

**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**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020  
8:35 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2532  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2532, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be expended by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug; to fund outreach, education, surveillance, treatment, and pest management protocols; and to fund recovery efforts including but not limited to reducing the two-lined spittlebug population using insecticides, integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, and reseeded pastures damaged by infestations. It also directs the Department to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021, which documents the expenditure of funds and the progress of activities funded by this measure. The Department supports this measure and offers a comment.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. Funding for control of invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these



efforts. Although the primary target of the spittlebug, kikuyu grass, is itself an invasive grass, the grass is widely used for pastures and the Department feels that protecting these pastures is in the best interest of the State, as it is in line with the Department's mission of growing local food production and protecting agricultural capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
8:35 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2532  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 2532 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the management and recovery actions related to the two-lined spittlebug, a pest of pasture grasses. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's natural resources, agriculture, and economy, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's residents and visitors. The Department works closely with the DOA on cross-sector invasive species issues via the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). HISC previously awarded research funds to understand the biology of the two-lined spittlebug and is aware of significant investment from DOA to mitigate spittlebug impacts. Though the primary target of the spittlebug, kikuyu grass, is itself an invasive grass, the Department recognizes the importance of growing local food production and protecting agricultural capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

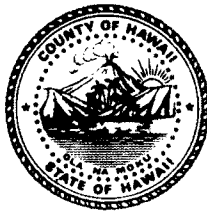
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**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  
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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 31, 2020

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

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members:

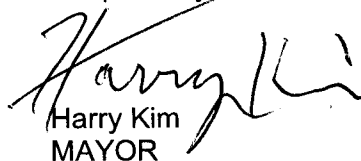
**RE: HB 2532, Relating to Invasive Species**

In the past three years, the Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top priority that deserves everyone's attention. Our best efforts at the county level are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that the State, counties, Feds, and private sector work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems. This Legislature has really stood up, and hopefully will do even more this year.

It can be discouraging to think of how many different invasive species are plaguing Hawaii and with the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawai'i County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including rapid ohia death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, miconia, spittlebug, and probably others. But we cannot give up. And since, as a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own, we need as much assistance from the State as you can offer.

While I would defer to others as to how precious dollars should be allocated, I strongly endorse the investment of funds in combatting invasives, and therefore urge passage of HB 2532 in some form. Please provide as much money as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, include positions and funding in your priorities for the State budget, and let's move forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Harry Kim  
MAYOR



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair

Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

**HB2532**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 8:35 a.m.

Conference Room 312, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Nicole Galase and I am the Managing Director for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. I am writing to **strongly support HB2532** relating to invasive species. HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of October of 2019 infests over 222 sq. miles or about 142,468 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawaii have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle.

Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

The potential impact on the cattle industry could be devastating. We **strongly support HB2532** for funds to be appropriated to aid in recovery from the damage from the Two-lined Spittlebug and also aim to work towards preventing the spread of the invasive species.



**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 6:10:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith	McCandless Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou, My name is Keith Unger and I am the manager of McCandless Ranch in South Kona and the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC). McCandless Ranch and HCC stongly supportst appropriating funds to combat the devastating impacts of the Two-Lined Spittlebug and to control the spread of this new invasive species to other islands.

Keith Unger

McCandless Ranch

President HCC

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:59:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	Yes

Comments:

Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of October of 2019 infests over 222 sq. miles or about 142,468 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawaii have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle.

Whether one supports the livestock industry or not, this invasive pest left unstopped will have a devastating effect on Hawaii's environment and watersheds.



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 521-4717  
[www.lurf.org](http://www.lurf.org)

January 31, 2020

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

**Testimony in Support of HB 2532, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] for efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State.)**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 8:35 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 2532** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

**HB 2532.** This bill proposes to appropriate funds out of the general revenues of the State the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the DOA to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug, and to utilize the moneys to fund recovery efforts including outreach, education, surveillance, treatment, and pest management protocols.

