

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 WAYS & MEANS**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018  
11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2125 SD1  
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

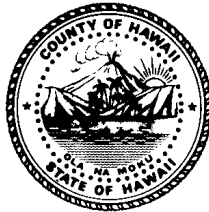
Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2125 SD1. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position exemption to correspond to the two-year extension of the program by Act 65, SLH 2017, and to continue the position for a year beyond the program sunset date 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.



County of Hawai'i  
Council District 9 -  
North and South Kohala



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**Chair:** Committee on Agriculture,  
Water & Energy

**Vice Chair:** Committee on  
Environmental Management

**HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III**  
**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**District 9**  
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 21, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Email: [sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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

Email: [senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**RE: Support of SB2125 SD1**

Hearing Date/Time: February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2125 SD1**, which extends the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, through June 30, 2022, in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for coffee berry borer pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program.

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is critical to the livelihood of our coffee farmers and agriculture as a whole for Hawai'i Island and the state. Our prized coffee continues to be threatened by the coffee berry borer and it is imperative that the program manager remain in place to assist our agriculture industry, and I therefore strongly urge the enactment of SB2125 SD1.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

TIM RICHARDS

Hawai'i County Council, District 9

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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February 21, 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: SB 2125, SD 1 Relating to Pesticide Subsidy Program for the Coffee Berry Borer**  
**Hearing Date: 02/23/18 – 11:00 am; Conference Room 211**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2125, SD1.

As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island as well as for 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 SB 2125, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Harry Kim in black ink.  
Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i





February 20, 2018

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

**Support of SB 2125, S.D. 1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position [including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position], through June 30, 2022 to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through final year of the program).**

**Friday, February 23, 2018, at 11:00 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 SB 2125, S.D. 1.**

**SB 2125, 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 to affirmatively extend the civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption of said position accordingly.

**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. SB 2125, S.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 SB 2125, S.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

**SB-2125-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:51:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<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:

**OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'**

THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Friday, February 23, 2018

11:00 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2125 SD1 RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

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 Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2125 SD1, relating to the coffee berry borer; and Pesticide Subsidy Program manager position.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2125 SD1 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2125 SD1, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, through June 30, 2022, in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for coffee berry borer pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program, effective 6/29/2018.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people.

We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at the point of entry." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 82-86, 101-99, 112-113 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2125 SD1 extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, through June 30, 2022, in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for coffee berry borer pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program, effective 6/29/2018, it is the position of the OCC Legislative 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

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



**SB-2125-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:49:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: