

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Acting Chairperson  
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 1, 2019  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1103  
RELATING TO THE PESTICIDE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1103, relating to the Pesticide Subsidy Program. This bill will appropriate money to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to continue the pesticide subsidy program established under Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014. The funds will be used towards assisting coffee farmers on Hawaii Island, Maui, and Oahu to control the coffee berry borer and mitigate the damage it causes to the coffee beans.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this measure. Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer is a significant coffee pest in Hawaii and the world. The additional funds will allow the Department to continue to support coffee farmers through the duration of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





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February 1, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1103**  
RELATING TO THE PESTICIDE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 1103**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the pesticide subsidy 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 extension of the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.

**HB-1103**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:21:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/1/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments: