



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 14, 2022 at 1:00 pm

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

HB 1714 HD1 – RELATING TO TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1714 HD1.

The two-lined spittlebug is another challenge to the biosecurity of Hawai'i agriculture. The bill does a credible job of describing the problem and its potential 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 Mānoa 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 1714 HD1 budgets funds to combat this pest, and puts those funds and decision making authority in the hands of the HDOA. We strongly support this effort as UHM/CTAHR already works closely with HDOA on this and on other biosecurity issues.

We support HB 1714 HD1, but defer to the HDOA as to their priorities and availability of personnel to support this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 14, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1714 HD 1, Relating to Two-Lined Spittlebugs.

Dear Chair Gabbard 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 the 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 1714 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands and pastures damaged by the invasive pest, and research.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 14, 2022, 1 p.m. – Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 1714 HD1 - Relating to Two-lined Spittlebugs –
In Support**

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

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 1714 HD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug, recovery of the rangelands and pastures damaged by the invasive pest, and research.

The two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016, where it had caused damage nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. As of September 2021, it has infested over 278 square miles or about 178,369 acres.

The two-lined spittlebug severely impacts the cattle industry as it kills the grass completely, providing conditions conducive to the growth of invasive species, weeds and lower forage quality grasses. While much has been done to address this issue, which included funding by the Legislature last session, more support and funding are needed to continue the efforts of the DOA and all stakeholders in mitigating and controlling the two-lined spittlebug population in the state. This effort should include assistance to ranchers as well as continued research to understand best practices for addressing the two-lined spittlebug. We need to continue to find ways to stop the spread of this invasive species to avoid a negative impact on 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 1714 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 14, 2022
1:00 P.M.**

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1714 HD1
RELATING TO TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1714 HD1, relating to two-lined spittlebugs. The bill appropriates funds from general fund for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be expended by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug, including but not limited to reducing the two-lined spittlebug population using insecticides, integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, reseeding pastures damaged by infestations, conduct research to inform best practices, and monitor the status of the two-lined spittlebug. The bill also requires the Department to report on progress and potential legislation needed to the Legislature. The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

March 14, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1714, HD1
RELATING TO TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1714, HD1, which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug, recovery of the rangelands and pastures damaged by the invasive pest, and research.

The Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

HB1714 HD1

Relating to Two-lined Spittlebugs

Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports HB1714 HD1** 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. We appreciate that the legislature understands the implications of this invasive species and therefore appropriated funding toward this issue in the 2021 legislative session. Ranchers are awaiting access to those funds, but continue to deploy efforts to curb the spread of the Twolined Spittlebug, and further years of investment in control and research is necessary. 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 NRCS, CTAHR researchers, HDOA, HISC, BIISC affected ranchers, and ranchers who are at threat. Outcomes include a website (www.tlsbhawaii.com), several informational videos, and outreach via webinars and conventions, and radio spots to raise awareness.

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. 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 September 2021 infests 178,369 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawaii have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle. Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.



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.

Ranchers in Hawaii are working hard to try to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and to keep their lands healthy and productive, but 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 HB1714 HD1** for funds to be appropriated to aid in research and recovery from the damage from the Two-lined Spittlebug and preventing the spread of the invasive species.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



March 9, 2022

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

Comments in Support of HB 1714, H.D. 1, Relating to Two-Lined Spittlebug (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug, recovery of the rangelands and pastures damaged by the invasive pest, and research; effective 7/1/2050.)

Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:00 p.m.; Conference Room 224 & 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 1714, H.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 1714, H.D. 1. This bill proposes to appropriate funds to be expended by the DOA to continue efforts to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug and recover rangelands damaged by the invasive pest; and for research to inform best practices and monitor the status of the two-lined spittlebug. The moneys shall be used to fund mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug, including reduction of the two-lined spittlebug population through the use of insecticides; integration of weed management measures in affected rangelands and pastures; reseedling of pastures damaged by infestations; and research to inform best practices and monitor the status of the two-lined spittlebug.

