



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
And

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:10 p.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

### HB 237 HD2 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 237 HD2.

The two-lined spittlebug is just the next challenge to the biosecurity of Hawai'i agriculture. This is a continuing story accurately depicting biosecurity as one of the most, if not the most, important management issues in agriculture and natural resources.

The bill does a credible job of describing the problem and its economic effect. The spittlebug will continue to degrade Hawai'i Island pasture and affect livestock operations if a coherent integrated pest management program is not identified and extended to producers. This problem will require the combined efforts of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHM/CTAHR), and the appropriate federal agencies on Hawai'i Island.

UHM/CTAHR is currently involved with spittlebug research and Extension efforts through an Extension Specialist on Hawai'i Island and a Professor of Entomology on the UHM campus. There is also a clear role for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) program, which could also be a source of federal funds. The IR-4 mission is to test the efficacy of pesticides and develop data to label the chemistry for specific uses.

HB 237 HD2 budgets funds to combat this pest, and puts those funds and decision making authority in the hands of HDOA. We strongly support this effort as UHM/CTAHR already works closely with HDOA on this and on other biosecurity issues.

We support HB 237 HD2, but recognize that the State is in a challenging economic time where funds are low and responsibilities are high. We defer to HDOA as to their priorities and availability of personnel to support this measure.

**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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
WATER AND LAND**

**MARCH 17, 2021  
1:10 PM  
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 237, H.D. 2  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairpersons Gabbard, Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 237, H.D. 2, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates an unspecified amount from the invasive species fund for fiscal year 2021-2022 to be expended by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to mitigate the two-lined spittlebug, including but not limited to reducing the two-lined spittlebug population using insecticides, integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, and reseeding pastures damaged by infestations. The Department supports this measure.

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 agriculture, the environment, and the economy. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these efforts. Although the primary target of the spittlebug is kikuyu 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 increasing local food production and protecting agricultural capacity.



The Department appreciates the additional resources provided by this measure to address this invasive species threat and respectfully requests that the Legislature increase the expenditure ceiling for the pest inspection quarantine and eradication fund to allow it to carry out the objectives of the appropriation without limiting the Department's ability to fund other critical invasive species and pest control responsibilities for ongoing programs and activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 11, 2021

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

**Testimony in Support of HB 237, H.D.2, Relating to Invasive Species (Appropriates funds to be expended by the Department of Agriculture [DOA] for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest; effective 7/1/2050.)**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:10 p.m., in Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

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 HB 237, H.D.2** 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 237, H.D.2.** This bill proposes to appropriate funds out of the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund to be expended by the DOA to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State. The moneys shall be used to fund recovery efforts including reducing the two-lined spittlebug population using insecticides, integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, and reseeded pastures damaged by infestations.

**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.

As potentially devastating threats to and food safety and security continue to be a significant concern, LURF and its members appreciate this measure being taken to assist agricultural stakeholders.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 237, H.D.2** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC  
PO BOX 27  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759  
(808) 688-2892**

HB237hd2, Relating to Invasive Species  
Senate AEN/WTL Hearing – 1:10pm  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Joint Senate AEN/WTL Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Livestock ranching has an estimated annual value of \$68 million with 142,000 beef cattle on more than 1,300 ranches---60% are raised on the Big Island. It's an industry that is striving to bring local food to Hawaii consumers.

Two-lined spittlebug damage results in entire pastures reduced to dust and replaced with weeds that cattle cannot eat. This damage causes runoff and affects the surrounding land and water. More importantly, it has a direct impact on food production and replacement of imported beef.

As such, please consider the appropriations request to mitigate and control the spittlebug and restoration of pasture lands among the budget priorities during these challenging times.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Bobby Farias  
President  
Hawaii Meats, LLC  
91-319 Olai Street  
Kapolei, HI 96707

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Re: HB 237 - SUPPORT**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:10pm  
Conference Room 229  
VIA Video Conference

Aloha e Chairs Gabbard & Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara & Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Bobby Farias, part owner of Hawaii Meats LLC, I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation rancher from Kauai. I **strongly support** HB237, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest. With 25% of the state's land area covered by ranches, we support this effort to keep ranching alive and pastures healthy.

We respectfully urge the legislature to provide the funds needed to aid in the recovery efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter,

Bobby Farias  
President of  
Hawaii Meats, LLC



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

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND WATER & LAND  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 — 1:10 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 237 HD 2, Relating to Invasive Species.**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports HB 237 HD 2**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

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.

