

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MARCH 14, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 2125 SD2
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2125 SD2. 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 12, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Creagan and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2125, SD 2 Relating to Pesticide Subsidy Program for the Coffee Berry Borer
Hearing Date: 03-14-18 – 8:30 am; House Conference Room 312

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2125, SD 2.

As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island, 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.

I hope you will extend the pesticide subsidy program manager position through June 30, 2022, as set forth in SB 2125, SD 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



March 9, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of SB 2125, S.D. 2 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.)

Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312

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. 2.**

SB 2125, S.D. 2. 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. 2 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. 2** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

SB-2125-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:14:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2125-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:16:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF

THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES HAWAII

OAHU COUNTY

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2125 SD2, RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on

Agriculture:

Good afternoon, 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 **SB2125 SD2**, relating Coffee Berry Borer; Pesticide Subsidy and Program Manager

Position

The OCC

Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2125 SD2** and support its

passage.

SB2125 SD2 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, until 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 7/1/2050.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. We likewise support publicly funding research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-77, 106-107, (2016)).

We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry.

We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents. (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 112-116 (2016)).

Given that **SB2125 SD2** extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, until 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; and effective 7/1/2050, 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



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 14, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2125, SD2
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 211
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 is in support of SB 2125, SD2, which extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, until 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.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 8:30 AM

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2125 SD 2
RELATING TO THE COFFEE BERRY BORER**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2125 SD 2, which extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, until 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 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 S.B. 2125 SD 2 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 S.B. 2125 SD 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

SB-2125-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 12:24:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan,

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 for the opportunity to testify.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and
Members of Committee on Agriculture;

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2125 SD2 RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce. I am writing share our support of SB2125.

With the growing coffee industry in Maui County, coffee growers must protect against invasive species like the Coffee Berry Borer, which has been found on Maui. Therefore, the Maui Chamber of Commerce supports this bill that will extend the program manager position to assist coffee farmers, particularly those who are currently affected by the Coffee Berry Borer, to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

LATE

SB-2125-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:01:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750
808-929-9550

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
8:30 AM
Conference Room 312

LATE

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2125 SD2

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite 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 SD2.

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 SD2.