



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.

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

HB 237 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 237 HD2 SD1.

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 SD1 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 SD1, 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 COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS

APRIL 7, 2021

9:45 AM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**HOUSE BILL NO. 237, HD2 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairpersons Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 237, HD2 SD1, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates \$659,000 from the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 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.

HB-237-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 12:33:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB237

Big Island Invasive Species Committee
23 E. Kawili St
Hilo Hi 96771
(808) 933-3340



April 1, 2021

To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Aloha members of the WAM Committee,

BIISC would like to submit these comments on bill HB237, which seeks to mitigate the impacts of the invasive Two-lined Spittlebug (TLSB).

As noted in the bill, although TLSB was only detected in 2016, it has destroyed more than 150,000 acres of prime pastureland on the Big Island since then. I have personally visited some of these pastures, and the severe landscape shift is nearly indescribable. Where there were previously lush green grasses, thorny weeds like blackberry and non-forage plants like pamakani now dominate. Ranchers have already had to decrease herd sizes in order to adjust to the loss in available forage, leading to a direct negative impact on their bottom line.

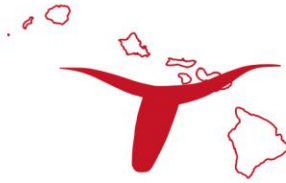
Additional to the direct impacts on ranchers, we see new potential challenges to conservation of our natural resources. Many ranches here abut the remaining high-elevation native forests and serve as a “buffer zone.” With the significant increase in weeds occurring just outside these native forest ranges, there is a great increase in propagule (seeds) that further increases the pressure by invasive plants encroaching on our watersheds and critical habitats.

BIISC has been involved with the outreach and response to TLSB, and we are very supportive of the research teams working on this issue. We do feel that environmental and economic impacts of this invasive species on our island and our state could grow increasingly worse with time, and that an early and quick response is critical.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Mahalo,

Franny Kinslow Brewer
Communications Director
fbrewer@hawaii.edu



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB237 HD2 SD1

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 9:45 a.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

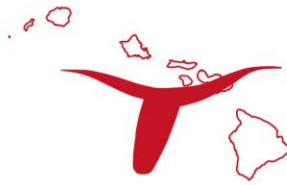
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports HB237 HD2 SD1** to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lined Spittlebug (TLSB) and recovery of rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

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 SD1** 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.

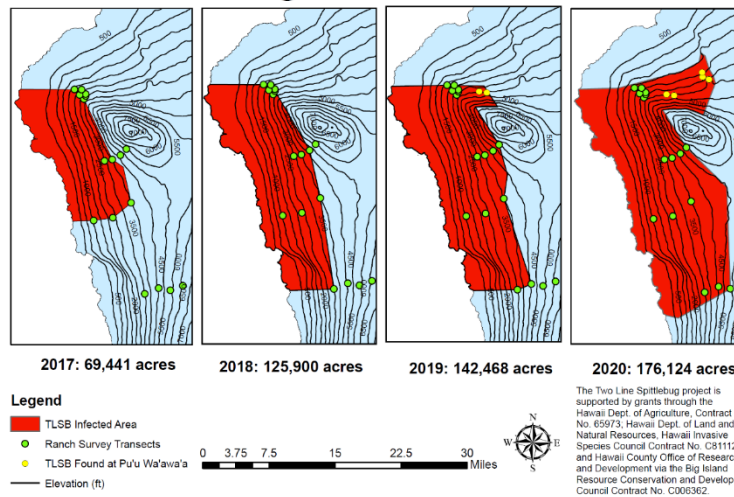




Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 9:24:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William G. Jacintho	Testifying for Maui Cattlemen's Association	Support	No

Comments:

Rangeland recovery is very important as the buffer for our watersheds.

Thank you,

MCA

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

HB237sd1, Relating to Invasive Species
Senate WAM Decision Making Hearing – 9:45am
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate WAM 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.



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 WAYS AND MEANS

April 7, 2021 – 9:45 a.m. – Via Videoconference

RE: HB 237 HD2 SD1 - Relating to Invasive Species – In Support

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

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 237 HD2 SD1, 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 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 AT 9:45 A.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 and Means,

SUPPORT HB237 HD2 SD1 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 SD1.

