

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 29, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1861
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1861, relating to coffee berry borer. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program established under Act 105, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2014, by three years to June 30, 2025; extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position established under Act 152, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015, including the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption, until the year after the program sunsets, specifically, June 30, 2026; appropriates funds from the general fund to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for the program and program manager position for fiscal year 2020-2021; requires the Department to establish a list of pesticides eligible for the subsidy; and requires the Department to submit a report of its findings and recommendations 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 funds and the manager position will be used towards assisting coffee farmers to offset the costs of purchasing any pesticide that is listed by the Department that contain *Beauveria bassiana* as an active ingredient, in order to control the coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*) and



mitigate the damage it causes to the coffee beans. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer is a significant coffee pest in Hawai'i 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 through the duration of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

January 27, 2020

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

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1861, Relating to Coffee Berry Borer

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

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



January 24, 2020

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

Support of HB 1861 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends until June 30, 2025, the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program for the purchase of pesticides to combat the coffee berry borer; extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026; appropriates funds.)

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 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 HB 1861**.

HB 1861. This bill proposes to extend the pesticide subsidy program by three years, 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 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** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 5:49:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Wessels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair Creagan and Members,

I am a small coffee farmer in Captain Cook in South Kona, Hawaii. **I wish to voice my strong support of HB1881 – Relating to Coffee Berry Borer.** Please extend the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program at least until June 30, 2025 and the program manager position to June 30, 2026. It is vitally important for me as a farmer to continue the fight against CBB. Without the subsidy I would have to curtail some of my application of Botaniguard.

Mahalo,

Mark Wessels & Lelia Zenner

Domain Kona coffee, Captain Cook, HI

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 12:06:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Hans F Eckert	Lyman Kona Coffee Farms	Support	No

Comments:

EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

I, and every other 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 out of committee.

Hans Eckert, owner

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:26:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Mr. Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

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 out of committee so that the subsidy can be extended until July 1, 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 July 1, 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 July 1, 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

27 Jan 2020

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:42:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Mr. Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

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 out of committee so that the subsidy can be extended until July 1, 2025.

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 July 1, 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 July 1, 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

27 Jan 2020

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:43:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chet Gardiner	Cassandra Farms	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB1861 to extent the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program.

I am a coffee farmer from the Kona region of the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am also the Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors of our Kona Coffee Farmers Association.

We need all the help we can get to fight a pest that HB1887 might have kept away from our Island but since the beetle is here...thank you for helping us out.

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:45:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronalee Ashbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair Creagan and Members,

Please pass HB 1861 out of committee. Our farm has used the subsidy for CBB and benefit to fight the battle of controlling CBB. It is important for the future of Kona Coffee Farmers.

Mahalo,

Ronalee Ashbach

Owner, RC Farm LLC

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 9:25:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Creagan and Committee Members:

As an 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.

BruceCorker
Rancho
Aloha
olualoa

H

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 12:39:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luis F Aristizabal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Legislature

House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Luis F. Aristizabal, a coffee farmer located in Ka'u District (Aloha Pasisas Coffee LLC) and an Independen Consultant on Coffee Production, specifically on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB).

The only thing I can say coming form my own book " Controlling the CBB through IPM: A prractical manual for coffee growers & field workers in Hawiia" . In the the back cover of this book, you can read: "The CBB in Hawiia is still an issue. Its control is not an easy task, but it is not imposible neither. Hight standard of Hawaian coffee quality may be reached despite of CBB presence, if coffee growers are proactive and establish an IPM programme adapted to thier agro-ecological conditions." Pages 46 - 51 are only dedicated to Beauveria bassiana, including its biology and tthe mode of accion that infect and kill the CBB, plus recommedations for its use.

The use of Beauveria bassiana is an importat strategy of control against the CBB, which is part of the IPM programme for this insect pest in Hawaii. An extesion in the subsidy of this product is extremely relevant to coffee growers.

Thanks,

Luis F. Aristizabal

Aloha Paisas Coffee LLC

P. O. Box 5579

Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Phone: 808-498-3657



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
8:30 AM
Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1861

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 HB 1861. 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.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 28, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1861
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

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.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1861, 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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

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

HB 1861 – RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

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

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 and thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in its behalf.

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:26:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

BIISC Strongly supports this bill to continue to help farmers manage the Coffee Berry Borer.