We recognize that you face many difficult decisions this year to balance the budget in the midst of this economic crisis, but we hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 5:06:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Genevieve Hao	Testifying for Kualoa Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

No Comment



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

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

### **HB237 HD2**

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Wednesday, March 17, 2020, 1:10 p.m.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports HB237 HD2** to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lined Spittlebug (TLSB) and recovery of rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

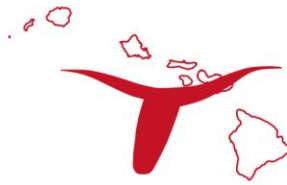
While there are many pressing issues that have arisen from the effects of COVID-19, agriculture should continue to be a priority topic. We are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but this invasive species directly affects food production. Hawaii Island is responsible for 80% of the state's cattle production, so an outbreak of this invasive species will be devastating not only to cattle ranchers, but to our endeavor for food security. This invasive species issue affects all of Hawaii, not just the cattle ranchers.

**Economic Impact:** Ranchers anticipating the devastating effects of the Two-lined Spittlebug reaching their pastures know that they will need to reduce their herds to ensure enough forage is available. They know that many of their pastures will become ungrazeable if the pest spreads to them. On one affected ranch, at least 70% of the available pasture acres is impacted by the Two-lined Spittlebug. The pest has killed off Kikuyu and Pangola, high quality forage, leaving undesirable forage and weeds. With huge swaths of land now ungrazeable, the ranch has had to reduce their herd, creating a situation in which the operation is now losing money. Understanding that investing in managing the invasive pest is a prudent use of funds, the ranch invested almost \$70,000 into herbicide treatment of invasive weeds and some seeding of new forages to reclaim the ungrazeable pastures. These efforts positively impacted 400 acres, at a cost of \$175 per acre. The takeaway from this scenario is that we CAN make a big difference in preventing the spread if efforts are concentrated strategically. With further research into effective methods and funding to implement those methods in high impact areas, we can suppress the spread of the invasive species. Let's invest money now, when it will make the most impact in salvaging Hawaii's food production capacity and we can target efforts. The last thing we want is for the Two-lined Spittlebug to show up in Waimea, where the majority of Hawaii's cattle are raised because of its high quality grazing land. We remain positive, but ranchers are painfully budgeting for mitigating for this pest and working hard to try to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and to keep their lands healthy and

productive and the task is too big for them to take on alone. HDOA has provided funds for research efforts and we respectfully urge the legislature to provide them with funding to continue supporting this effort.

We **strongly support HB237 HD2** for funds to be appropriated to aid in recovery from the damage from the Two-lined Spittlebug and preventing the spread of the invasive species.

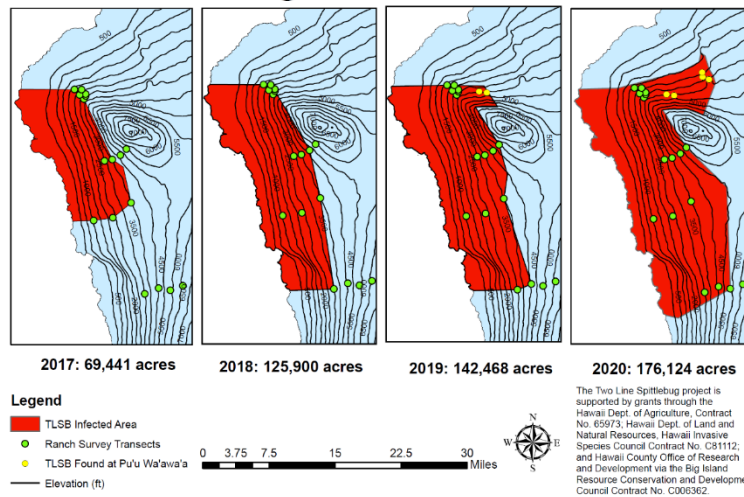




## Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**Background:** 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 2020 infests 176,124 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

### Acreage of Infected Area



For more information, please contact Dr. Mark S. Thorne, Extension Specialist in Pasture and Range: thornem@hawaii.edu or (808) 887-6183

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 Hawaii Cattlemen's Council has been holding consistent meetings to keep up to date on this issue and work towards finding solutions. This group includes CTAHR researchers, HDOA, HISC, BIISC, affected ranchers, and ranchers who are at threat.

Healthy grazing lands are integral to watershed health and function in Hawaii. The Two-lined Spittlebug severely disturbs the Hawaiian grazing land plant community by killing the grass. This loss of living ground cover leaves the land vulnerable to soil loss which contributes to sediment-laden runoff into our near shore coastal waters, affecting coral reef health. Healthy coral reefs provide important services such as shoreline protection, marine ecosystem habitats that support important food chains that also help support our communities. Invasive weeds move in on these degraded lands, changing the entire character of the landscape hindering not only agriculture, but also other land management efforts, and recreational uses such as forest and wildlife conservation projects, hiking and hunting, not to mention the change to the aesthetic value of the land.

