

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 11, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1861 HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1861 HD1, relating to coffee berry borer. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program by four years to June 30, 2025; extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption, until the year after the program sunsets, specifically, June 30, 2026; and appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the program and program manager position for fiscal year 2020-2021; and requires the Department to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature on the results of the subsidy program and whether the program should be allowed to expire or be extended, and if extended, with or without modification, not later than twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*) is a significant coffee pest in Hawaii and the world. The extension of the subsidy program and program manager position, and the additional funds will allow the Department to continue to support coffee farmers by



partially offsetting the costs of purchasing certain pesticides that contain *Beauveria bassiana* as an active ingredient, in order to control the coffee berry borer and mitigate the damage it causes to the coffee beans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1861 HD1 – RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1861 HD1 relating to the coffee berry borer (CBB).

Our testimony is the same as previously submitted in strong support for this bill.

According to the 2018 State Agriculture overview published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i produced 5.4 million pounds (green weight) of coffee grown on 7,100 harvested acres, with an average yield of 1.92 tons/acre, at a unit price of \$19.40/lb., for a value of \$50.16 million. These data show the high value of this crop to Hawai'i agriculture since that value is based on using just 0.65% of farm acres operated.

The CBB is found in most coffee growing countries of the world and was discovered in Kona, Hawai'i in 2010. It has the potential to be a devastating disease for this industry. It is established on Hawai'i Island, and can be found now on O'ahu and Maui. At the moment it is the most important pest for coffee, with the hopes that early detection and rapid response by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will continue to keep the other major disease of coffee out of Hawai'i.

The CBB is endemic to Central Africa. It belongs to a subfamily of beetles that houses some of the most important pests world-wide. Female beetles bore into the berry and lay eggs inside the seed and the brood then feasts on the coffee seed. Because this happens inside the berry and seed, it can be difficult to control.

An integrated pest management program (IPM) developed Best Management Practices to control the CBB. Collaborative research has shown that sanitation along with biocontrol can be effective. Cooperative Extension Agents estimate that about 80% of

coffee farmers are familiar with the IPM program. Cooperative Extension Agents with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, further estimate that the IPM program has directly saved approximately \$11 million in farm gate value, and directly saved another \$11 million in efforts to control the spread of the CBB. Realizing the direct and indirect effects highlights the value that this IPM program has for the coffee industry and the state of Hawai'i.

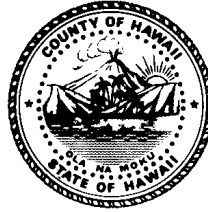
The IPM program uses an insecticide (pesticide), known as a mycoinsecticide, to control the borer. A fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, is a biological control material and is bought commercially. HDOA was empowered in the past to develop and manage a CBB pesticide subsidy plan, allowing as much as \$600/acre for the grower. The basic approach of this bill is to maintain parts of that program into the future, until 2025.

The IPM program has been shown to be not only effective in control, but maybe more important, effective in controlling the spread of the beetle to other parts of Hawai'i.

There is concern that without a full functioning subsidy program, efforts to apply IPM would be reduced; thereby reducing the on-farm and regional effectiveness of the strategy. A survey of coffee growers indicated that nearly 38% of growers would reduce the rate of the pesticide if the program was detrimentally affected. It is reasonable to assume that this would negatively affect the control and spread of the CBB.

Given the estimated \$22 million/year effectiveness of the IPM program that includes a biological insecticide, we support HB 1861 HD1 and thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in its behalf.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
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 9, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1861, HD1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1861, HD1.

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, extend the program manager position, and make appropriations for the program and position, all as set forth in HB 1861, HD1. Including these expenditures in your budget recommendations, separate from this bill, would also be tremendously valuable.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR



March 5, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Support of HB 1861, H.D.1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer; extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026; appropriates funds; takes effect on 07/01/2150.)

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 1:15 p.m., in Conference Room 224

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 utility companies. 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 1861, H.D.1.**

HB 1861, H.D.1. This bill proposes to extend the pesticide subsidy program to June 30, 2025; extend the program manager position, including the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption, until the year after the program sunsets (i.e., June 30, 2026); and make appropriations for the program and program manager position for fiscal year 2020-2021.