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 12:37:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Dwyer	Kona Mountain Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair Creagan and Members,

We at Kona Mountain Coffee are in full Support of HB 1861. We have over 105 acres of Kona Coffee at our Farms and it has been very costly to keep with maintaining the Coffee Berry Borer on our Farm. But thanks to the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program it helps us contain the Borer until we can find other economical ways and continue with educational programs.

Thanks

Bill Dwyer

President/CEO

Kona Mountain Coffee

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 3:23:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colehour Bondera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

PO Box 861

Honaunau, HI 96726

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please seriously and strongly support this piece of legislation (HB 1861) in order to continue supporting farmers to help control the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB).

This is a notable expense for farmers and if not helped with control many will not use the assistant control and therefore the CBB will spread to neighboring farms, like a domino.

It is not so expensive and the income generated as a result of using easily offsets the expense in taxes paid by the farmers. Again, please help protect and support farmers in Hawaii!

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera



RE: Support for HB1861

RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

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

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association stands in support of this Bill. We represent over 200 farms in the Kona districts and our mission is to protect the economic interests of our growers.

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. 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. This benefits the state in added income to its resident farmers as well as added tax revenue.

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.

My family has three generations who farm coffee and we support ourselves on 100% Kona. Thank you for considering support to this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
President Emeritus

LATE



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

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

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.

LATE

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:17:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Shultise	Lavarock Farm	Support	No

Comments:

I can attest to 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 out of committee.

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 1:23:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In Strong Support of HB 1861

Dear Reps. Creagan, DeCoite and Member of the House Committee on Agriculture,

The past 10 years have been difficult for Kona coffee farmers since the appearance of the Coffee Berry Beetle (CBB). Adult CBBs burrow into green coffee cherries, infest the beans, lay eggs that hatch into larvae that eat the green coffee beans. Larvae grow into adults that migrate to other coffee cherries. Damaged coffee beans are a loss to farmers.

Controlling CBB requires frequent, repeated spraying of the coffee trees throught the growing season, from March to November with a product that contains beauveria bassiana.

I hire a fellow with mist blowers to spray my 5-acres of coffee trees about every 3 weeks. Each spraying costs \$150 in labor and \$100 in materials. I have been able to keep the CBB infestation lower than 5%, but the cost is enormous -- essentially \$100/week for 9 months. The state subsidy of 50% of the cost of materials makes a significant difference.

Please suport a continuation of the CBB subsidy. Without it farmers will be forced to spray less often or never, which allows the CBB infestation of the area to spread and crop damage to increase. Frequest spraying by all farmers is the best way to control CBB. Farmers need your help.

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 11:00:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Goulding	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am a small coffee farmer and member of Kona Coffee Farmers Association. I support and urge you to pass HB1861 to extend funding of the CBB subsidy out of committee.

I personally spray my coffee trees with Botanigard every 3 weeks to control the infestation of CBB. I submit receipts and am reimbursed for my purchase of this very expensive pesticide through the current subsidy program. I am very thankful to see that the state of Hawaii supports coffee farmers and encourages use of this pesticide through this subsidy program.

There is no end to the infestation of CBB. I will have to continue to spray my coffee trees every year. Please extend the funding for this subsidy program to help reduce the cost of this pesticide and continue to encourage coffee farmers to control CBB infestations.

Mahalo,
Pete Goulding
Kona Coffee Farmer
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:40:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help us all and continue the funding of the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) subsidy. We will never regain the yields we had before CBB arrived, but helping us with the cost of using Botanigard is really appreciated. Please continue this subsidy to help us all!

Mahalo plenty!

Cecelia Smith-long time Kona coffee farmer
Kona coffee farmer Honaunau mauka, south Kona
Hawaii island

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:37:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Monk	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Jim Monk and I am a coffee farmer in the Kona District. I have benefitted from this subsidy and still need it because the State of Hawaii allowed green coffee to be brought into our State, causing the mess we have with Coffee Berry Borer beetles.

I, and every other 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.

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 5:16:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Hooser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB1861

Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 (Act 105), established a pesticide subsidy program in the department of agriculture to assist coffee growers with offsetting the costs of purchasing certain pesticides known to be effective against the coffee berry borer, a highly destructive coffee pest that has infested coffee crops on Hawaii island and more recently has been detected on Oahu and Maui. This is a valuable program that warrants continued support.

Gary Hooser - as an individual in conjunction with the Kona Coffee Farmers Association.

LATE

HB-1861

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:21:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sammi Piasecki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, and every other 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 coffee borer beetles do to our crops. These pests threaten the future of growing coffee in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Sammi Piasecki

Kona Coffee Farmer