



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.

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

SB 2623 – RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2623 relating to the coffee berry borer (CBB).

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

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

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

An integrated pest management program (IPM) developed Best Management Practices to control the CBB. Collaborative research has shown that sanitation along with biocontrol can be effective. Cooperative Extension Agents estimate that about 80% of coffee farmers are familiar with the IPM program. Cooperative Extension Agents with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at

Mānoa, further estimate that the IPM program has directly saved approximately \$11 million in farm gate value, and directly saved another \$11 million in efforts to control the spread of the CBB. Realizing the direct and indirect effects highlights the value that this IPM program has for the coffee industry and the state of Hawai'i.

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

The IPM program has been shown to be not only effective in control, but maybe more important, effective in controlling the spread of the beetle to other parts of Hawai'i. There is concern that without a full functioning subsidy program, efforts to apply IPM would be reduced; thereby reducing the on-farm and regional effectiveness of the strategy. A survey of coffee growers indicated that nearly 38% of growers would reduce the rate of the pesticide if the program was detrimentally affected. It is reasonable to assume that this would negatively affect the control and spread of the CBB.

Given the estimated \$22 million/year effectiveness of the IPM program that includes a biological insecticide, we support SB 2623 and thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in its behalf.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
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January 27, 2020

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

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

RE: SB 2623, Relating to Coffee Berry Borer

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

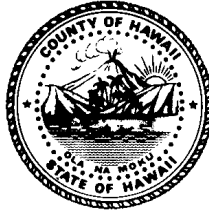
As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island, and I am informed that the coffee berry borer continues to be a substantial threat to coffee's economic survival. Any assistance the State can offer, including the pesticide subsidy that helps farmers manage the cost of controlling this terrible 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

Maile Medeiros David
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony Supporting SB2623, Relating To Coffee Berry Borer
Hearing Date and Time: February 5, 2020 at 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 112

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 6, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

It is well known that the coffee borer beetle infestation severely threatens the viability of Hawai'i's entire coffee industry and that the efforts to control the borer beetle is necessary to strategically rid our island of this pest.

We need further assistance from the State of Hawai'i to provide subsidies to coffee growers to offset costs of purchasing the pesticide needed to control the fungus that allows the beetle to survive. Extending the sunset date and appropriating funds for the Coffee Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program to combat the borer beetle will protect the livelihood of our island coffee farmers.

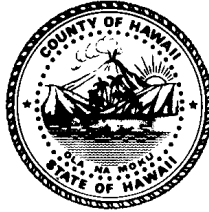
Thank you for this opportunity to provide support. I strongly recommend the passing of this bill.

Maile David

Maile David, Councilmember
Hawai'i County Council
Council District 6

MD/db

Karen Eoff
Council Vice Chair
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
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74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 5, 2020

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony Supporting SB2623, Relating To Coffee Berry Borer
Hearing Date and Time: February 5, 2020 at 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 112

Dear Committee:

On behalf of Council District 8 in North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided below:

The coffee borer beetle threatens Hawai'i's entire coffee industry and efforts to control the borer beetle is necessary to free our island of this danger.

We need the State of Hawai'i to provide subsidies to offset costs of purchasing the pesticide. Extending the sunset date and appropriating funds for the Coffee Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program to combat the borer beetle will protect our island coffee farmers.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for SB2623. We strongly recommend the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

SB-2623

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:04:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

BIISC strongly supports this measure which will continue to assist coffee farmers to suppress populations of the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). Equally important are other measures to stop the importation of green coffee beans, the vector by which CBB arrived in Hawaii, and the potential vector by which even more devastating coffee diseases could arrive in our islands. Mahalo.



January 29, 2020

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

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

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 1:15 p.m., in Conference Room 224

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and 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 SB 2623**.

SB 2623. 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 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** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:08:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

As a coffee farmer and member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, **I strongly support SB2623** to continue the Beauveria bassiana subsidy program to combat Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii. CBB threatens the future economic viability of coffee production in our state. The subsidy program needs to be extended as the state and coffee growers develop systems to address CBB.