**LURF's Position.** Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, tourism, the natural environment, native species and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests, such as the two-lined spittlebug now threaten to infest and damage pasture lands, reducing the quality of forage pastures, and thereby impairing livestock ranching, which is a highly productive, expanding, and extremely valuable industry on all islands with an estimated current annual value of more than \$68 million.



LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future. The two-lined spittlebugs threaten job and food security in the agricultural and ranching industries, as well as throughout the State, making it vital to address infestations and restrict further uncontrolled spread.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 2532** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:52:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jimmy Greenwell	Palani Ranch Company, Inc	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Jim Greenwell. I am past President of Palani Ranch and a member of their Board of Directors. I am also a past President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council which is testifying in strong support of HB2532 as are we.

Palani Ranch in North Kona was one of the ranches where this insect first appeared in 2016. The rapid expansion of the infested area from 2000 acres in 2016 to an estimated 135,000 acres today speaks to the aggressive nature of this bug and the urgency to combat the damage it is causing. The spittlebug totally and quickly is killing our basic grasses (kikuyu and pangola) in the 2000' to 5000' elevation range. The resulting bare ground void is immediately filled with useless and rugged invasive species that are tough to eradicate and make recovery of these grasslands extremely challenging.

Much of the rangeland we care for has been desimated by the spittlebug. What was excellent and well managed rangeland with over 95% grass cover and minimal weed infestation four years ago before the spittlebug today has less than 2% grass cover and is totally overrun by invasive balckberry, pluchia, thistle, fireweed and other invasives. We are struggling to find spittlebug resistant grass species to replant and are in search of reclamation stragegies that are commercially realistic. It is a race against time.

It is important to remember that ranchers are fundamentally grass farmers. We happen to raise cattle on that grass as that allows us an opportunity to realize some value from the grass we grow as well a to use cattle as a management tool on the land. We are not just concerned about protecting our industry. We are concerned that the value of these lands to the broader community attributable to the ecosystem services that flow from well managed rangeland will be impacted if the grass cover is lost. This includes for example the value of well managed rangelands for soil conservation, watershed protection, carbon sequestration, habitat enhancement, and wildfire mtiigation.

I look forward to being at your hearing on February 5 to elaborate or respond to questions. Thanks you for the opportunity to speak in support of this important measure.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
February 5, 2020 – 8:35 AM - Room 312

**RE: HB 2532 - Relating to Invasive Species – In Support**

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

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 2532 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State.

Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September of 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in November of 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of October of 2019 infests over 222 sq. miles or about 142,468 acres.

The potential impact on the cattle industry could be devastating as the Two-lined Spittlebug was discovered at similar elevations to those of the areas around Waimea, where the majority of the cattle in Hawaii are raised. The Two-lined Spittlebug kills the grasses completely, providing conditions conducive for the growth of invasive species, weeds and lower forage quality grasses. Financial support is critically needed now to provide the necessary tools for controlling this pest. If research does not continue to find ways to stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug, there could be a negative impact of local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 2532. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi  
808-544-8319  
[jgaribaldi@wik.com](mailto:jgaribaldi@wik.com)

Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United  
Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association  
Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research  
Foundation of Hawai'i  
Maui Farm to School  
Network (Maui F2SN)  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical  
Agriculture and Human  
Resources - University of  
Hawai'i at Manoa

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:11:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Theresa M Thompson	Thompson Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:27:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bobby Farias	Hawaii Meats LLC, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 5, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2532**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 312  
8:35 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 1,800 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.

**HFB supports HB 2532**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State

Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of October of 2019 infests over 222 sq. miles or about 142,468 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawaii have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle.

Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage, and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:22:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:34:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan	Haleakala Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

Haleakala Ranch strongly supports this bill as TLSB could very likely cause catastrophic damage to the livestock industry, conservation efforts and our quality of life statewide. It spreads at roughly 35k acres per year and totally displaces the grasses and other forages that we depend on for our livelihood. These grasses will be replaced with invasive weeds that will be extremely difficult to control, especially at scale. This problem is as serious a threat to Hawaii as Rapid Ohia Death. We need to control it where it is, restore those areas that are already decimated, and keep it off all the other islands.