LURF's Position. The Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program continues to support Hawaii coffee farmers by enabling them to purchase and use insecticide products which effectively aid in controlling the coffee berry borer beetle. The highly destructive pest has infested crops on Hawaii island and has recently been detected on Oahu and Maui as well. Extension of the program manager position is necessary to process the applications for subsidies for costs incurred by farmers pursuant to the Program.

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. Many more harmful pests, including the coffee berry borer, now threaten to invade all of the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

Supporting and helping local farmers including coffee growers, is essential not only to protect the livelihood of these farmers, but also to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species in Hawaii, and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. HB 1861, H.D.1 will assist local coffee growers by further extending the sunset date of the Pesticide Subsidy Program and the manager position needed to help administer the Program as originally intended by Acts 105 (2014) and 152 (2015), which were specifically established 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 1861, H.D.1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

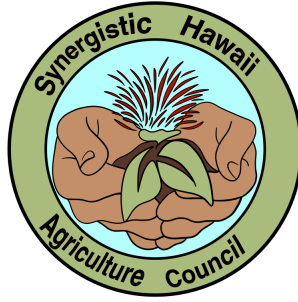
HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 8:28:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole K Galase	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Yes

Comments:



RE: SUPPORT for HB1861

RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Coffee Berry Borer; Subsidy Program; Appropriation (\$)

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council stands in support of this Bill. Our three founding associations - the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association, the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, and the Hawaii Coffee Association - represent 560 businesses, from growers to processors and shippers, stretching across the State of Hawaii.

The coffee berry borer (CBB) is a devastating invasive pest that continues to spread around the state. Economically, many smaller farms struggle to keep up with the cost burdens that CBB has introduced. Close to 1,000 farms have been impacted by the beetle. This subsidy increases the participation of growers in pest management and has made control much more effective regionally. By lowering the cost of the product, more growers are likely to treat the pest, and the overall quality of the crop increases.

For every \$50 in subsidy costs spent per acre, approximately \$600 in improved crop value is returned to the farmer. This has the potential to increase income by up to \$2.4 million across our Kona, Ka'u and Maui coffee communities. The University of Hawaii estimates that each agricultural dollar circulates 11 times through the community, via local wages, goods and services. Supporting ag is good for the economy.

This program should be funded at a minimum of \$200,000 per year to continue the current rate of subsidy, including the provision for program staffing.

Thank you for considering support to this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shrinier
Administrator

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 1:52:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Testifying for Rancho Aloha Kona Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

As a Hawaii coffee farmer, **I strongly support HB1861** to continue the Beauveria bassiana subsidy program to combat Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii. CBB threatens the future economic viability of coffee production in our state. The subsidy program needs to be extended as the state and coffee growers develop systems to address CBB.

Please support Hawaii farmers and enact HB1861.

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha, Holualoa, Hawaii County



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 11, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1861, HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 1,800 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 1861, HD1, which extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer and extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026.

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. The 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-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 9:19:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Maryanoff	Testifying for KCFA	Support	No

Comments:

SMALL Kona coffee farmers simply cannot afford this required treatment. We appreciate your continuing support so the small industry survives

sincerely

Cynthia and Bruce Maryanoff for KCFA

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 11:19:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas RaysonMD	Testifying for Board Member Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments:

Dear state house and senate committee members:

Aloha! My name is Tom Rayson and I am a local Kona coffee grower here on the big Island at Captain Cook with a small estate Kona coffee farm. I am also a scientist in the position. I urge you to support HP 1861 to continue the subsidy program for CBB fungicide. CBB known as the coffee core beetle, Is an invasive pest that has been here just a little over 10 years from Brazil. The bug enters into the coffee cherries and ruins the beans with eggs and larva and new female and male Beetles which then re-populate more coffee beans. It spreads like crazy and it is very difficult to control and has a major impact on yield and quality of our coffee. The only way to really Combat it is with the fungus agent which kills the eggs. This chemical is very expensive and the subsidy program is paramount to make sure Kona coffee farmers can make a small profit on our valuable local resource; the Finest coffee in the world Kona coffee! Please support this bill !!thank you very much!!

