

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
10:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

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 Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

HISC was established in 2003 by Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and is administered under the Department. HISC is co-chaired by the chairs of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the Department and members include representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawaii that provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning 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. As part of their mandate, HISC disburses state funding to support interagency invasive species projects 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.

Currently, there are no administrative rules for Chapter 194, HRS, where coffee leaf rust could be listed as an invasive species by HISC. The Department understands that coffee leaf rust is major pest to Hawai'i and there is a need for additional coordination and resources to manage its spread. The coordinated efforts of the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Working Group have helped our understanding of the fungal pathogens that cause ROD and minimized the spread across the State.

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Similar actions to address coffee leaf rust have already been taken by HDOA, who is leading the response effort and listed the invasive plant pathogen, *Hemileia vastatrix*, the coffee leaf rust, under Chapter 69A, Hawaii Administrative Rules, as a pest for response and control under the authority of Section 141-3, HRS. HISC and the Department will continue to coordinate with HDOA as necessary on response efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRAURY 23, 2022

10:05 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2907  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Dela Cruz 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 and offers comments.

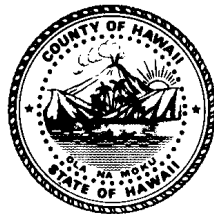
Although the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), through Hawaii Revised Statutes 194-2(a), can promulgate administrative rules, the HISC has not engaged in active rulemaking at this time to create a list of invasive species necessary to include the coffee leaf rust. The Department, however, has listed 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 it



has 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 limitations, HDOA does not currently have the discretionary funds available to support mitigatory efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust other than to fund the pesticides subsidy program for Coffee Berry Borer and CLR. HDOA as a member agency of HISC will continue to cooperate with all members of HISC.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



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## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 22, 2022

### TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON SB 2907, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:05am

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2907. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawai'i invasive species council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules in order to utilize available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

The coffee leaf rust pathogen was discovered for the first time in the United States on the islands of Hawai'i and Maui. Coffee leaf rust causes severe defoliation that greatly reduces the photosynthetic capacity of the coffee plants. Long-term effects of coffee leaf rust may include dieback, which has a significant impact on the following year's yield and causes an estimated thirty per cent to eighty per cent loss if not properly treated. Efforts to control coffee leaf rust are critical to sustaining the coffee industry--which nets over \$54,300,000 in revenue annually--and the State must continue to support these efforts.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



Hawaii Coffee Association  
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
February 23, 2022

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director 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 <sup>1</sup>		
	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 <sup>1</sup>			Utilized production <sup>1</sup>		
	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 <sup>1</sup>			Value of utilized production <sup>1</sup>		
	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

<sup>1</sup> 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)
<b>Parchment</b>						
Hawaii .....	6,400	5,390	6,510	14.10	13.40	12.40
<b>Green</b>						
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 <sup>1</sup>		
	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

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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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 one of the State's most important agricultural crops, we are nearly 1,500 strong tending more than 10,000 acres. Not only do we preserve open space and watersheds, we are a pillar of the local economy: For the 2021-2022 season, the USDA values Hawaii's unroasted coffee at \$113.01 million<sup>1</sup>. The roasted equivalent is worth more than \$161.45 million<sup>2</sup>. These narrow statistics fall short of accounting for upstream and downstream revenues from increased tourism and ancillary businesses. They do not account for the countless citizens and their families who depend on Hawaii-grown coffee for their livelihoods.

After more than 200 years of growing coffee on these islands, our industry is 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, Kauai and Lanai. Its spores are spread by wind, workers, rain, equipment and tourists. As a result, farmers are facing defoliation, a loss of yield up to 70% or more and significantly higher production costs. So far, in the 2021-2022 season, many farmers have had to raise their prices for unroasted coffee between \$1.50 and \$3.00+ per pound.

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<sup>1</sup> 2021-2022 season estimate, pounds of utilized production (green beans) x price per pound: 5,208,000 pounds x \$21.70/pound = \$113.01 million. Source: USDA-NASS. Jan 2022. "Coffee".

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Hawaii/Publications/Fruits\\_and\\_Nuts/Coffee%20Data%20Release%202022.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Hawaii/Publications/Fruits_and_Nuts/Coffee%20Data%20Release%202022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> This is a wholesale roasted estimate of the value of the 2021-2022 season crop, priced at \$31.00 per pound: 5,208,000 pounds of green beans x \$31.00/pound = \$161.45 million. The \$31.00/pound is an average statewide value for the season 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). It also reflects rising cost of production due to CLR.

**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. For the 2021-2022 season, this so-called “downstream economic impact” is estimated at about \$231.67 million<sup>3</sup>.

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 \$10.60 million<sup>4</sup> in 2020, 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 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 Executive Director, Hawaii Coffee Association, [cmanfredi@hawaiicoffeeassoc.org](mailto:cmanfredi@hawaiicoffeeassoc.org)
- Suzanne Shriner Administrator, Synergistic Hawaii Ag Council, [suzanne@shachawaii.org](mailto:suzanne@shachawaii.org)

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<sup>3</sup> Using multiplier of 2.05, applied to the 2021-2022 season value of the State's green beans: \$113.01 million x 2.05 = \$231.67 million. Multiplier from correspondence between HDOA chair P. Shimabuku and USDA Secretary S. Perdue, dated November 19, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Worldwide exports of \$4.46 million in roasted coffee from Hawaii + \$6.14 million in unroasted coffee (green beans) from Hawaii. Source: USDA Global Agricultural Trade System. 2020 data.



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February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2907**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 SB 2907**, which requires the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council 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.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few.

A new threat, *Hemileia vasatrix* (coffee leaf rust), threatens the entire Hawai'ian 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i's agriculture industry and the state's economy.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council plays a critical role in the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. Coffee leaf rust should be classified as an invasive species in HISC's administrative rules to utilize available funding to protect Hawai'i's iconic coffee industry.

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

**SB-2907**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:27:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Agaran and members of the WAM committee,

Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR), since its introduction into Hawaii has been nothing short of devastating to our industry. It is now found on every island and in some areas (all Kona regions), many farmers are walking away. Our industry has very few tools to fight this pest. It is not just a Hawaii problem, it exists wherever coffee is grown and it is very expensive to put measures into place that makes managing the infections possible. Please support classifying CLR as an invasive pest to Hawaii which will help us find the resources to fight it going forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2907**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:47:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Bateman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this SB2907.

The HISC is critical in helping manage information and finances for invasive species. It is critical to the coffee industry that CLR be added to the IS list immediately so that we might begin our collaborative effort to effectively address it legislatively and administratively.