

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020
12:40 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2623 SD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2623, 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

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February 21, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: **SB 2623, SD1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2623, SD1.

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 SB 2623, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-2623-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 6:41:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee,

[SB2623](#)

Extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing Beauveria bassiana to combat the coffee berry borer. Extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026. Appropriates funds.

EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

Please support [SB2623](#). 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.

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **to please support [SB2623](#)**. 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 support 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

24 feb 2020



February 23, 2020

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

As President of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA), and on behalf of the Association's more than 200 members, please accept my **strong support for SB2623** which continues the subsidy support that our members need to continue attempts to control CBB on their coffee crops.

KCFA supports the provisions of the bill approved by the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee (SD1),

Please support Hawaii's coffee farmers. No other approach to dealing with this pest problem has been shown as useful or effective in comparison to this important component and by supporting, Hawaii's coffee industry can continue to flourish.

Please contact me if needed with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera, President
Kona Coffee Farmers Association



SB-2623-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 9:40:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Testifying for Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

I am a coffee farmer in Holualoa in the North Kona District of Hawaii County and chair of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association's Legislative Committee.

KCFA strongly supports SB2623.

SB2623 will 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 SB2623.

Thank you,

Bruce Corker, Holualoa, Hawaii County



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 25, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2623, SD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 211
12:40 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2623, SD1, 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 in one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

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



February 20, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support of SB 2623, S.D.1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer; extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026; appropriates funds.)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 12:40 p.m., in Conference Room 211

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2623, S.D.1.**

SB 2623, S.D.1. 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. SB 2623, S.D.1 will assist local coffee growers by further extending the sunset date of the Pesticide Subsidy Program and the manager position needed to help administer the Program as originally intended by Acts 105 (2014) and 152 (2015), which were specifically established to aid with the prevention and control of the coffee berry borer and ultimately, the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2623, S.D.1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 AT 12:40 P.M.**

To The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Ways & Means,

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2623 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 SB2623.

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 SB2623 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
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.

SB-2623-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 2:03:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2623 to continue support of the CBB subsidy to farmers who spray beauveria bassiana to control CBB infestation.

Since 2010 when CBB was discovered in Kona, the cost of growing coffee has increased dramatically. To spray my 5 acres of coffee trees requires \$100 of spray plus \$150 in labor EVERY 3 TO 4 WEEKS during the fruiting season from March to November.

Without the subsidy of 50% of the cost of spray fewer farmers would be able to spray, and spray less often, there by increasing the CBB infestation in the area. We need this subsidy to help keep CBB under control.

Please pass SB 2623.

SB-2623-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 6:07:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2623 Extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program for costs incurred until June 30 2025

Dear Representative

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. It is disheartening to see the hole where the CBB entered the cherry and creepy to see hundreds of eggs inside!

Please support SB2623 so the subsidy can be extended until July 1, 2025 for expenses incurred by 30 June 2025.

We are submitting this written testimony **to support extension of SB2623**. Our two SMALL 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 support SB2623 so 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

24 Feb 2020