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 spittlebug threatens 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 1714, H.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2022 10:23:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Unger	Testifying for McCandless Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The TLSB is not just a rancher issue, it is a state wide issue. McCandless Ranch strongly supports HB1714.

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2022 10:31:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 1714 HD1

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2022 10:57:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to reiterate my support for HB1714 HD1 to procure funds for Hawaii Department of Agriculture for research on the Two-lined Spittlebug (TLSB) and for recovery of damaged rangelands affected by this invasive insect.

As a resident of Honokaa, I regularly drive past cattle pastures along the Hamakua coast and on the way to Waimea and recognize the importance of a healthy and viable ranching industry as an important and historic component of the Big Island’s agricultural economy.

As a former Maui resident and natural resource manager with Haleakala National Park, I have first-hand experience with well managed ranchlands (e.g., Haleakala Ranch and Ulupalakua Ranch) adjacent to conservation lands that provide an important buffer against the establishment of invasive, woody weeds that impact native ecosystems. In addition, these ranches serve as natural fuel breaks, slowing or preventing the spread of wildfires into endangered plant and animal habitat. In other words, good ranches make good neighbors.

The continued impacts of the TLSB will therefore have terrible consequences to both Hawaii’s economy and natural environment if they are not addressed now, while there is still time to minimize the negative effects and find solutions to mitigate their impacts.

I therefore strongly urge you to support HB1714 HD1 and provide HDOA and the ranching industry with the much-needed resources to continue to research and find solutions to this existential invasive pest.

Mahalo,

Charles Chimera

Honokaa, Hawaii

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2022 12:50:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
britt craven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Britt Craven, and I'm the President of Palani Ranch, as well as an owner of this ranch which has been in our family for 6 generations now. We're at ground zero for the TLSB. We're about to enter the 6th season. The impacts have been devastating, and have caused us to limit the number of cows we have on the ranch significantly below what we should be able to in normal circumstances. Due to this, we've not been able to break even or show any sort of profit for the past 6 years. We've invested over \$50,000+ dollars annually for the past 4 years to fight the TLSB and to a greater extent the negative impacts it's caused to the landscape.

Of greatest concern to me right now is the spread of the TLSB. As of now, the northern edge is at least within the State owned lands of Puuwaawaa. After it crosses through these lands the next stop will be the highly productive grazing lands of Waimea, North Kohala, and Hamakua. Should this happen, it could serve a crushing blow to the beef industry of Hawaii, not to mention all other grazing production.

I strongly support HB1714 and plead with all elected officials to approve this bill for the well being of our lands, those of us intrusted to steward them, and for the ag and conservation industries.

Respectfully submitted.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1714, H.D. 1

March 14, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1714, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Agriculture for mitigating and controlling two-lined spittlebug (TLSB), which include reducing the TLSB population using insecticides and integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, re-seeding pastures damaged by infestations; researching best practices; and monitoring the status of the TLSB.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 6:13:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1714.



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hfia@hawaiiforest.org

Website: www.hawaiiforest.org

Date: 03/11/2022

FROM: Hawaii'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara, Legislators Laura Acasio, Kurt Fevella, and Karl Rhoads

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of HB1714 HD1 Relating to Funds For the Control of the Two-Lined Spittlebug

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

The Hawaii'i Forest Industry Association supports HB1714 HD1, the funding mitigation and control of the Two-Lined Spittlebug, the reseeded of pastures damaged by infestations and research to inform best practices and monitor the status of the Two-Lined Spittlebug moving forward.

We are facing a very difficult foe. While it may seem like a good idea to take advantage of the demise of Hawaii's Kikuyu and Pangola grass lands to reforest Hawaii; the opposite will occur. That is, when the land is exposed to a plethora of aggressive pyrophytic (fire-loving) weeds after the Two-Lined Spittlebug has made its way through the land, and once fires are extinguished, the exposed damaged soil is going to attract more weeds. This is highly degrading to the land, soils and eventually to the watersheds. This is not good for cattle ranching; it is not good for forestry; it is not good for our communities. To do nothing and allow "nature to take her course" is disrespectful to the land and people of Hawaii.