**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:17:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Donoho	Kohala Coast Resort Association	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:58:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn Wong	Pa'ahana Livestock LLC	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Carolyn Wong and I am a managing member of Pa'ahana Livestock LLC. I am writing to strongly support HB2532 relating to the Two Lined Spittle Bug. This new invasive species is devastating some of our most important pasture grass species (kikuyu and pangola) which supports about half of the cattle in the state if not more and its rate of spread is alarming. I have seen the damage this insect has on pastures. A rancher with no grass will not long remain a rancher. Agriculture and our agrarian landscapes are important to Hawaii's economy and environment. Well managed agricultural lands provide several ecological services including watershed function, clean air, invasive weed management, not to mention food sustainability and aesthetic value. Our agricultural lifestyle is also a huge part of the culture of Hawaii; a culture that values the inherent life in the land and the connection we have to it, a culture that promotes respect, cooperation and hard-work. This little bug and its effects can have much farther reaching effects than we can imagine.

This bill will help assist ranchers affected by this new devastating alien pest to manage it and nurse their lands back to health. It is extremely important that we move quickly to respond to the effects this is having on our landscapes. The more time that passes, the bigger the problem becomes. Invaded pastures lose all grass production within two years. The invasive weeds that follow the death of the grass are not edible by livestock. The pastures need to be replanted with a grass that is resistant to spittle bug.

My farm is in North Hawaii. Another 200,000 ac of pastures in Waimea, Kohala and Mauna Kea are kikuyu and pangola grass pastures that are at risk. If/When that bug reaches Waimea, it will be like a wildfire that will quickly get out of control unless we take action to prevent it and be prepared. Similar pastures in Hamakua, Hilo, Puna, Volcano and Ka'u are also at risk. God forbid this bug travel to the other islands.

Please support this bill and help us fight this.

Thank you.

Carolyn L. Wong



**LATE**

Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 — 8:35 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2532, Relating to Invasive Species.**

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing waste and fresh water resources.

**Ulupono supports HB 2532**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State.

Ulupono supports the State's goal to increase local food production, which includes strengthening the local livestock industry. The Two-lined Spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island in September 2016 where it damaged roughly 2,000 acres of pastureland. As of October 2019, damage from infestation has skyrocketed to about 142,468 acres of rangelands on Hawai'i Island. In highly infested areas, there is 100% die-off of key pasture grasses such as Kikuyu and Pangola. Rapid spread and die-off due to this pest are affecting the local livestock industry and pose a massive threat to production on Hawai'i Island.

Increasing State resources to support the local livestock industry will be crucial in maintaining the growth of local livestock production and meeting State food production goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR  
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:32:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Morgan	Kualoa Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:09:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee strongly supports this bill, and adds the following comments. The Two-lined Spittle Bug has, in just two years, killed over 135,000 acres of pasture grass that is rapidly converting to unpalatable woody weeds. While direct assistance to ranchers for recovery and management is important, the reality is that this is an area that is too large, remote, rocky, and dry for direct replanting to be easily accomplished...and it continues to expand. Research to identify a biocontrol agent, a natural enemy of the TLSB from its home range, must get underway. It is critical that HDOA receive the additional funds they have requested each year to fully staff and equip its biological control program. With a complete research staff and the facilities they need, there is hope that an army of tiny little helpers can help us defeat this tiny and voracious pest.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:51:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathryn Ebata	Hawaii Meats LLC, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

I, Bobby Farias, support House bill 2532.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:30:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 6:08:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doreen Canto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 5:07:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Woody Child	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 5:40:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:39:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The two lined spittle bug is a devastating pest for Bg Island ranchers, and therefore assistance for both recovery efforts there, as well as steps required to keep it from spreading is absolutely imperative. This pest has the potential to bring the entire Hawaii ranching industry to a halt if not properly contained immediately.

Mahalo for your support.

