

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, February 1, 2021
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE BILL NO. 128
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 128. This bill establishes a Fungicide Subsidy Program to subsidize coffee growers for the purchase of fungicides to combat coffee leaf rust. The Department offers these comments.

This bill would establish a new fungicide subsidy program where there is already a functioning pesticide subsidy program in place. The pesticide subsidy program already has nearly 300 participating coffee farmers throughout Hawaii accounting for approximately 2,861 acres. A new program supported by the pesticide use revolving fund would require a new fungicide subsidy program manager position creating similar duties the current pesticides subsidy manager established by Act 152 SLH 2015 and extended by Act 32 ALH 2018.

Pesticides have numerous categories; the products designed to work against the Coffee Berry Borer are considered a bio-control pesticide, whereas Priaxor Xemium is a fungicide designed to eliminate the fungus which causes coffee leaf rust. The department suggests the naming of the program as a Coffee Pesticide Subsidy Program or Coffee Pest Control Subsidy Program would be a more appropriate use of the related terms.

The cost of the fungicide provided to the department is estimated at \$27.89 per acre to treat for coffee leaf rust. Fungicides will be required to be applied twice a year for successful control, doubling the cost to \$55.78 per acre. At the initial reimbursement rate of 75% for the first two years of the program, the \$900,000 allocation will provide approximately 21,500 acres with protection from coffee leaf rust.

In the information submitted to the Department of Agriculture, the total acreage expected to be treated is up to 8,000 acres of agricultural coffee (as opposed to feral and non-agricultural related populations of coffee, for which the department does not



have an accurate count). While the product cost is considerable at \$500 per gallon, each gallon of product can provide 20 acres of protection. The anticipated annual cost to protect 8,000 acres of agricultural coffee is \$400,000.

The total subsidy cost for years 1 and 2 should equate to approximately \$300,000 if the subsidy rate remains at 75% for the first two years of the program. Additives known as adjuvants will be required to properly apply the product. These additives will also increase the cost of application and may be added to the subsidy, but the costs and specific additives are unknown by the department at this time.

At the start of FY21, the pesticide use revolving fund rolled over \$90,941.61 from the previous fiscal year. There is not adequate funding to provide the requested \$400,000 allotment for the proposed fungicide subsidy program at the proposed subsidy rates of 75% for years 1 and 2 and 50% for subsequent years. Although fees for product renewals, newly licensed products, exams, certifications, and training were increased as of FY20, the department has initiated a request to move multiple general funded positions of the Pesticides Branch to the pesticide use revolving fund due to the anticipated budget shortfall. Reliance on general funds will not be required provided the monetary burden of the subsidy program is not allocated from the pesticide use revolving funds, the subsidy rates are reduced, and the Pest Inspection Quarantine and Eradication fund is not repealed or reduced for department use.

The department suggests the intent of both SB 128 and SB 129 could be better satisfied and require less additional resources by amending Act 105 SLH 2014 and Act 152 SLH 2015 to expand the types of pesticides and the sunset dates.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 1, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

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

SB 128 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 128 relating to agriculture and the use of pesticides to address the Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) issue.

According to the 2018 State Agriculture overview published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i produced 5.4 million pounds (green weight) of coffee grown on 7,100 harvested acres, with an average yield of 1.92 tons/acre, at a unit price of \$19.40/lb., for a value of \$50.16 million. These data show the high value of this crop to Hawai'i agriculture since that value is based on using just 0.65% of farm acres operated. There is no doubt that the economic challenges brought on by the pandemic has forced a significant negative impact on the coffee industry.

We can now add another challenge--CLR. As outlined in SB 128, CLR can be a devastating disease if it becomes established in a coffee orchard. The spores of the fungal disease are spread by the wind giving it a high potential to spread once established. Complicating CLR control is that there are coffee trees that escaped from orchards and are growing wild in the landscape. These trees, which are not under any level of supervision can be sources of the spores.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Cooperative Extension Service is a partner with other state and federal agencies in addressing the coffee industry's response to CLR. The controls range from sanitation of orchards to the use of fungicides. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource (CTAHR) runs the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) program that acquires data to test the efficacy of pesticides and to help a crop become labeled for a pesticide. Current IR-4 research is ongoing with respect to fungicide efficacy for CLR.