Please support Hawaii farmers and enact SB2623.

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha, Holualoa, Hawaii County

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:29:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharlene Gee	Testifying for business (Bea's Knees Farm)	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Kona coffee farmer and a Kona Coffee Farmers Association member. Our farm is small, under five acres.

Due to circumstances, our farm land had not been receiving the care it required for several years. At that time, we had CBB rates as high as 63%. Since we've been again devoting care & attention, including spraying for CBB, we've brought that number down to 11-14%, and other actions we're taking will continue to lower that number.

The subsidy helps and was part of the economic equation for choosing to spray. Also, no farm is an island. We all need to control for CBB. With the subsidy, it will encourage all farmers to take care of CBB.

Please extend this subsidy.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:32:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janelle Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Janelle E Gomes am in support of SB2623! Being a small coffee farmer this CBB Subsidy is very important to my farm and my business. I spend thousands of hard earned money trying to keep the CBB as low as possible, and getting this subsidy helps give some back so I can continue to afford to keep the CBB to a minimum year after year. Therefore I support SB2623.

Mahalo

Janelle Gomes

Honalo Farm

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:43:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Korn	Testifying for Pele Plantations	Support	No

Comments:

We have a family-run organic farm and coffee business that depends on and supports the local production of top-quality 100% Kona coffee. Our own farm, and those of our suppliers, all face the necessary cost of CBB treatment in order to protect our crops. As long as CBB is an issue, subsidies will play a key role in keeping our Kona coffee community strong so we can continue to support our families and businesses, sustain organic agriculture in the area, and maintain our reputation as world-class coffee producers.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:23:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Wells	Testifying for Konalicious Organic Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Members,

Please support SB2623 to extend the CBB pesticide program subsidy thru 6/30/2025. The CBB is a pest that can debilitate our coffee crop and cause great damage to our industry. As an organic farm, we strive to produce the best coffee while operating as a sustainable manner. It is expensive to combat this pest and the subsidy is greatly needed to help defray the costs.

Mahalo,

Alan Wells

Konalicious Organic Coffee LLC

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:33:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:51:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Tom Rayson. I am a new Kona Coffee farmer in South Kona and a new board member with the Kona Coffee farmers Association. Kona Coffee is very high-quality and unique however the economics of producing coffee and selling coffee have a very low profit margin. This is before the coffee bore beetle even was introduced! Now that we have CBB, it is decimating my crop. At the beginning of the year I had less than 1% CBD infection at the end of the year it was close to 80%. Spraying is the only way to contain this with the fungal agents that are used in the CBB subsidy program. Without the subsidy I would certainly have to fold up my coffee production as the cost become insurmountable. The reimbursement is a very valuable and important part of keeping our cost down so we can provide coffee to Hawaii and the world at a reasonable price. I encourage you to strongly support increasing the timeline for the CBB subsidy program to us farmers. Thank you for your consideration!

Mahalo

Thomas Rayson MD

Kona Rays Coffee

McCoy Plantation

82-5999 Coffee Pl

Captain Cook HI 96704

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:49:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Shriner	Testifying for Lions Gate Farms	Support	No

Comments:



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 5, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2623
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 224
1:15 PM

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

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2623, which extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer and extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026.

Coffee is one of Hawaii's signature crops; one that helps bring fame and tourists to Hawaii. Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. While the full tally is yet to be made, farms on Hawaii Island have experienced deep losses. Some have failed. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the value of the remaining crop. CBB is a serious threat to Hawaii's agriculture industry and the state's economy. While CBB is battled worldwide, no other coffee growing origin shares Hawaii's high labor costs and restrictions on pesticides that may be used elsewhere to fight this destructive pest. This places the industry at a competitive disadvantage when compared to the rest of the coffee-growing world.

Fighting CBB is a priority in other coffee-producing countries. The USDA has expressed its support targeted toward research, education, and mitigation. The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. A non-profit CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. CTAHR and HDOA have been responsive and effective in their combined efforts. The industry has

committed countless private sector dollars and has leveraged both State and Federal funds. The State must continue to do its part.

