

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

Monday, January 31, 2022
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2907
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2907. This bill requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to classify coffee leaf rust (CLR) as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, prevention, or control actions for coffee leaf rust. The Department supports the intent of this bill but offers these comments.

Although the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), through Hawaii Revised Statutes 192, can promulgate administrative rules, the HISC has not engaged in active rulemaking at this time to create a list of invasive species necessary to include the coffee leaf rust. The Department, however, has listed the invasive plant pathogen, *Hemileia vastatrix*, the coffee leaf rust under Hawaii Administrative Rules 4-69A as a pest for response and control under the authority of Hawaii Revised Statutes 141-3. As such, the Department believes we have sufficient authority for CLR to act and respond in any capacity the Legislature so desires, in addition to the technical expertise needed. However due to current budgetary restrictions, HDOA does not currently have the discretionary funds available to support mitigatory efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Monday, January 31, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

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

SB 2907 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

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 the intent for Senate Bill 2907 on classifying coffee leaf rust as invasive species and directing funding for mitigation efforts.

As stated in SB 2907, coffee leaf rust is an important invasive fungal disease that has had significant deleterious effect on world-wide coffee production. Its introduction to Hawai'i has the potential to seriously hurt the Hawaiian coffee industry, and hence, damage the state's agricultural industry.

Combatting an infectious disease like leaf rust requires a combination of research to define additional methods of control, development of area-wide integrated pest management procedures that implement the research, and the funding to support these activities.

While the need that this bill expresses is real and needed, it does not provide specific funding to accomplish its goal. Therefore, we defer to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as to whether the current funding and diverse needs/responsibilities of the Council state-wide is conducive to meeting this requirement.

With that mind we support the intent of SB 2907.

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
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NICHOLAS COMERFORD, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Before the Senate Committee on AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, January, 31, 2022

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224

In consideration of SENATE BILL 2907 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 2907 proposes to require the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council offers the following comments.**

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) was established in 2003 for the "purpose of providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful." (§ 194-2(a) HRS). As part of fulfilling this purpose, the HISC disburses state funding to support interagency invasive species projects that:

- Fill gaps between agency mandates or existing agency programs, and/or
- Advance our collective knowledge through research and development of new tools.

Funds are disbursed via an intra-governmental granting process wherein state, county, and federal offices may submit requests for funding and meet to collaboratively draft a recommended budget for HISC review and final approval.

HISC has not yet adopted any administrative rules to carry out its authorities. Therefore, there is no list of invasive species identified by HISC for control or eradication to which coffee leaf rust could be added. HISC staff hopes to prioritize the development of these rules. However, the authorities in chapter 194 HRS are complex and involve all member departments of the HISC. They also provide the departments that make up the HISC, counties, and their employees and authorized agents authority to enter private property to control or eradicate invasive species, which has implications for property rights and other Constitutional requirements. It will take the cooperation of all the members of the HISC working with the Department of the Attorney General to determine how the HISC policies and authorities should be set out in rules.

The HISC recognizes that coffee leaf rust is a major fungal pest that threatens our coffee industry in Hawai'i and will continue to work with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). HDOA is the lead agency in this response and has already listed *Hemileia vastatrix*, the coffee leaf rust, under Hawai'i Administrative Rules 4-69A as a pest for response and control under the authority of Hawai'i Revised Statutes 141-3.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

JANUARY 31, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2987
RELATING TO CRIMES ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

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 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 2987, and any other measure which would help to deter agricultural crime in Hawaii.

Hawaii farmers are begging for help against theft, vandalism, and trespass. Something must be done to stop criminals from taking advantage of the hard work of agricultural producers, especially during this pandemic when many are on the verge of going out of business. Ag crime must be taken more seriously by the county police departments, prosecutors, and judges. If we want agriculture to be successful in Hawaii, we need to do more to catch criminals and penalize them enough to deter repetition.

The latest USDA agricultural crime statistics show a grim picture for Hawaii farmers and ranchers trying to stay in business. Ag theft and other crimes cost Hawaii farm producers **\$14.4 million, or 10% of the 2018 Hawaii net farm income of \$142 million.**

(https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Hawaii/Publications/Miscellaneous/AgTheft_2019.pdf)

This includes theft of farm commodities, materials, equipment, and other property. Statewide vandalism costs were over half a million dollars. Security costs to prevent theft and/or vandalism were over \$11 million. According to the report, nearly 4,000 incidents of theft, 1,112 incidents of vandalism, and 14,262 trespassing incidents occurred during

2019. In some counties, 25% of all farms report being vandalized or stolen from. And many farmers give up on calling law enforcement because there is no follow-up.

