

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**MARCH 29, 2018
10:50 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2305 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

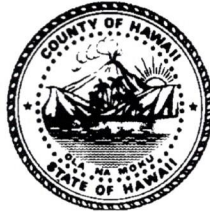
Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2305 HD1 SD1. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position exemption to correspond to the two-year extension of the program by Act 65, SLH 2017, and to continue the position for a year beyond the program sunset date to process applications for subsidies of costs incurred in the final year of the program. The Department strongly supports this bill.

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.

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 Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 27, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2305, HD 1, SD 1 Relating to Pesticide Subsidy Program for the
Coffee Berry Borer
Hearing Date: 03-29-18 – 10:50 am; Conference Room 211**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



March 27, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support of HB 2305, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position through the fiscal year immediately following the program; extends the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption until the expiration of the position.)

Thursday, March 29, 2018, at 10:50 a.m., in Conference Room 211

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, S.D. 1.**

HB 2305, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. This bill proposes to extend the pesticide subsidy program manager 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 and affirmatively extend the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption.

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, S.D. 1 will assist local coffee growers by extending the pesticide subsidy program manager position (including the position's exemption from chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes) 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, S.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



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

March 28, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2305, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 211
10:50 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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, HD1, SD1, which extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date. It also extends the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption until the expiration of the position.

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.

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

STATE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Thursday, March 29, 2018; 10:50 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2305 H.D. 1 S.D. 1
RELATING TO THE COFFEE BERRY BORER**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2305 H.D. 1 S.D. 1, which extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date and extends the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption until the expiration of the position.

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. 2305 H.D. 1 S.D. 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 extend the pesticide subsidy program manager position, and thereby the program, through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date in order to 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. 2305 H.D. 1 S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 10:01:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2305 HD1 SD1**, relating to Coffee Berry Borer; and Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager Position Extension .

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in support of **HB2305 HD1 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB2305 HD1 SD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date and extends the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption until the expiration of the position, effective on 7/31/2150.

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 **HB2305 HD1 SD1** extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date and extends the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption until the expiration of the position, effective on 7/31/2150, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889