A recent CTAHR economic analysis estimates FY2013 crop losses due to CBB at \$7.68 million, with a resultant \$571,000 annual loss in state tax revenues. The extension of the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

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



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 1:15 P.M.**

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 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

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

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:07:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chet Gardiner	Testifying for Cassandra Farms and KCFA	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this measure to extend the Coffee Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program.

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

We have expended countless hours of effort as well as our own resources to control a pest that should never have reached our island. But now that it has arrived, it has seriously threatened a unique, rare and signature agricultural treasure of our state, our excellent coffee.

We need all the help we can get and would be grateful for your vote for this measure.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:42:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Koontz	Testifying for Konaloha Farms	Support	No

Comments:

Being a coffee farmer is tough enough, and trying to keep the Kona standards high involves lots of work. The introduction of CBB ten years ago is another expense most farmers have to dig deep to afford. Help protect the coffee that made Kona famous by helping the farmers. Without assistance, it would cost me about \$400/acre to keep Kona coffee strong. Mahalo

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:49:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Shultise	Testifying for LavaRock Farm	Support	No

Comments:

I support extending funding towards eliminating CBB.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:37:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Representative,

[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

4 feb 2020

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:52:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Testifying for Farm Maui LLC	Support	No

Comments:

From: milesmayne@gmail.com
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2623 CBB Subsidy
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:22:01 AM

The Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative request that the subsidy programme for purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* be extended until June 30, 2025 so that we are able to maintain the cost of production at current levels.

Without the help from the subsidy program, the control of the coffee berry borer will be adversely affected, which will in turn be reflected in the quality of the coffee being marketed from Hawaii.

Miles Mayne
Director – Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative, Pahala 96777

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

SB-2623

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 8:11:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2623

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:38:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Committee:

I have been a Kona coffee farmer for 20 years. Since CBB arrived in Kona, my salable crop has been reduced by damage to beans and my expenses increased significantly to control CBB on my farm. During the growing season, I spray the trees about every 3 weeks. That means I pay a worker with mist blowers \$150 to spray \$100 of Botanigard on my 5 acres of coffee trees. From March to November, spraying about every 3 weeks adds up to a large expense.

Farmers are very grateful to receive some help from the state to offset half of the cost of Botaigard. it helps, and the subsidy makes it possible for more farmers to control CBB . The more farmers who spray reduces the CBB population in the whole area. Without the state subsidy, fewer farmers could spray or spray less frequently, allowing the CBB infestation to increase in the entire area.

Please pass SB2623 to continue this essential support for a heritage crop.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:24:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello. My name is Jim Monk and I am a coffee farmer in the Kona Coffee belt of the Big Island. Coffee Berry Borer has cost me thousands of dollars in lost production and lower prices paid for my cherry production. CBB got to the state probably through the inactions of the State, but that is irrelevant to the purpose of this bill, which is to help we coffee farmers survive as farmers having to withstand yet another expensive operation to keep our coffee farms alive and producing. I personally have received hundreds of dollars of support from this subsidy program -- which has been important to me. Please keep this program alive by approving the extension of this program until 2025. Thank you for your considerations.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:57:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a small estate Kona coffee grower. This subsidy, a tiny fraction of the state budget, provides significant ongoing support for small farms like ours, which may not otherwise survive the costly damage inflicted by CBB. If you value the contribution to the economy and reputation of Hawaii provided by our heritage coffee, please vote for this bill.

Deniz Tek

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:29:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please continue this subsidy! We farmers relaly need and appreciate the help in combatting the Coffee Berry Borer which has made a huge impact on our yields. We need all the help you cna give us.

Mahalo and aloha,
Cecelia B Smith
Honaunau mauka, sout Kona.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:33:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please continue this subsidy. it really helps farmers in affording to spray for CBB which is very costly.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:39:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Robblee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Since coffee farmers still do not have legal quality protection in place (needing to be 51% Kona coffee to be called Kona) which would probably increase their revenue the least our elected officials can do is help them with some of the costs related to growing Kona coffee.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:35:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am a small coffee farmer and member of Kona Coffee Farmers Association. I support SB2623 to extend the HDOA's CBB Subsidy program.

