

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. 1887
RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF UNROASTED COFFEE INTO HAWAII**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1887, relating to the importation of unroasted coffee into Hawaii. This bill creates a statutory mechanism to allow the importation of partially roasted coffee. It also prohibits the importation of unroasted coffee beans or seeds and establishes a penalty for the importation of unroasted coffee beans or seeds. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) opposes this measure as unnecessary and difficult to enforce.

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 150A-6.1 (b), Plant Import, already gives HDOA authority to “. . . designate, by rule, as restricted plants, specific plants that may be detrimental to agriculture . . . or that spread or may be likely to spread an infestation of an insect, pest, or disease that is detrimental or potentially harmful to agriculture. . .” Therefore, the need to create a new section in HRS 150A to address the importation of partially roasted coffee is not necessary as the HRS already requires regulation through rulemaking. Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 4-70, Subchapter 4, already regulates the importation of green coffee into the State through permitting, inspection and treatment. Imported green coffee beans that do not meet any of these three things are not allowed entry into the State and returned to shipper. Green coffee beans that



have been subjected to a roasting temperature of 315 degrees Fahrenheit for a duration of five minutes are currently classified as “semi-roasted.” All coffee imported into this state must be used for roasting and cannot be co-mingled with green coffee unless both have been subjected to treatment. Coffee importers must notify the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) of specific shipping information so that an inspector can verify that a shipment is “semi-roasted.” Moreover, “semi-roasted” coffee must be re-bagged in new, unused bags or unused nylon totes.

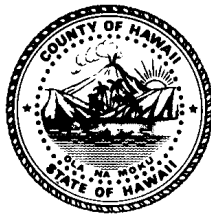
HRS §150A-5, Conditions of Importation, defines the regulated articles that are subject to inspection prior to entry into the State and include “. . . any other plant-growth or plant-product, unprocessed or in the raw state.” As a product that is processed and not in the raw state, “partially roasted” coffee would likely be considered unregulated. The PQB, however, does conduct inspections on “semi-roasted” coffee to ensure that the commodity that is manifested is something that is unregulated and does not pose a risk through co-mingling or not being subjected to the required temperatures and durations.

The proposed ban is problematic because it would not allow for any type of importation, including plants. Should there be a need to import new genetic plant material for whatever reason, such as a variety that was resistant to Coffee Berry Borer, there would be no way to do so. HAR §4-70, Subchapter 4 currently allows for the importation of coffee plants subject to a one-year, strictly enforced quarantine under the PQB.

Finally, the proposed penalty would be hard to enforce and leaves no room for discretion. As shipping containers are reused, sometimes there are small numbers of green beans in non-regulated, non-agricultural shipments. In these instances, PQB inspectors would ensure that there is no green coffee in the shipments, and destroy all green beans found. The proposed penalty could result in a felony conviction regardless of whether the violation was intentional or accidental. With the rise of e-commerce, it is highly likely that a shipper of green coffee sent as a gift or by accident, could be criminalized and subject to felony charges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 24, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 1887, RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF UNROASTED COFFEE INTO HAWAI'I
Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1887, relating to importation of unroasted coffee into Hawai'i. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the importation of unroasted coffee into the State and authorize the department of agriculture to adopt rules to allow for the importation of partially roasted coffee into the State. The significant risk of the introduction of coffee related pests and disease negatively impacts Hawai'i coffee farmers who are already suffering from the impact of the introduced coffee berry borers which occurred in 2010. Hawai'i coffee farmers face significant risk if importing unroasted coffee is continued to be allowed and cannot afford to be exposed to further coffee related pests and diseases. The prohibition of importation of unroasted coffee will not only protect our Hawai'i coffee farmers, but will also protect Hawai'i's economy. Allowing the department of agriculture to adopt rules to allow importation of partially roasted coffee will add further protections.