This bill focuses on providing subsidies for the use of a fungicide named Priaxor, which is a useful product when a systemic fungicide is recommended. This material is applied a limited number of times, and at a low rate per acre. CTAHR supports the

initial use of this fungicide and recommends fate and transport considerations be addressed at the same time due to its long chemical half-life. Subsidies are effective when used to direct activities of agricultural operations. This subsidy will have a significant influence on addressing CLR in the state.

This bill directs the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to spend funding on pesticide education and training. CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service can work with HDOA on this task. CTAHR already has an Extension Agent in Kona that is engaged in education and training. HDOA is also tasked with developing Integrated Pest Management Strategies to combat CLR. CTAHR can also help HDOA on this task.

The UHM and CTAHR testifies in strong support of this bill.

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 10:25:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The arrival of Coffee Leaf Rust on the island of Hawaii, and more specifically, the Kona region, has the potential to be disastrous. To those of us who are certified organic coffee farmers, the financial impact may mean the end of our ability to remain organic and practice sustainable agriculture. A financial subsidy is necessary for us to remain a viable and contributing component of the local economy and community.

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 7:22:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In addition to CBB, the Coffee industry is now faced with an even more devastating pest, Coffee Leaf Rust. As you are aware, this is the worst case senario for coffee growers. The cultivar of coffee grown in the kona district, which is reknown for it's coffee, is very suseptible to CLR. The hit on the economy will be substantial. Please support us with our determination to keep the coffee industry alive.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 1, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 128
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Videoconference
1:00 PM

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

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 128, which establishes a Fungicide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2026, to subsidize coffee growers for the purchase of fungicides to combat coffee leaf rust.

Coffee is one of Hawaii's signature crops; one that helps bring fame and tourists to Hawaii. A new threat, *Hemileia vasatrix* (coffee leaf rust), threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death that can result in up to 70% loss of yield. CLR has already been identified on Hawaii Island, Maui, and Oahu. CLR is the most destructive coffee disease in the world and can kill an entire farm in a matter of weeks. This fungus is a serious threat to Hawaii's agriculture industry and the state's economy.

Immediate action is needed to save Hawaii's second-highest value crop. The establishment of a Fungicide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment in one of the state's largest and most important agricultural crops.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 11:38:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Corker	Testifying for Rancho Aloha	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am a coffee farmer in the North Kona District of Hawaii County, and I am a Director of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association. I support the intent of SB128 to establish a Fungicide Subsidy Program to combat coffee leaf rust (CLR), but offer the following observations:

1—The inclusion of CLR within the current HDOA subsidy program for combatting coffee berry borer (as provided in HB236 and SB855) appears to be a better approach than this bill. The extension of the current program under HB236/SB855 should, however, be through 2027.

2—The great majority of coffee farms in Hawaii are small family-owned operations of fewer than 5 acres. I suggest that the CLR subsidy should be for not more than \$600/acre for the first 5 acres and for not more than \$25/acre for acreage above 5 acres.

3—I suggest that in order to prevent future introductions of coffee pests and diseases into Hawaii, the Legislature should require and fund a study into how CBB and CLR were introduced into the state—and mandate the HDOA to develop a vigorous program (similar to California’s protections for its farmers) for preventing future introduction of other coffee pests and diseases into our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker

Holualoa, Hawaii County



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
February 1, 2021

RE: Testimony in Support of SB128

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, President of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) testifying in support of SB128.

Coffee leaf rust (CLR) has been discovered on Hawaii Island, Maui, Oahu and Lanai. As outlined in the bill preamble it poses a devastating threat to Hawaii's coffee industry. CLR is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death. The discovery of Coffee Leaf Rust in Hawaii is an emergency and requires an emergency response.