Farmers are spending millions of dollars to install expensive security measures that haven't been effective in stopping crime, and ironically, in some cases are themselves stolen. Ag crime is increasing and farmers cannot solve this problem on their own.

Thank you for your efforts to protect and support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
January 31, 2022

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2907; RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, President of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) testifying in support of SB2907.

Coffee leaf rust (CLR) has been discovered on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Maui, Oahu and Lanai. CLR 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.

A report released on January 21, 2022 by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) suggests the value of Hawaii's green coffee crop in the 2021-22 season is \$113,013,600. This figure places coffee at the top of the charts in crop value, and does not account for upstream and downstream revenue in terms of value-added products and ancillary businesses. It's also important to note the coffee industry promotes tourism, and preserves open space, view planes and watersheds.

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.*

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) was formed to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. HISC fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research.

This measure is designed to empower HISC to help our industry address and survive this crisis. It will unlock resources and expertise otherwise unavailable to Hawaii's coffee farmers.

Please pass this measure to help our industry, our economy and the countless families that depend on Hawaii's coffee industry.

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



Released January 21, 2022, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Coffee Utilized Production Up 17 Percent from Last Season

Hawaii utilized coffee production is forecast at 26.7 million pounds (cherry basis) for the 2021-2022 season, up 17 percent from the previous season. Bearing acreage totaled 7,100 acres, up 300 acres from the previous year. Average yield, at 3,820 pounds (cherry basis) per acre, was up 310 pounds from the previous year.

Coffee Bearing Acreage, Yield, Production, Price, and Value – Hawaii and United States: 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022

State	Bearing acreage			Yield per acre ¹		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Hawaii	6,900	6,800	7,100	3,952	3,510	3,820
United States	6,900	6,800	7,100	3,952	3,510	3,820
State	Total production ¹			Utilized production ¹		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Hawaii	27,270	23,870	27,120	26,880	22,715	26,690
United States	27,270	23,870	27,120	26,880	22,715	26,690
State	Price per pound ¹			Value of utilized production ¹		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Hawaii	2.02	2.13	2.25	54,298	48,383	60,053
United States	2.02	2.13	2.25	54,298	48,383	60,053

¹ Cherry basis.

Coffee Utilized Production and Price on Equivalent Basis – Hawaii: 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022

Basis and State	Utilized production			Price per pound		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Parchment						
Hawaii	6,400	5,390	6,510	14.10	13.40	12.40
Green						
Hawaii	5,120	4,312	5,208	20.10	19.40	21.70

Coffee Harvested Not Sold Production – Hawaii and United States: 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022

State	Harvested not sold ¹		
	2019-2020 (1,000 pounds)	2020-2021 (1,000 pounds)	2021-2022 (1,000 pounds)
Hawaii	390	1,155	430
United States	390	1,155	430

¹ Cherry basis.

Definition of Terms

Bearing acreage: An orchard or grove is considered to be of bearing age when it can normally be expected to produce a commercially significant quantity of the crop. Bearing age is a function of many factors including variety, rootstock, year planted, etc.

Harvested not sold: Fruit of marketable quality that was picked but not sold for various reasons.

Total production: The quantity of a crop actually harvested.

Unutilized production: The difference between total and utilized production, which is marketable fruit harvested not sold or utilized.

Utilized production: The amount of a crop sold plus the quantity used at home or held in storage.

Yield per acre: Unless otherwise stated, yield per acre is based on total production.

Value: Crop value estimates in this report cover the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with cash receipts which are based on a calendar year.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Standardized probability grower surveys are conducted semiannually to collect acreage, yield, production, and price data. All millers are also surveyed semiannually to determine quantity handled. Data from operators is collected by mail, internet, telephone, or personal interview to ensure adequate coverage.

Estimating Procedures: Information obtained from the coffee grower and miller surveys along with federal administrative data is used to establish estimates of bearing acres, yield, total production, utilized production, price, and value. These estimates are reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates.

Revision Policy: End-of-season estimates will be published in the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Summary* released in May. Revisions the following year are based on a thorough review of all available data.