For the reasons stated above I urge the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 12:04:19 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:

RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF UNROASTED COFFEE INTO HAWAII

In the mid-1980s, Hawaii passed legislation to require fumigation of unroasted foreign coffee beans imported into the state to protect Hawaii's coffee crops from devastating coffee diseases, Coffee Borer Beetle (CBB) and coffee rust, which are widespread in the countries from which unroasted beans were being imported.

In 1997, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Issued a regulation that prohibited the importation of unroasted coffee beans into Hawaii and Puerto Rico, the only coffee-growing regions of the US. The USDA ruling was intended to protect US coffee crops from coffee diseases.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) proposed that unroasted foreign coffee beans fumigated on the mainland with methyl bromide be exempt from the regulation and that Hawaii's continued import of green coffee into the state be approved.

In 2006, the USDA/APHIS declined to exempt Hawaii from the ban on importation of unroasted coffee into the state. A thorough review of the research on the use of methyl bromide to eliminate the two major coffee pests on green beans showed the Hawaii treatment was insufficient to warrant a change in the federal regulation. The USDA was not convinced that the methyl bromide treatment killed all CBB eggs and larvae.

Hawaii has continued to import unroasted coffee beans, grown in many parts of the world with coffee diseases. According to the USDA, fumigation with methyl bromide is no guarantee against transporting disease.

In 2010 CBB arrived in Kona. They quickly spread around the Big Island and have reached some other islands, despite quarantine regulations. Controlling CBB is an expensive, labor-intensive effort that is only partially effective. Farmers have experienced significant reductions in salable crops and the added expense of purchasing the spray and frequently applying the spray.

Hawaii does not yet have coffee rust, a devastating disease of coffee trees. We ask that the Legislature bring the State into compliance with federal law and protect Hawaii'

heritage coffee crop from further damage by passing HB 1887.

Blenders can very well ship their Hawaiian green beans to the mainland for blending and roasting. They can return the roasted coffee blends to Hawaii without threatening our local coffee crops with pests and diseases.

Please pass HB 1887 out of committee.

Hans Eckert, owner

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:03:07 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:

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **asking that you please pass HB 1887 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. **We thank you for the support thus far.**

You know the history. In 1997, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Issued a regulation that prohibited the importation of unroasted coffee beans into Hawaii and Puerto Rico, the only coffee-growing regions of the US. The USDA ruling was intended to protect US coffee crops from coffee diseases.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) proposed that unroasted foreign coffee beans fumigated on the mainland with methyl bromide be exempt from the regulation and that Hawaii's continued import of green coffee into the state be approved.

In 2006, the USDA/APHIS declined to exempt Hawaii from the ban on importation of unroasted coffee into the state. A thorough review of the research on the use of methyl bromide to eliminate the two major coffee pests on green beans showed the Hawaii treatment was insufficient to warrant a change in the federal regulation. The USDA was not convinced that the methyl bromide treatment killed all CBB eggs and larvae.

Why has Hawaii has continued to import unroasted coffee beans, grown in many parts of the world with coffee diseases. According to the USDA, fumigation with methyl bromide is no guarantee against transporting disease.

In 2010 CBB arrived in Kona. They quickly spread around the Big Island and have reached some other islands, despite quarantine regulations. Controlling CBB is an expensive, labor-intensive effort that is only partially effective. Farmers have experienced significant reductions in salable crops and the added expense of purchasing the spray and frequently applying the spray.

Hawaii does not yet have coffee rust, a devastating disease of coffee trees. We ask that the Legislature bring the State into compliance with federal law and protect Hawaii' heritage coffee crop from further damage by passing HB 1887.

Blenders can very well ship their Hawaiian green beans to the mainland for blending and roasting. They can return the roasted coffee blends to Hawaii without threatening our local coffee crops with pests and diseases.

Please pass HB 1887 out of committee.

Mahalo in advance for your support

Sincerely,

Bruce & Cynthia Maryanoff

cmaryanoff@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

27 Jan 2020

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:39:27 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:

On behalf of farmers working small Kona farms, we are submitting this written testimony **asking that you please pass HB 1887 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. **We thank you for the support thus far.**

You know the history. In 1997, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Issued a regulation that prohibited the importation of unroasted coffee beans into Hawaii and Puerto Rico, the only coffee-growing regions of the US. The USDA ruling was intended to protect US coffee crops from coffee diseases.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) proposed that unroasted foreign coffee beans fumigated on the mainland with methyl bromide be exempt from the regulation and that Hawaii's continued import of green coffee into the state be approved.