Coffee is ranked by USDA as Hawaii's second highest value crop, second only to seed corn. The typical coffee farm in Hawaii is a small family farm, yet the largest farm in the state is also a coffee farm. For more details regarding Hawaii's coffee industry impacts on the State's economy, please see the attached document: [What's at Stake: The Loss of Hawaii's Coffee Industry, A Major Economic Driver](#)

We knew this day was coming and we have tried to prepare for it. The regulatory process is stringent and multilayered, time consuming and often expensive. We tried to build resiliency into our industry but the regulatory hurdles are high. Perhaps too high.

The HCA immediately mobilized by hosting weekly conference calls among HDOA, USDA, APHIS, PBARC UH CTAHR, HARC, lawmakers, other commodity groups and industry leaders. We have developed a Strategic Plan and are in communication with your counterparts in the US Congress.

UH was already working on approvals for systemic fungicides for use on coffee that are approved for use on other crops. Our entire industry is working collaboratively to accelerate this process. One of our largest producers with was met by insurmountable headwinds when they tried to import rust resistant varieties three short years ago. We are working with USDA and HDOA to streamline the importation and quarantine process for rust resistant coffee varieties and to build capacity of quarantine facilities.

Like so many other industries we are reeling in the wake of COVID. Our member surveys indicate that most producers' sales were severely impacted (80% or more), but unlike many other industries ours is layered with a devastating coffee disease that threatens our existence.

We appreciate the intent of this SB128, fully support it and hope you do too.

An additional need we hope you consider is for a CLR coordinator to work on this problem full-time. We understand there are often long delays for hiring within state government and sometimes positions that are allocated go unfilled. We ask that HDOA be empowered to immediately issue a contract for a CLR response coordinator that can fulfill this mission while a more permanent position can be funded, recruited and filled. We respectfully ask that you amend this measure to provide for short- and long-term relief in this capacity.

Another impending need will be the replacement of existing coffee trees with rust resistant varieties. The cost of this replacement will drive many farms out of business. DOFAW has The Hawaii Forest Stewardship Program that began in 1991 through the passage of Act 327 of the Hawaii State Legislature. We ask the Legislature to expand that program to provide eligibility for coffee trees or to model a similar program to assist coffee farmers in the replacement of coffee trees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your support for Hawaii's coffee.



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

What's at Stake: The Loss of Hawaii's Coffee Industry, A Major Economic Driver

As growers of the #2 crop in the State, we are just under 1,500 strong who tend more than 10,000 acres. The value of our coffee is second only to Hawaii's seed cropsⁱ. For the 2019-2020 season, Hawaii's unroasted coffee was valued at \$88.76 millionⁱⁱ, while its roasted value was more than \$120 million.

Now, we're facing the most destructive coffee disease in the world: Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR), a fungus that can kill an entire farm in a matter of weeks. Annually, CLR causes \$3 billion in damage and lost income around the world.

In Hawaii, the stakes are higher than elsewhere. While most other coffee-growing regions have planted rust-resistant varieties, all of the ones commercially grown in Hawaii are not resistant. And the best fungicides used to fight this disease have not been approved here.

CLR is spreading rapidly on Maui, Big Island and Oahu. Its spores move easily on wind or by hitchhiking on workers, equipment and tourists. As a result, farmers are facing defoliation and a loss of yield up to 70% or more.

To help save our industry and the families that depend on it we need State, Federal and private support and we need it NOW.

Without action, we stand to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in Hawaii's economy –a contribution that far exceeds the value of the beans themselves. To grow our coffee, we hire thousands of workers and buy from local industries such as transportation and vendors of agricultural supplies. This so-called "downstream economic impact" is valued at about \$182 millionⁱⁱⁱ.

Then there is the "upstream economic impact" of Hawaii coffee, which is unquantified: Unlike most other crops grown here, Hawaii coffee is shelf stable. That makes it a major attraction for the souvenir market, drawing tourists to shops, cafes and agritourism operations statewide. In turn, these visitors create demand for Hawaiian coffee once they return home. Exports of coffee from Hawaii, valued at \$9.20 million^{iv} in 2019, are an ongoing advertisement for the Hawaii islands.