While this devastating bug attacks our cattlemen and women's land and livelihood we need to do as the song says, "All Hawaii stand together". This is the time not only to do the right thing by cattle ranchers; we need to do the right thing for our potential forest lands, lands that are in transition, our watersheds and the future of our communities. This is an issue that should have the support of DLNR's Land Division as well as the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Therefore, HFIA supports this bill and recommends additional funds to mitigate damages caused by this bug.

Mahalo,

Peter Simmons

Peter D, Simmons, Secretary

Hawaii'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 100 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Don Bryan, Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Gilles Lebbe, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 8:40:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1714 per Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, HFB testimony

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

HB1714hd1, Relating to Two-lined Spittlebugs
Senate AEN Hearing – 1:00pm
Monday, March 14, 2022
CR224

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate AEN 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. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. 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---80% are raised on the Big Island. It's an industry 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 directly impacts food production and the replacement of imported beef.

We understand and appreciate the 2021 Session appropriations to address this issue. We also understand that the HDOA received limited funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug.

However, your continued support is needed to help ranchers mitigate and recover pasture lands. We strongly support the HD1 that includes support for the use of the appropriations to include research to inform best practices and monitor the status of the two-lined spittlebug.

Your favorable consideration of HB1714hd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 12:05:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support



TESTIMONY OF JACOB D. TAVARES, LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS BUSINESS MANAGER,
PARKER RANCH, INC.
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 14, 2022 1:00 pm
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1714 HD1

TITLE: RELATING TO TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

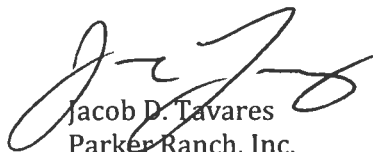
Parker Ranch, Inc. strongly supports House Bill 1714 HD1 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lines Spittlebug (TLSB) and recovery of rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

TLSB is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's local beef production. The TLSB is already affecting more than 175,000 acres of land on the Big Island and is spreading rapidly. Fellow rancher's whose grazing lands have been impacted by this invasive species, are dramatically reducing their herd sizes, and thus revenue streams. The livestock business is very low margin to begin with, and in light of Covid-19, we risk losing more of our family ranchers if a solution to this pest is not discovered soon.

We at Parker Ranch are fortunate that the TLSB has not yet reached our grazing lands, however the potential impacts that it would have on our grazing operations are, quite frankly, terrifying. The University of Hawaii CTAHR, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, HISC, BIISC, affected ranchers, those of us who are at threat, and other stakeholders within the Hawaii conservation and livestock industries have been hard at work to develop a solution to this growing infestation. That being said, more resources are needed if our industry is to combat this challenge in a timely manner.

Beyond affecting the livestock industry, this pest will continue to impact other food security concerns, watershed lands, and the further spread of invasive weeds. 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 Hawaii's delicate ecosystems. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



Jacob D. Tavares
Parker Ranch, Inc.
Manager, Livestock Business Operations

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 1:13:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. This invasive species directly affects food production since it destroys the grasses that cattle eat. Already, nearly 200,000 acres have been affected. Ranchers must be able to reseed areas wiped out by the Two-lined Spittlebug not only to provide forage for cattle, but to protect from runoff.

Ranchers continue to work hard to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this destructive pest, but they need help. Please pass this measure to fund HDOA for research efforts and other assistance. Thank you.

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 8:23:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support that more work and research needs to be done in developing methods to combat the TLSB, and selecting varieties of forages that are resistant or tolerant to the TLSB. Loss of the grasses opens up the land for invasive species that are much more difficult to control than grass.

Experimental work and trials also need to be done on the east side of Hawaii Island

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 7:21:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

Theresa Thompson

HB-1714-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 10:33:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support.