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February 23, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

LATE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2125, SD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 211
11:00 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2125, SD1, 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.

LATE

SB-2125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:50:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Testifying for Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:



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LATE

HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2018
11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2125

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

I am Chris Manfredi, President of Hawaii Coffee Association.

The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry, including growers, millers, wholesalers, roasters and retailers located throughout the State of Hawaii. The HCA's primary objective is to increase awareness and consumption of Hawaiian coffees. A major component of HCA's work is the continuing education of members and consumers.

The HCA STRONGLY supports SB 2125.

According to the USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service, (NASS), the Hawaiian Coffee industry is conservatively ranked as the second-highest value crop in Hawaii - not accounting for retail sales. The introduction of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) to Hawaii has threatened our industry to its core. Working together with commodity groups, HDOA, UHCTAHR, USDA, SHAC, CBB Task Force, lawmakers, administrators, countless volunteers and stakeholders, together, we averted the collapse of Hawaiian coffee – clearly one of Hawaii's signature crops. Were it not for the past support of the legislature, many more farms would have failed, with resulting unemployment and loss of revenue. The CBB subsidy program and its staff represents a modest investment in the Hawaiian Coffee Industry - one that contributes significantly to Hawaii's economy, particularly the agriculture and tourism sectors.

The full impact of CBB on Hawaii's farmers and related industries is not yet fully known. Its recent discovery on Maui is alarming to many of our members. While we have largely adapted to a post-CBB environment, Hawaii remains at a competitive disadvantage when compared to our counterparts located in other coffee-growing origins.

The HCA applauds the introducers and supporters of SB 2125 that would extend the pesticide subsidy program manager position until June 30, 2022.

This position has been vital to the success of the program, while significantly increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.

Thank you for your support of SB 2125.

LATE

SB-2125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:15:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Kapela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee,

Local farmers are the heartbeat of West Hawai'i, where I grew up and where my family owns a small coffee farm. Kona and Ka'u coffees, likewise, are two of Hawai'i's most iconic treasures. Our farmers who grow these products provide economic security for our community. When farmers prosper, our economy thrives, our families are nourished, and our children grow strong.

â€œWe must support local coffee farmers by investing in the fight against the coffee berry borer beetle, a destructive pest that has infested coffee crops on the Big Island and, recently, has been detected on O'ahu and Maui. The coffee berry borer attacks immature and mature coffee berries alike, from approximately eight weeks after flowering through the harvest season. Females bore a hole into the coffee berry and construct galleries in seeds, depositing eggs that become larvae feeding on the coffee seed.

As the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has reported, three types of damage have been reported: 1) premature fall of young berries; 2) increased vulnerability of infested ripe berries to fungus or bacterial infection; and 3) reduction in both the yield and quality of coffee, reducing the income of coffee growers. The coffee berry borer can cause yield losses of 30-35 percent, with 100 percent of berries infested at harvest time.

We cannot allow our agricultural treasures to fall prey to insect infestations. As farmers struggle to eradicate this pest, we must offer them our full support.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Kapela