The economic losses would have an outsized impact in rural areas, where few other industries exist. Remember the collapse of the local sugar industry? We can expect similar results: dramatically increasing unemployment -- especially of historically underserved and minority

populations – accompanied by increasing crime and drug use. Not to mention the harm to almost 200 years of coffee-growing history and the cultural heritage of our islands.

What We Need:

- Statewide approval of the most effective CLR fungicides, and subsidies for farmers to purchase them.
- Support for development of the best CLR-management strategies in Hawaii, as well as support to educate farmers of them.
- Support for research of the best CLR resistant varieties that will maintain the quality of Hawaii coffees. Also support for the importation, propagation and distribution of CLR-resistant varieties, including expanded plant quarantine facilities. (This is a 5-10 year project.)
- Support for farmers to replace their existing fields with rust-resistant varieties.
- *Support for other ways to build capacity and resilience within farm communities.*

Contact:

- Chris Manfredi, President, Hawaii Coffee Association president@hawaiicoffeeassoc.org
- Suzanne Shriner, Administrator, Synergistic Hawaii Ag Council suzanne@shachawaii.org

ⁱ \$50.16 million vs \$105.7 million for Seed Crops (including seed corn), in 2018. Source: State of HI, HDOA Market Analysis and News Branch “Top 20 Agr Commodities Produced: State of Hawaii, 2018

ⁱⁱ \$88.76 million. Source: USDA-NASS. Jan 2020. “Coffee”. <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/3t945q80c/7h14b624g/37720v92g/cafean20.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Using multiplier of 2.05. Correspondence from HDOA chair P. Shimabuku to USDA Secretary S. Perdue, dated November 19, 2020

^{iv} \$5.33 million in roasted coffee from Hawaii + \$3.87 million in unroasted coffee from Hawaii. Source: USDA Global Agricultural Trade System. 2019 data.

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 3:52:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harold M Hoogasian	Testifying for Kona Perfect (Member of KCFA)	Support	No

Comments:

The coffee growing industry is an important part of the Hawaii economy. Please continue this important funding.

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 7:11:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

SB128

EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

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

Please pass SB128 to extend the HDOA’s existing subsidy program for Beauveria bassiana to combat the coffee berry borer. Please extend the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program, for the purchase of pesticides containing Beauveria bassiana to combat the coffee berry borer. Extend the program manager position to 6/30/2027.

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **to please extend SB129**. Our two Kona coffee farms [Honalo Farm; Cynthiana Farm] have annual infestations of coffee borer beetles. As fledgling farmers, we were shocked to realize how vulnerable our coffee crop was to beetle damage, **and how much work it was for each farm to battle this harmful pest**. Indeed, it is a lot of work for every coffee farmer to battle the beetle. Thus, we really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-administered subsidy program for Botanigard and Mycotrol, which are rather expensive pest-control materials. Without this governmental support, we (and other coffee farmers) could not maintain the economic viability of the coffee business. Having enough quality coffee at the end of the growing season is exceedingly important. The volcanic VOG was harmful for coffee as well so yields have been affected badly. **For us, the investment to get started was huge and then to have to battle the beetle; it’s been work, work, work, spend, spend, spend. We thank you for the support thus far. Then came the pandemic and the collapse of wholesale sales.**

The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a risk that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii-heritage agriculture crops. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui. Piled on top one of our farms have leaf rust!

The most effective way to reduce the damage caused by CBB is the application of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. The current HDOA-administered subsidy program for *Beauveria bassiana* is assisting farmers to develop effective integrated pest management (IPM) to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. **The extension of the current HDOA subsidy through 6/30/2027, is a reasonable step toward continuing to save the coffee growing industry in Hawaii**, the sole center of commercial production in the USA.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and ask that you please support SB128 so that the subsidy can be extended until 6/30/2027. We, as small farm owners/operators, request your continued support to mitigate this agricultural problem.

Mahalo in advance for your support.