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.



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

April 07, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 237, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 211
9:45 AM

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 HB 237, HD2, SD1, 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.

HB-237-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 10:53:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

If this invasive bug is allowed to expand unchecked it will be devastating for our agricultural industry. This invasive species kills off pangola and kikuyu grasses which are very important and beneficial forage for our livestock. This invasive pest will prove to cause an unsustainable economic impact on our ranchers. Now is the time to put the effort into controlling and hopefully suppressing the further spread of this invasive species. We can make a difference/

We very sttrongly support HB237 HD2 SD1 for funds to be appropriated to aid in recovery from the damages from the Two lined Spittlebug and prevent the further spread of this invasive species.



HALEAKALA RANCH
• EST. MAUI 1888 •

April 5, 2021

Testimony Presented Before
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.

HB 237 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Haleakala Ranch strongly supports HB 237 HD2 SD1 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lined Spittlebug (TLSB) and recovery of rangelands, conservation lands, and other key lands that contribute to the quality of life in Hawaii.

As far as we know, TLSB is limited only to the Big Island, where it has catastrophic impacts on Kikuyu and other grasses. An immediate well thought-out management response is needed to **control existing infestations**; keep it from **spreading on** the Big island, where it spreads at roughly 35k acres/year; and to keep it from **vectoring to** other islands.

Healthy grazing and grasslands are not only critically important as forages supporting the Ranching industry and our state's pressing food security issues, they also play a key land stewardship role. The loss of living ground cover facilitates rapid and sometimes irreversible changes in Hawaii's vegetation and ecology at scale. Highly invasive weeds like Blackberry, fireweed, and gorse move very quickly onto lands infested by TLSB, changing the entire character of the landscape. ***This compromises agriculture, watershed protection efforts, wild land fire prevention, hiking and other recreational activities, the aesthetic value of open spaces, as well as our overall quality of life.*** Restoration of landscapes compromised by TLSB will very likely require **significant** additional investment, expertise, and coordination. If this pest continues to spread, we will inevitably have to lower our expectations of local food production and watershed protection.



HALEAKALA RANCH

• EST. MAUI 1888 •

As with most invasive species issues, especially with highly invasive species like TLSB, the sooner this can be addressed the better....damage, cost and consequence over time is exponential.

Haleakala Ranch strongly supports HB 237 HD2 SD1 for funds to be appropriated to aid in the recovery from the damage from the Two-lined Spittlebug and to prevent the spread of this invasive species.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.



Jordan Jokiel

Haleakala Ranch

Vice President of Land Management

CC: Don Young, President and CEO

Greg Friel, Vice President of Livestock



April 1, 2021

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

Testimony in Support of HB 237, H.D.2, S.D.1, 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 7/1/2021.)

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 9:45 a.m., in Conference Room 211 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, S.D.1** 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, S.D.1. 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 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, S.D.1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 — 9:45 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 237 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Invasive Species.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

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 SD 1, 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.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 10:44:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-237-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 4:46:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Woody Child	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 237 HD2 SD1.

HB-237-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 6:47:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 237

HB-237-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:13:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Mack Almasin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill to Hawaii ranchers. Thank you.

HB-237-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:17:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carolyn wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB237. The Two-lined Spittle Bug is shaping up to be one of the most serious new invasive species in Hawaii due to its extreme impact to our environment, the foundation for our food production, watersheds, and general character of our landscapes. This pest has the potential to completely destabilize the lands that support about 70% of our livestock industry. Funding is desperately needed to continue funding research and recovery efforts to control the effects and spread of this pest and devise strategies to restore the ecological integrity and agricultural capacity of the affected lands. Please support this bill and please support full funding of Hawaii's bio security plan. Our food security depends on it.

Mahalo, Carolyn Wong

LATE

Personal Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 237
RELATING to INVASIVE SPECIES

by
Jenee S. Odani, DVM, DACVP

House Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
9:45 am; via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 237**. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii nor CTAHR.

I know that this year brings with it many challenges for the State, including fiscal restrictions. However, I believe that the ongoing and growing threat posed by the Two-lined Spittlebug to Hawaii's lands and the ranchers that steward these lands warrants special consideration. Please appropriate funds to the Dept. of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pet.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.