In 2006, the USDA/APHIS declined to exempt Hawaii from the ban on importation of unroasted coffee into the state. A thorough review of the research on the use of methyl bromide to eliminate the two major coffee pests on green beans showed the Hawaii treatment was insufficient to warrant a change in the federal regulation. The USDA was not convinced that the methyl bromide treatment killed all CBB eggs and larvae.

Why has Hawaii has continued to import unroasted coffee beans, grown in many parts of the world with coffee diseases. According to the USDA, fumigation with methyl bromide is no guarantee against transporting disease.

In 2010 CBB arrived in Kona. They quickly spread around the Big Island and have reached some other islands, despite quarantine regulations. Controlling CBB is an

expensive, labor-intensive effort that is only partially effective. Farmers have experienced significant reductions in salable crops and the added expense of purchasing the spray and frequently applying the spray.

Hawaii does not yet have coffee rust, a devastating disease of coffee trees. We ask that the Legislature bring the State into compliance with federal law and protect Hawaii' heritage coffee crop from further damage by passing HB 1887.

Blenders can very well ship their Hawaiian green beans to the mainland for blending and roasting. They can return the roasted coffee blends to Hawaii without threatening our local coffee crops with pests and diseases.

Please pass HB 1887 out of committee.

Mahalo in advance for your support

Sincerely,

Bruce & Cynthia Maryanoff

cmaryanoff@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

27 Jan 2020

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 3:19:31 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:

January 27, 2020

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

PO Box 861

Honaunau, HI 96726

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept this as support of HB1887.

As a coffee farmer, we need to protect our crop and importation of green coffee means that coffee farmers are subjected to pests and diseases which can and have been brought in unintentionally.

This must be stopped and my request is that you seek to protect our industry by ensuring that no more importation of green coffee is permitted. Protect us farmers and please continue to work to keep Hawaii vibrant and supportive of us as farmer residents.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:35:58 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:

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.

I would like to respectfully urge the committee to support this bill to block the importation of unroasted coffee into Hawai'i.

Kona coffee farmers have already been hit by the Coffee Borer Beetle which this bill might have been able to keep away from our island and would sincerely welcome the protection from other predators and diseases that are decimating crops in other regions from getting here as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:41:19 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 Committe Chair Creagan and Members,

Please pass HB 1887 out of committee to stop the continued import of unroasted coffee beans grown in many parts of the world with coffee diseases. We are seeing the results of this practice on our local farms and it takes a lot of resources to battle these diseases that could be stopped.

Thank you for considering and accepting my testimony,

Mahalo,

Ronalee Ashbach

Owner, RC Farm LLC



RE: Support for HB1887

RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF UNROASTED COFFEE INTO HAWAII
Prohibits the importation of imported coffee into the State

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association requests and appreciates your 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.

Hawaii is the only coffee region in the world that allows the importation of green (unroasted) coffee directly into the growing area. The USDA blocked this practice in 1998 because of the risk of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) and Coffee Leaf Rust. Not long after the HDOA pushed to override the USDA rule, CBB arrived. We should not wait until Coffee Leaf Rust is introduced to protect our heritage crops. We need to act now. The cost of Coffee Leaf Rust has the potential to economically destroy coffee farming in the state.

Puerto Rico was, and still is, covered under the same USDA importation prohibition. They put regulations in place that allow for par-roasting of imported coffee. This has allowed their coffee growers to thrive alongside large roasting businesses who import coffee. If Hawaii were to follow this model, the costs of par-roasting (or other safeguards) on imported coffee would be significantly lower than the costs of treating Rust.