Taylor Kelerman

Kualoa Ranch

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:56:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Conant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am a retired Entomologist and I have spent a fair part of my career working on rangeland pests on Maui and Hawaii islands. I strongly support HB 2532. As the Bill states, the two lined spittle bug is indeed a serious pest of some of our dominant rangeland grasses. It will not be an easy pest to mitigate, and pesticides will likely be impractical, except in smaller, limited paddoks. The ultimate solution will likely need to be Classical Biological Control, and the State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has been doing such work on rangeland pests (including weeds) since 1902. Of all the agricultural industries Hawaii, The ranchers have been the biggest supporters of such work, in both successful and unsuccessful pasture pest Biocontrol projects, over the last 100+ years. Consequently, I am very much in support of this Bill. HDOA will likely work closely with UH CTAHR in studying the pest before and when a Biocontrol Project is initiated. Know your enemy.

Sincerely,

Patrick Conant,

Entomologist, Retired

Volcano, Hawaii.

**HB2532**

**Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State.**

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 8:35 a.m.  
Conference Room 312, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,**

My name is Kristin Mack Almasin and I am the Livestock Manager for Ulupalakua Ranch on Maui. I am writing to **strongly support HB 2532**. We raise cattle that are kept for the local grass-fed beef market through Maui Cattle Company. One of the major grasses that is destroyed by the Two-Lined Spittlebug is Kikuyu grass which is the dominant grass species on over half of our grazing lands. Although we are not currently affected by the Two-Lined Spittlebug on Maui, we are actively in the process of preventing the spread to Maui, developing a monitoring program for our pastures for early detection, and researching alternative forage species that could fill the void left if the TLSB does decimate our Kikuyu grass pastures. We support this bill, because it would allow the local extension service to continue their research on this relatively new pest. It would also give us resources as ranchers to help prevent the TLSB from reducing the carrying capacity of our pastures, which could dramatically reduce our ability to supply quality protein to our local food system.

Thank you for your **support of HB 2532**.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:39:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Robblee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ranching is not easy. Getting paddocks/pastures in good shape for livestock foraging is not easy, it takes a lot of work. Through no fault of their own, ranchers have to redo **DECADES** (seriously, **DECADES**) of hard work because of an invasive species. If the two line spittle bug arrived here like so many other invasive species, through the plant nursery industry, not only should our ranchers be provided assistance to repair the damage but the plant nursery industry requires tighter controls. Maybe if that industry did have tighter controls we wouldn't have the Little Fire Ant, or Coqui Frogs, or Kahili Ginger, or Fountain Grass, or the Two-Lined Spittle Bug or any number of invasive species that got into Hawaii because of that lacking control feature the nursery industry enjoys. I'm convinced they can bring anything into the state with little accountability or justice for those impacted.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:10:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jose "PePe" Miranda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:20:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:25:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	FAM Farmer Cohort #5	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:26:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeff McConnel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the bill HB2532. Our experience in the year 2019 was a complete devastation of the pasture grasses within two months as the Spittle bug made its way across our 92 acre parcel on the slopes of Mauna Loa, Hawaii at the 4,000 foot elevation. We are working on mitigating its affects by attempting to keep the grasses short and regenerating.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:30:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:35:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqui Hoover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jacqui Hoover and I have the privilege of serving as President of HLPC (and concurrently as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board).

Please accept this testimony on behalf of Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) a private, member-based 501(c)3 organization incorporated in 1974 by a group of forward-looking individuals who saw the need for an organization to work with government and the community to promote sound planning decisions for West Hawaii (subsequently expanded to Hawaii Island),

The 100+ members and affiliates of HLPC strongly support HB2532 and appropriation of funds to respond to, mitigate, control, and ultimately eradicate the two-lined spittle bug that is destroying important rangelands and threatening our ranching and agriculture sector.

Mahalo for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this important issue.

[jacqui\\_hlpc@yahoo.com](mailto:jacqui_hlpc@yahoo.com)

808-885-9588