager position, which is responsible for division and distribution of available subsidy funds, needs to be extended to correspond to the new program sunset date of June 30, 2021, as extended by Act 65, SLH 2017, and for a year beyond that sunset date because of the particular requirement as to when applications for subsidy must be filed. In order to provide continuous support for local coffee farmers, the pesticide subsidy manager position must be extended.

For clarification purposes, the Department requests inserting language from SB 2125 SD2 to replace lines 2-3 on page 4 of HB 2305 HD1 to state "The pesticide



subsidy program manager position, including the position's exemption from chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall expire on June 30, 2022.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

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March 13, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2305, HD 1 Relating to Pesticide Subsidy Program for the Coffee Berry Borer**  
**Hearing Date: 03-16-18 – 1:45 pm; Conference Room 224**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2305, HD 1.

As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island as well as other counties, and I am informed that the coffee berry borer continues to be a substantial threat to coffee's economic survival. Any assistance the State can offer, including the pesticide subsidy that helps farmers manage the cost of controlling this terrible pest, is much appreciated. Over the years, this program has provided a significant savings to the coffee producers.

I hope you will extend the pesticide subsidy program manager position through June 30, 2022, as set forth in HB 2305, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



March 12, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**Support of HB 2305, H.D. 1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 76, of the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program).**

**Friday, March 16, 2018, at 1:45 p.m., in Conference Room 224**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 2305, H.D. 1.**

**HB 2305, H.D. 1.** This bill proposes to extend the civil service exemption of the pesticide subsidy program manager position to correspond with the extension of the program pursuant to Act 65 and to further extend the exemption of that position through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date in order to process applications for subsidies for costs incurred in the final year of the program.

**LURF's Position.** Extension of the program manager position is necessary to process the applications for subsidies for costs incurred in the final year of the program which assists coffee growers by offsetting the costs of purchasing certain pesticides known to be effective against the coffee berry borer. The highly destructive coffee pest has infested crops on Hawaii island and has recently been detected on Oahu and Maui as well.

Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people, and already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests, including the coffee berry borer, now threaten to invade all of the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

Support and help of local farmers including coffee growers, is essential to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species in Hawaii and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. HB 2305, H.D. 1 will assist local coffee growers by extending the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position needed to help administer and cover the cost of effective pesticides incurred through the final year of the pesticide subsidy program as intended by Acts 105 (2014) and 152 (2015), which were specifically enacted to aid with the prevention and control of the coffee berry borer and ultimately, the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 2305, H.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



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March 16, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2305, HD 1**  
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 224  
1:45 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2305, HD 1**, which extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, through June 30, 2022.

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 CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries and the pesticide subsidy program manager position is critical to its success.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**HB-2305-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:26:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2305-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 3:27:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

This program works. We must continue this assistance for our coffee farmers.

**HB-2305-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:41:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County IM O M M MM. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2305 HD1, relating to Coffee Berry Borer; and Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager Position.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 2305 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 2305 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the pesticide subsidy program manager position in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program..

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry." (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 112-113 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2305 HD1 extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the pesticide subsidy program manager position in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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