Many growers view Rust as an inevitable hazard of imported coffee. We do not have to accept this risk. With par-roasting or other tech, we can protect our growers from a key potential exposure point for Rust.

My family has three generations who farm coffee in Kona. Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Your support makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
President Emeritus

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:26:13 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 a coffee farmer, **I strongly support HB1887.**

Since 1998 federal law (7 CFR 319.73-2) has banned the importation of unroasted coffee into Hawaii and Puerto Rico in order to minimize the risks of introducing coffee berry borer, coffee rust and other coffee-related pests and diseases.

Ignoring the federal law and the risks identified by USDA scientists, the State of Hawaii has permitted the entry of unroasted coffee into the state.

In 2010 CBB, in fact, was introduced into Hawaii with great economic damage to coffee growers and validating the concerns of the USDA scientists. Coffee growers are now faced with the risk of introduction of coffee rust which would cause even greater damage to Hawaii's coffee growers.

Please enact HB1887. Please act to protect Hawaii's coffee farmers.

Bruce Corker

Rancho Aloha

Holualoa

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 12:11:51 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

Hawaii Agriculture Committee,

My name is Luis F. Aristizabal. I am a coffee farmer located in Ka'u District (Aloha Paisas Coffee LLC) and an Independent Consultant on Coffee Production.

I strongly support this bill HB 1887 because we cannot put in risk the coffee industry of Hawaii. There are some diseases and insects pest that have not been introduced to Hawaii. Some of them, such as the Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) could be devastating for Hawaiian coffee industry. Hawaii coffee farmers were not prepared in advance for Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). Today this pest is here and the cost for controlling had been extremely high for the coffee industry. The CBB is still a big issue in Hawaii. Now imagine if the CLR is reported in Hawaii; I can say from my own experience from Colombia, that the magnitude in damage caused by CLR could be devastating for Hawaii. Here we do not have coffee cultivars resistant to CLR. We were prepared in Colombia for this disease at this time (about 40 years ago), but today, the CLR is still an economic issue in Colombia and in many other coffee producer countries in South and Central America.

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 opposition to HB1887

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 Hawaii Coffee Association understands and respects the intent of this measure but we believe there are better ways to approach it.

First, there is no known evidence that Coffee Berry Borer was introduced to Hawaii in legally imported coffee materials. It may have been brought in with an airline passenger. It begs the question, why are we not screening inbound passengers as we do with outbound?

Second, the measure also applies to seed, including that used for research, plant breeding or developing new varieties that may be disease resistant or drought tolerant.

Third, coffee blending is legal in Hawaii. Imported coffee represents blending stock for businesses that use it in accordance with Hawaii's laws and rules.

We believe that an ozonation program is overdue and are eager to work with HDOA, USDA and the private sector to continue research in this area and seek permitting that would allow this to advance.

We are currently engaged in a feasibility study regarding the training of canines to detect coffee leaf rust in raw imported coffee plant materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:32:11 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 measure. The importance of this bill to the future of Hawaii's coffee industry could not be more clear. Coffee growing is a critical part of Hawaii Island's agricultural economy. Importing unroasted beans is the most likely way that the coffee berry borer arrived, yet there remain pests around the globe that can hitch-hike on green coffee beans, and that would be even more devastating to our coffee growers! Some can spread to native forest plants in the coffee family, including native gardenias and kopiko, a tree that we hope will fill in the gaps in lost ohia forest.

This basic biosecurity measure is an example of Best Management Practices that the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, your Hawaii Invasive Species Council, and all of the island Invasive Species Committees have been asking for. Please give it your support.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:45:19 AM

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 Committe Chair Creagan and Members,

I am a Kona Coffee Farm owner for 15yrs and Support HB1887, we have over 105 acres of coffee and since 2008 we have spend \$ Thousands of dollars and hard work fighting the Coffee Berry Borer that may have come in Hawaii from importation of unroasted coffee beans. Please help us from other insects or Fungus like Leaf Rust that could damage our coffee furture.