Mahalo!

Thomas Rayson MD

82-5999 Coffee Pl

Captain Cook HI 96704

Active member Kona coffee farmers Association



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 AT 1:15 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1861 RELATING TO
THE COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of HB1861.

With the growing coffee industry in Maui County, coffee growers must be able to protect their crops against invasive species, like the Coffee Berry Borer. This pest has already been found on Maui and the program extension is needed to continue to address this issue.

Therefore, the Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB1861 to extend the sunset date of the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

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.



March 10, 2020

Aloha,

As the current President of the non-profit organization which requires voting membership to be only made up of Kona coffee farmers, it is with great pleasure that this letter is in support of HB 1861 regarding coffee berry borer beetle (CBB).

With all due diligence it is important to remember that many of the Kona coffee farmers are small-scale and that together we must be empowered in order to keep the insect under control on our own farm and as neighbor farms are affected as well...

As a farmer myself, it is important to recognize that the limitations upon myself in terms of investment are similar for many others, and the subsidy program makes it so that we can afford and justify continued fungal sprays on an as-needed basis, which for my farm means getting support from the state to continue!

By extending this program and assuring appropriations for continuation for several more years, we can thereby help to be sure that farmers can continue to look out for their work of production and marketing of 100% pure Kona coffee, for which the Hawaiian name deserves to be carried and towards this end we can succeed by ensuring that especially small-scale operations (of which there are many) do not go out of business due to crop damage from CBB that they cannot afford to effectively control.

Thank you for your support of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera, President
Kona Coffee Farmers Association





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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
1:15 PM
Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1861 HD1

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman 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 HB 1861 HD1. At more than \$50MM, the Hawaiian *green* coffee industry is ranked by USDA as Hawaii's second-highest value crop - not accounting for retail sales. The advent of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii has threatened our industry to its core. Working together with commodity groups, HDOA, UHCTAHR, USDA, Hawaii Farm Bureau, SHAC, CBB Task Force, lawmakers, administrators, countless volunteers and stakeholders, together, we averted the collapse of Hawaiian coffee - one of Hawaii's signature crops.

The recent discovery of CBB on Maui is alarming to many of our members. Were it not for the support of the legislature via HDOA Pesticide Subsidy Program aimed at controlling Coffee Berry Borer, many more farms would have failed - with resulting unemployment, loss of revenue and potentially becoming a burden to the state. Moreover, abandoned farms act a reservoir for the pest, affecting neighboring farms, reducing crop yields and increasing the cost of control. HB1861 represents a modest investment in the Hawaiian Coffee Industry - one that also contributes to tourism.

Hawaii's Board of Agriculture recently voted to return minimum green coffee grade standards to pre-CBB levels. Farmers will need to be especially vigilant to continue to meet these standards. The CBB Subsidy Program is an important tool in the battle against this damaging pest.

The cost of production of coffee in Hawaii is generally much higher than any other coffee growing region. The high cost of land, labor, transportation, farm inputs, and regulatory compliance place Hawaii's producers at a competitive disadvantage to our counterparts located across the globe. In many instances their cost of CBB management is far less expensive. While we are working as an industry to effect meaningful change in this area, the HDOA subsidy program helps level the playing field for Hawaii's producers.

Thank you for your support of HB 1861 HD1.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 9:29:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Shuster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a small coffee farm and member of KCFA, this bill is vital to us. The costs to fight the CBB on our organic farm has certainly been a financial hardship. The added cost to buy product and paying for someone to apply it has only been aided by the supplement money. Please pass this bill to continue this vital funding to the coffee farmers of this island. Mahalo

Judith Shuster

Kona Kaffee Farm

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 11:59:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I write in support of House Bill 1864, House Draft 1.

The future of Hawaii's value-added economy depends on ability to manage supply-threats like coffee berry borer (CBB). People around the world associate Hawaii's coffee regions with world class product. Our farmers compete with globally competitive prices, whereas Hawaii experiences high costs of labor (due to high costs of living), high equipment, and high transportation costs. This measure extends a critical CBB management subsidy, to give our farmers a comparative advantage.