I personally spray my coffee trees with Botaniguard every 3-4 weeks, which is absolutely necessary to control the CBB infestation. I have utilized and really appreciate the CBB subsidy program to be reimbursed for 50% of this expensive pesticide.

Coffee farming is hard work and my profit is not very good. My revenue is reduced by CBB infestation, so controlling this pest is important, but the pesticide is expensive. Please continue this subsidy program to encourage all coffee farmers to keep this pest under control.

Mahalo,
Pete Goulding
Small Coffee Farmer
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:40:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

The coffee farmers in Hawaii are a critical component of our agricultural community. The quality of the coffee grown in Hawaii should be protected. The continued support by the state with regards to fighting the coffee borer beetle is essential.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:36:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:48:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Wikum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:03:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Adair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is important to coffee farmers, my family included, to help us manage a terrible issue. Please consider continuing this subsidy.

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:49:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Rayson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a small coffee farmer in Kona, I strongly urge that SB 2623 pass the legislative branch to allow for subsidies for coffee farmers. This subsidy has helped cover some losses due to the coffee bore beetle. Are doing everything we can and working with other farmers in the area to keep this beetle from spreading more than it already has. The subsidy with us to Pay for the expensive preventative measure. Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter in our lives as Kona coffee farmers!

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:39:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kanuha and Committee Members:

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation and for working with the actual and immediate needs of coffee farmers.

Our certified organic small-scale family farm depends on this subsidy in order to most effectively try to maintain the CBB damage to our most valuable crop.

Since there has been some historical difficulty to move this program along, including last year, my request is that you take it seriously and understand that it is an important priority.

As an active member (and recently elected as the President of the Board of Directors for 2020) of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA), it is yet another way for you all to support not only my own farm, and the neighbor farms that also need to control their CBB so that my farm is not affected, but for all the small-scale farmers throughout Kona who make up the significant majority of coffee farmers in the State and a reasonable percentage of whom are members of KCFA.

Please look out for us all and support this legislation so that we can all continue forth as important players in the Hawaii coffee industry.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

PO Box 861

Honaunau, HI 96726

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:04:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Obra	Testifying for Rusty's Hawaiian	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Senators,

My name is Joan Obra, and I am writing in support of SB 2623 on behalf of Rusty's Hawaiian, my family's farm, mill and roastery in the Ka'u District of Hawai'i Island. There are several reasons why Hawaii's coffee farmers need the subsidy for commercial formulations of *Beauveria bassiana*:

1. *Beauveria bassiana* is a naturally occurring fungus that kills Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). It's available in both conventional and certified-organic formulations, which makes it suitable for farmers throughout the Hawaiian islands.
2. Indeed, *Beauveria bassiana* is so important that UH-CTAHR's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system for coffee features it as a key tool in controlling CBB.
3. *Beauveria bassiana* is costly. One local retailer sells it for about \$200 per gallon. Previously, a USDA TASC grant helped Hawaii coffee farmers offset its high cost. Now that this grant has ended, the State's subsidy is the only one available to farmers.
4. Without the State's subsidy, we believe farmers will reduce their use of this critical tool, which could result in significant increases of the CBB population -- and corresponding damage to the State's coffee crop.

For all of these reasons, we at Rusty's Hawaiian support the continued State subsidy for *Beauveria bassiana*. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joan Obra

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:59:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
randal merrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

We are requesting support for this bill. The CBB subsidy is a great help in our fight against the Coffee Berry Borer beetle here in Kona Coffee country. We do seem to be gaining ground towards the lessening of damage to our coffee. We try to spray monthly to get the maximum coverage against the bug and that runs into a lot of expensive product.

mahalo for listening, randy & cheryl merrick

82-940 coffee dr
captain cook

SB-2623

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:23:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Representative

HB 1861 EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

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

Please support SB2623 so the subsidy can be extended until July 1, 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

4 Feb 2020