Bill Dwyer

President/CEO

Kona Mountain Coffee

79-7431b Mamalahoa Hwy

Kealakekua Hi . 96750

Cell 808-987-9557

decoite2 - Aurielle

From: Thomas Rayson <thomchas77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB1861 HB1887 HB1897

Aloha Hawaii State capital personnel!

As a member of the Kona coffee farmers Association I am strongly encouraging to please help HB 1861 and HB 1887 in HB 1897 to get out a committee to pass into law these changes to encourage support of Hawaii Kona coffee growers here on the big island so that blended labels are clearly labeled in small package quantity sold two hotels as well as continued subsidy of the CBB program and To ensure that green coffee imported into Hawaii is tested and free Of pest and fungus allowing a fumigation of imported coffee into our state. These three bills are important to ensure quality Kona coffee is available on the world market as a pure and sustainable resource.

Mahalo!

Dr Thomas Rayson
Boardmember Kona Coffee Farmer's Association

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:15:05 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has changed the rules and decimated our Kona Coffee Crops! They have sided with blenders who import foreign coffee and that has allowed coffee pests and diseases to infiltrate out farms.

I am amazed that this Department has not sided with the farmers. It is unconscionable!

We are the ONLY COUNTRY which grows coffee and allows imported green coffee to be shipped in.

Allowing foreign coffee into our state so that it can ruin our crops is CRIMINAL and I wish I could bring a lawsuit against the Hawaii Department Of Ag. They should at least pay us for our infested crops!

Please pass HB 1887 out of committee.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:35:06 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:

Importing of green coffee beans needs to STOP!

The terrible effect of the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) has been devastating and despite our accelerated farm management, we will *never* get back to the production yields we had before CBB came here in 2010. (We can almost track what spot the CBB first came in and assume, the person was blending wiht his own coffee. We believe they imported green beans and unknowingly brought in CBB)

The idea of the arrival of DECIMATING Coffee Rust is HORRIBLE. PLEASE forbid importation of green. **Coffee Rust is so devastating that farmers in Central America have had to RE-PLANT all their fields with new plants.** My coffee plants out the window are 130 years old. They deserve to be protected from introduced pests, especially Coffee Rust. **Kiss-off Kona coffee if Coffee Rust gets here.**

Thank you in advance for you understanding and PLEASE pass HB 1887 . We absolutely need you to do this.

Mahalo and aloha,
Cecelia Smith
31 year long Kona coffee farmer
mauka Honaunau, south Kona
Hawaii island

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:40:51 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am a small, single estate coffee grower in Kona. I strongly support HB1887, to require the State of Hawaii to comply with the federal ban on importation of green coffee. This is critically important to protect our state's coffee industry, which would be devastated by the introduction of coffee rust disease. My farm will certainly go out of business if that happens. Please pass this bill to put appropriate safeguards in place before it is too late.

Aloha

Deniz Tek

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:52:20 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 a member of Kona Coffee Farmers Association. I support and urge you to pass HB1887 relating to importation of unroasted coffee into Hawaii out of committee.

The current law allowed CBB to reach Kona in 2010. I personally have to spray my kona coffee crop every 3 weeks to control CBB infestation with Botanitgard, which is expensive. This is only partially effective and I have to throw away 10-20% of my crop that is infested. The current law allowed this to happen by allowing unroasted coffee shipped into Hawaii, despite being fumigated, which is known to the USDA to be no guarantee against transporting disease.

Hawaii does not yet have coffee rust, which is a devastating disease of coffee trees. I ask the legislature to bring Hawaii into compliance with federal law and protect Hawaii coffee trees from further damage by passing HB1887.

Mahalo,

Pete Goulding
Kona Coffee Farmer
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 2:35:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Monk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jim Monk. I'm a coffee farmer in the Kona District and strongly urge you to pass HB1887 out of committee and get it passed by the House.

In the mid-1980s, Hawaii passed legislation to require fumigation of unroasted foreign coffee beans imported into the state to protect Hawaii's coffee crops from devastating coffee diseases, Coffee Borer Beetle (CBB) and coffee rust, which are widespread in the countries from which unroasted beans were being imported.