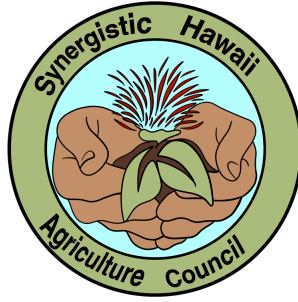
Sincerely,

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff

cmaryanoff@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

31 Jan 2021



RE: SUPPORT for SB128

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Coffee Leaf Rust; Appropriations; Fungicides; Subsidy Program

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council stands in support of this Bill. Our three founding associations - the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association, the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, and the Hawaii Coffee Association - represent businesses, from growers to processors and shippers, stretching across the State of Hawaii.

Coffee leaf rust (CLR), caused by the fungus *Hemileia vastatrix*, is the number one limitation to coffee production globally. Newly discovered in Hawaii, CLR is an especially difficult disease to control. Left untreated, CLR causes defoliation, crop loss and tree death. A rapid response is necessary to prevent the loss of Hawaii's keynote specialty crop.

Pesticide subsidies have been proven effective in Hawaii. Of note, coffee berry borer subsidies have reduced the level of bean damage across the state, allowing growers to maintain their incomes and protecting the reputation of Hawaiian coffee throughout the world. A CLR subsidy would have the same effect.

Thank you for considering support to this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
Administrator

Dear Committee Chair Gabbard and Members,

We have been growing, processing and selling 100% Kona coffee near the village of Holualoa for 22 years. We strongly support SB128.

Farming has always been challenging, and now while we are still trying to control the coffee berry borer (CBB), we have another threat – coffee leaf rust (CLR), far more threatening than CBB

We strongly support the proposed fungicide subsidy program to assist coffee farmers in paying for fungicides that will hopefully help control CLR.

Please support the growers of fine Hawaii coffees and pass this bill.

Mahalo,
Clare & Phil Wilson
Huahua Farm
Holualoa, Hawaii

Member, KCFA

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 5:09:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have been a Kona coffee farmer in Holualoa for 21 years. In 2010 CBB was discovered, and we have been fighting it since, with help from the Hawaii Legislature and funding from the USDA. This funding is essential to help farmers afford to spray appropriately for CBB infestation. Now we face another devastating pest, Coffee Leaf Rust, that threatens to kill our trees. Farmers desperately need financial help to afford the fungicides necessary to control CLR. PLEASE PASS SB 128.

SB-128

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:07:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

SB128 needs your support!!

SB128 will establish a new HDOA fungicide subsidy program to combat coffee leaf rust.

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

Please pass SB128.

First we had CBB infestation [Mahalo for your support].

Then we had volcanic activity and VOG

Then the pandemic really took out coffee sales.

NOW we have leaf rust!

On behalf of all of the small Kona coffee farms, we are submitting this written testimony **to** support SB128 will establish a new HDOA fungicide subsidy program to combat coffee leaf rust.

Our two Kona coffee farms [Honalo Farm; Cynthiana Farm] have annual infestations of coffee borer beetles. As fledgling farmers, we were shocked to realize how vulnerable our coffee crop was to beetle damage, **and how much work it was for each farm to battle this harmful pest.** Indeed, it is a lot of work for every coffee farmer to battle the beetle. Thus, we really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-

administered subsidy program for Botanigard and Mycotrol, which are rather expensive pest-control materials. Without this governmental support, we (and other coffee farmers) could not maintain the economic viability of the coffee business. Having enough quality coffee at the end of the growing season is exceedingly important. The volcanic VOG was harmful for coffee as well so yields have been affected badly. **For us, the investment to get started was huge and then to have to battle the beetle; it's been work, work, work, spend, spend, spend. We thank you for the support thus far. Then came the pandemic and the collapse of wholesale sales.**

The threat of Coffee Leaf Rust creates a risk that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii-heritage agriculture crops.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and ask that you please support SB128 to establish a new HDOA fungicide subsidy program to combat coffee leaf rust.

Mahalo in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff

bmaryano@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

31 Jan 2021