Reliability: Survey indications are subject to sampling variability because all operations growing coffee are not included in the sample. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but they are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@usda.gov

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch.....	(202) 720-2127
Fleming Gibson, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section	(202) 720-2127
Fleming Gibson – Blueberries, Cranberries, Cucumbers, Pistachios, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Strawberries, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-2127
Deonne Holiday – Almonds, Apples, Asparagus, Carrots, Coffee, Onions, Plums, Prunes, Sweet Corn, Tobacco.....	(202) 720-4288
Robert Little – Apricots, Dry Beans, Lettuce, Macadamia, Maple Syrup, Nectarines, Pears, Snap Beans, Spinach, Tomatoes	(202) 720-3250
Krishna Rizal – Artichokes, Cauliflower, Celery, Garlic, Grapefruit, Hazelnuts, Kiwifruit, Lemons, Mandarins and tangerines, Mint, Mushrooms, Olives, Oranges,.....	(202) 720-5412
Chris Wallace – Avocados, Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chickpeas, Chile Peppers, Dates, Floriculture, Grapes, Hops, Pecans	(202) 720-4215
Antonio Torres – Cantaloupes, Dry Edible Peas, Green Peas, Honeydews, Lentils, Papayas, Peaches, Sweet Cherries, Tart Cherries, Walnuts, Watermelons	(202) 720-2157

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750
February 2021

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 \$102.91 millionⁱⁱ, while its roasted value was more than \$148.48 millionⁱⁱⁱ.

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 has been found and is spreading rapidly on Hawaii Island, Maui, Oahu and Lanai. Its spores are spread by wind, workers, rain, 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, as well as the communities and 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 \$211 million^{iv}.

Then there is the "upstream economic impact" of Hawaiian coffee, which is unquantified. Compared to most other crops grown here, coffee offers two advantages: 1) Its worldwide popularity boosts the tourism potential of events such as the Kona Coffee Festival. 2) It is shelf stable. That makes Hawaiian coffee a major attraction for the souvenir market, drawing tourists to shops, cafes and agritourism operations statewide. In turn, these visitors create more worldwide demand for Hawaiian coffee once they return home. For example, foreign exports of coffee from Hawaii, valued at \$9.20 million^v in 2019, are an ongoing international advertisement for the Hawaii islands.

The economic losses from CLR 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 \$54.3 million for Coffee vs \$109.5 million for Seed Crops (including seed corn), in 2019. Source: State of HI, HDOA Market Analysis and News Branch “Top 20 Agricultural Commodities Produced: State of Hawaii, 2019.”

ⁱⁱ 2019-2020 season, pounds of utilized production (green beans) x price per pound: 5,120,000 pounds x \$20.10/pound = \$102.91 million. Source: USDA-NASS. Jan 2021. “Coffee”.

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Hawaii/Publications/Fruits_and_Nuts/Coffee-01-26-2021.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ This is a wholesale roasted estimate of the value of the 2019-2020 season crop, priced at \$29.00 per pound: 5,120,000 pounds x \$29.00/pound = \$148.48 million. The \$29.00/pound is an average statewide value that takes into account the lower wholesale prices of mechanically harvested coffee (Kauai, Oahu and Maui beans) and the higher prices of hand-harvested beans (Kona, Ka’u).

^{iv} Using multiplier of 2.05, applied to the 2019-2020 season value of the State’s green beans: \$102.91 million x 2.05 = \$210.97 million. Multiplier from correspondence between HDOA chair P. Shimabuku and USDA Secretary S. Perdue, dated November 19, 2020.

^v \$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-2907

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:56:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James Kimo Falconer	Testifying for Hawaii Coffee Growers Association	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill that requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify Coffee Leaf Rust as an invasive species in it's administrative rules.

Mahalo

SB-2907

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:07:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lorie Obra	Testifying for Rusty's Hawaiian LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I Support SB2907 so that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council can classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules. Our coffee industry is in dire need of funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention and/or control actions for coffee leaf rust. The impact on our coffee farms is happening quickly and we need quick action to prevent serious damage to the farmers in our coffee industry.