In 1997, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Issued a regulation that prohibited the importation of unroasted coffee beans into Hawaii and Puerto Rico, the only coffee-growing regions of the US. The USDA ruling was intended to protect US coffee crops from coffee diseases.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) proposed that unroasted foreign coffee beans fumigated on the mainland with methyl bromide be exempt from the regulation and that Hawaii's continued import of green coffee into the state be approved.

In 2006, the USDA/APHIS declined to exempt Hawaii from the ban on importation of unroasted coffee into the state. A thorough review of the research on the use of methyl bromide to eliminate the two major coffee pests on green beans showed the Hawaii treatment was insufficient to warrant a change in the federal regulation. The USDA was not convinced that the methyl bromide treatment killed all CBB eggs and larvae.

Hawaii has continued to import unroasted coffee beans, grown in many parts of the world with coffee diseases. According to the USDA, fumigation with methyl bromide is no guarantee against transporting disease.

In 2010 CBB arrived in Kona. They quickly spread around the Big Island and have reached some other islands, despite quarantine regulations. Controlling CBB is an expensive, labor-intensive effort that is only partially effective. Farmers have experienced significant reductions in salable crops and the added expense of purchasing the spray and frequently applying the spray.

Hawaii does not yet have coffee rust, a devastating disease of coffee trees. We ask that the Legislature bring the State into compliance with federal law and protect Hawaii'

heritage coffee crop from further damage by passing HB 1887.

Blenders can very well ship their Hawaiian green beans to the mainland for blending and roasting. They can return the roasted coffee blends to Hawaii without threatening our local coffee crops with pests and diseases.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 5:11:32 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 HB1887

The legislature finds that with the continuing entry of methyl bromide-fumigated unroasted coffee into the State, Hawaii's coffee farmers face significant risk, identified in 2006 by USDA scientists, that coffee rust will be introduced into Hawaii. The negative economic impact on Hawaii coffee farmers of coffee rust would be even greater than that already suffered from coffee berry borers.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the importation of unroasted coffee into the State and authorize the department of agriculture to adopt rules to allow for the importation of partially roasted coffee.

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

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 2:16:44 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 HR 1887

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

Since 1997, Federal law has prohibited the importation of unroasted coffee beans into Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The prohibition intends to protect the only coffee growing-areas of the United States from coffee diseases that infest many other coffee-growing areas of the world.

Prior to 1997 and subsequently, Hawaii has allowed the import of unroasted coffee for a profitable section of the coffee business -- blends. In fact, Hawaii imports roughly 6 tons of green coffee from various parts of the world infested with coffee diseases, such as Central America, India, Viet Nam, and Colombia.. Hawaii law requires unroasted coffee to be fumigated on the mainland before importation into Hawaii.

In 2005, the State requested exemption from the federal prohibition for green beans fumigated with methyl bromide, but the USDA determined that the current fumigation treatment with methyl bromide is not demonstrated to be completely effective against CBB and coffee rust (an even more devastating pest).. In 2010 CBB arrived. Coffee rust, that destroys trees, has not yet come to Hawaii. Rust would devastatte Hawaii's coffee industry.

The best protection for Hawaii's coffee crop is to comply with federal law and prohibit the importation of unroasted coffee into Hawaii.

Blenders can send Hawaii coffees to the mainland to be blended, roasted, and returned to Hawaii as roasted coffee.that is not a threat to our local coffee crops. Please pass HB 1887 to bring Hawaii into compliance with federal law and to protect Hawaii's coffee crops.

HB-1887

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:15:36 AM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

PLEASE STOP THE IMPORTATION OF UNROASTED COFFEE BEANS!

Coffee Berry Borer Beetles are a huge pest. They cost millions in labor and pesticides to keep them under control. Do you really want to open our state up to coffee rust?

Please require all coffee imported here to be roasted BEFORE it reaches Hawai'i.

Please pass HB 1887 out of committee.

Mahalo,

Sammi Piasecki

Kona Coffee Farmer