Nicole Galase  
Managing Director



**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:52:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Moore	Testifying for Kealia Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly ask for your support of House Bill 237 for funding of invasive species research and control.

I am manager of two ranches in South Kona that have been severely impacted by the Two Lined Spittle Bug. One is 300 acres that I took over in 2017. The cattle were dying of malnutrition because there was no forage. The TLSB had wiped out all palatable grasses. We have since reduced the herd from 50 cattle to 18 head and have been trying to combat the weeds that have taken over. We lost the first crop of calves, again because of malnutrition. We are only in the beginings of any type of rebound to a sustainable operation, even after 3 years. Much work is needed to fight back the weeds and invasive grasses, find suitable grasses that can be established, and then find a sucessful method to establish those grasses.

The second ranch I manage is 10,000 acres. It is in the beginning stages of infestation, and so I am starting the planning for devastation of the primarily kikuya grass pasturres.. We will have to reduce our herd from 500 to 350 cows within the next 3 years, and another 100 after that. I am looking to the State experts to help with finding suitable resistant grasses and effective methods to replant the pastures, but herd reduction will be necessary until then.

I hear the old timers say that this TLSB is going to be the worst thing to effect ranching in Kona, and that says a lot considering all the other pests and diseases they have faced over the years. I did not believe it, until I saw it myself - it is devastating! We are in deep trouble with this pest and need all the support that can be found.

I appreceiate your immediate attention to this HB237 and request for funding.

Humbly,

Sara Moore

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:13:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support funding for TLSB action per HCC testimony

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:27:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

Plese Supoort HB 237 HD2



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

March 17, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 237, HD2**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 229  
1:10 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

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.

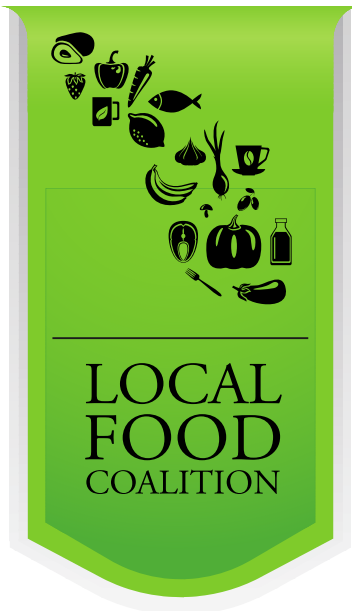
**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 237, HD2**, which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture for the control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

The 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. We must 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.



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 17, 2021 – 1:10 p.m. – Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 237 HD2 - Relating to Invasive Species – In Support**

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 237 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

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. In September 2020, CTAHR published “Twoline Spittlebug: A Pasture Pest In Paradise” which revealed that the two-line spittle bug is expanding its range on Hawaii Island at about 35,000 acres/year. At this rate it will cover all the important ranch lands on the Big Island within the next ten years.

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 237 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:57:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bud & Katy Gibson	Testifying for Rocker G Livestock	Support	No

Comments:

We are strongly in support of this bill dealing with the invasive Spittlebug. This pest will have devastating impact on our agriculture and our state's ability to be self sustainable with the destruction of our grazing lands. Please don't be short sighted and let's get this pest eliminated.



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE &  
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021 AT 1:10 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

To The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair;  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee on Water & Land,

**SUPPORT HB237 HD2 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap. I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing share our support of HB237 HD2.

Agriculture is extremely important to our community and state and the introduction and spread of invasive species continues to be a growing problem. We often see these issues begin on the Big Island and then through the importation of plants to neighbor islands, invasive species are spread. While we understand the two-lined spittlebug has not been found on Maui, it is critical to control and eradicate this invasive species to help farmers and ranchers on Big Island and prevent its spread to other islands.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and ask that you please pass this bill.

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.

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 8:35:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 8:46:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm in support.

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:04:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harry von Holt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this legislation on the two lined spittle bug.

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 2:24:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzette Bacarro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee,

I support HB237 HD2 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the two-lined Spittlebug (TSLB) and recovery of rangelands damaged by the invasive pest. There is still a chance to keep the TSLB away from other high cattle production areas if the funding is issued. Without this funding, the TSLB can directly affect food production in Hawaii. The TSLB also causes runoff and can affect the entire eco-system.

Mahalo! Suzette Bacarro

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:53:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristin Mack Almasin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:56:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please help before it's too late. Thank you.



**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:58:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

In strong support.

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:37:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Braley	Testifying for New Island Feed, Inc	Support	No

Comments:

New Island Feed fully supports HB237 HD2 and the funding of projects that provide solutions to this major problem for the state of Hawaii.

**HB-237-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:42:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2021 1:10:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support