In summary, please support HB1661 HD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Dylan P. Armstrong

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 1:47:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Scarr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1861.

I have farmed Kona coffee for 20 years. Since 2010, when CBB was identified in Kona, the cost of farming coffee has increased greatly. The cost of one spray of my 5 acres of trees is \$250 and to control a CBB infestation requires spraying every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the fruiting season from March to November.

The state subsidy of 50% of the cost of Botanigard spray is welcome assistance to coffee farmers. Without this support, fewer farmers would be able to spray, or spray as frequently. . CBB infestation of the islands would increase greatly. With this assistance, farmers have been able to keep infestation levels low enough to produce viable coffee crops.

We thank you for the support!

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 2:03:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deniz Tek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a coffee grower in Kona. The existence of our small farm and that of many of our neighbours is threatened by the ongoing and worsening CBB infestation. We depend heavily on continuation of the subsidy to carry on our work. Please support HB1861.

Thank you.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 7:44:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Koontz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill! Coffee farmers have been hit hard with the introduction of CBB. for my 4 acre coffe farm, I end up spending about \$2000 a year for Botanigard, not including aboutr 50 hours of labor spent to spray it.....and the equipment.....HELP!.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 10:48:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Sen. Gabbard, Chair, Sen. Ruderman, Vice-chair, and Members of the Committee:

I urge your support of HB1861, continuation of the pesticide subsidy program. As a coffee farmer, I can speak to the great success of this program. South Kona has seen the rate of coffee berry borer damage decrease substantially since the program began. At one point, my husband and I saw so much damage that we even questioned continuing to farm. After beginning to use Botanigard, we have seen a decrease in damage every year.

It is not enough, however, to reach a low rate of damage and discontinue the use of the pesticide. The effort must be an ongoing one. Also, it is not enough that random farmers use the pesticide. It must be a widespread effort, with applications on a regular schedule. More farmers are beginning to see the benefits, and as the program continues, more farmers have access to the pesticide and begin to lower their rates of damage.

The program has been well-administered with the opportunity for research providing much-needed information.

Please vote yes for HB1861, HD1.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:17:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Ford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Help support our agricultural businesses. Coffee farmers need all of the support they can get.

LATE

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:54:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Maryanoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

HB 1861 EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

We, and every coffee farmer in Hawaii, can provide compelling evidence of the importance of extending and providing continued funding for the pesticide subsidy program to assist farmers in battling the damage threatening the future of coffee growing in Hawaii.

Please pass HB 1861 so that the subsidy can be extended until June 30, 2025.

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **to please pass HB1861 out of committee**. Our two Kona coffee farms [Honalo Farm; Cynthiana Farm] have annual infestations of coffee borer beetles. As fledgling farmers, we were shocked to realize how vulnerable our coffee crop was to beetle damage, **and how much work it was for each farm to battle this harmful pest**. Indeed, it is a lot of work for every coffee farmer to battle the beetle. Thus, we really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-administered subsidy program for Botanigard and Mycotrol, which are rather expensive pest-control materials. Without this governmental support, we (and other coffee farmers) could not maintain the economic viability of the coffee business. Having enough quality coffee at the end of the growing season is exceedingly important. The volcanic VOG was harmful for coffee as well so yields have been affected badly. **For us, the investment to get started was huge and then to have to battle the beetle; it's been work, work, work, spend, spend, spend. We thank you for the support thus far.**

The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a risk that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii-heritage agriculture crops. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui.

The most effective way to reduce the damage caused by CBB is the application of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. The current HDOA-administered subsidy program for *Beauveria bassiana* is assisting farmers to develop effective integrated pest management (IPM) to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. **The extension of the current HDOA subsidy through June 30, 2025, is a reasonable step toward continuing to save the coffee growing industry in Hawaii**, the sole center of commercial production in the USA.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and ask that you please pass HB 1861 out of committee so that the subsidy can be extended until June 30, 2025. We, as small farm owners/operators, request your continued support to mitigate this agricultural problem.

Mahalo in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff

cmaryanoff@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

11 Mar 2020