SB-2907

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:26:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joan Obra	Testifying for Isla Custom Coffees and Rusty's Hawaiian	Support	No

Comments:

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2907; RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Joan Obra, co-owner of Isla Custom Coffees and Rusty’s Hawaiian. Isla Custom Coffees is a seller of green beans (also known as unroasted coffee) grown throughout the state of Hawaii. Rusty’s Hawaiian is my family’s award-winning coffee farm, mill and roastery in the Ka‘u District of Hawaii Island.

I am writing to testify in support of SB2907. Since its discovery on Maui during the fall of 2020, Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) has spread to Hawaii Island, Kauai, Oahu and Lanai. CLR poses a devastating threat to Hawaii’s coffee industry. It is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death.

In 2021, we witnessed extreme defoliation effects in the Kona coffee belt that will reduce the volume of marketable coffee in the 2022-2023 harvest season. Also last year, CLR spread to at least three of the Ka‘u District’s coffee-growing areas. Based on the experience of Kona coffee farmers, we expect similar defoliation in Ka‘u over the course of 2022.

For a detailed look at how CLR can affect Hawaii’s economy, I refer you to “What’s at Stake: The Loss of Hawaii’s Coffee Industry, A Major Economic Driver.” This analysis is attached to the testimony in support of SB2907 from Chris Manfredi, president of the Hawaii Coffee Association.

The spread of CLR in Hawaii is an emergency and requires an emergency response. Classifying it as an invasive species would unlock the Hawaii Invasive Species Council’s valuable research, funding, and control measures for this pest.

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

Sincerely,
Joan Obra

SB-2907

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:00:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suzanne Shriner	Testifying for Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council	Support	No

Comments:

Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council, an agricultural consortium representing growers statewide, supports the classification of Coffee Leaf Rust as an invasive species.

Thank you
Suzanne Shriner
Administrator

SB-2907

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:57:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Luis F Aristizabal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) is the most aggressive invasive plant pathogen that affects coffee plantations around the world. If we as coffee farmers do not address the CLR issue right now, in the next 2-3 years we do not have more coffee industry in Hawaii. We can get CLR under control, but we have to use all tools available for suppress this devastating disease including cultural control practices, sprays of fungicides (preventive and systemic) and introduction of coffee plants resistant to CLR. It is a big challenge, that all together coffee farmers, coffee industry and state and federal agencies we have to address.

Luis F. Aristizabal

Independent Consultant /Coffee Farmer

SB-2907

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:52:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Iris Iwami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been alarmed how quickly Coffee Leaf Rust has established on all the islands. This invasive (new to Hawaii) disease severely affects coffee plants and yield and has a devastating impact on coffee farmers and Hawaiian agriculture.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) was formed to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international entities. HISC is instrumental for local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. HISC fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research. This measure is designed to empower HISC to help our industry address and survive this crisis. It will unlock resources and expertise otherwise unavailable to Hawaii's coffee farmers.

Please pass this measure to help our industry, our economy and the countless families that depend on Hawaii's coffee industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Iwami, Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2907

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 4:28:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Bateman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair and Committee:

Heavenly Hawaiian Farms strongly supports SB 2907.

CLR is the most devastating fungus to infest the coffee industry. This fungus is much more lethal to our industry than the CBB pest that hit us 11 years ago. This fungus can defoliate and kill coffee trees. We desperately need both scientific support to assess and plan a response and financial support to implement the response. This is the most serious challenge we have ever had to the coffee industry,

The potential losses to coffee farmers, families, community and our Hawaii economy will be astronomical if we are not successful. We are all in this wa'a together. Let's battle this new challenge together and defeat it!

David Bateman, President

Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

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Testimony in support SB2907

As a small, firsthand coffee farmer, (The 4 Sens, LLC., Captain Cook) coffee producer/roaster and a member of the Hawaii Coffee Association and Kona Coffee Farmers Association, my business is in jeopardy due to the recent (October 2021) introduction of **Coffee Leaf Rust**. Coffee Leaf Rust is a highly contagious plant disease that moved throughout coffee fields in the state within months affecting almost every farm. The State was not prepared for Coffee Leaf Rust introduction so there were no tools labeled in Hawaii to combat the negative effects on tree health and survival.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) was formed to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. HISC fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research. This measure, SB2907, is designed to empower HISC to help our industry address and survive this crisis. It will unlock resources and expertise otherwise unavailable to Hawaii's coffee farmers. Please pass this measure to help our industry, our economy and the countless families that depend on Hawaii's coffee industry.