

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2908
RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH**

Chairperson Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2908. The bill appropriates \$500,000 out of general revenues to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) to expand state-run quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the Plant Quarantine Branch. The Department supports the bill provided that it does not adversely impact its priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget and offers comments.

The Department appreciates the committee recognizing the importance of adequate facilities for quarantine purposes. The Department has prepared and submitted a CIP request to improve an existing building of the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Plant Inspection Office (PIO) in Honolulu to comply with the stringent quarantine requirements necessary for plant pests. The CIP request would increase quarantine capacity by 50% at the PIO in Honolulu. The Department respectfully requests that the \$500,000 appropriation be included in our CIP budget which gives the department accurate time to complete design and construction, or we respectfully request the committee's support for the Department's CIP budget which serves the same purpose.



Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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FEBRUARY 7, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2908
RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH

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 2908, which appropriates general revenues to expand state-run quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture's plant quarantine branch.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii'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. It is an undeniable fact that the threat of invasive species entering Hawaii is on the increase, and this increase may cripple our already fragile ecosystem and agricultural industry.

The HDOA Plant Quarantine Branch is Hawaii's first line of defense against invasive species by helping curtail invasive species that enter the state. Biosecurity facilities are critical for safe and timely inspections and efficient movement of cargo is vital to the agriculture economy and our environment. We strongly support funding to expand state-run quarantine facilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
February 7, 2022

RE: Testimony on SB2908; RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) testifying in support of SB2908.

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 state 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.

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.

HCA, working with HDOA, USDA, CTAHR, and industry stakeholders have developed short- and long-term strategies to manage this new threat. Our long-term strategy includes the importation of CLR resistant coffee varieties already growing in other coffee producing countries. Permit rules require that these imports remain in quarantine for a period of time to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystems and agriculture.

The logistics of this multi-agency effort have highlighted the deficiencies of available capacity of quarantine facilities in the state. The purpose of this measure is to enable investment in Hawaii's quarantine facility infrastructure - one that is vital to our industry, and more broadly, agriculture and environmental biosecurity.

Please pass this measure.

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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SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:08:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming-Li Wang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2908 to expand state-run quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture's plant quarantine branch in order to speed up the importation processes for coffee-leaf rust coffee cultivars. Increase in quarantine facility would make it easier for growers, not only coffee growers, to import disease- or pest-resistant cultivars quickly in response to invasion of new pests or pathogens.

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:11:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB 2908.

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:14:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair and committee members:

I strongly support SB2908.

The state needs to act immediately to expand HDOA quarantine facilities to accommodate millions of import CLR resistant tree starts for other coffee growing regions of the world. We are the last origin to be infested. Much research, wisdom and practical experience can be gleaned from other coffee regions who have already dealt with the CLR problem. We need expansive quarantine facilities to receive the new starts, seeds or tissue plasm. Current spray applications are not a guaranteed solution to CLR. The long term solution will be replacing our trees with rust resistant trees. The ability to propagate CLR resistant cultivars from these other coffee regions, under strict HDOA protocols in HDOA owned and operated facilities, is critical to the survival of our coffee industry. We must act now.

Please pass this bill out of committee

Mahalo nui,

Dave Bateman, President

Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

Holualoa HI

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 10:10:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 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 SB-2908. The current situation with the State's quarantine facilities is terrible. We are continually hearing about new invasive pests to our State, and those of us in the coffee industry now suffer from the worst possible coffee disease due to lax treatment of this issue. Maui County alone does not have a functional facility. Please find a way to clean this up.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 10:55:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sayaka aoki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In addition to state run quarantine facility, it will be extremely important to have additional quarantine facilities on the island. I support this measures.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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
SENATE BILL NO. 2908

February 7, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH

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

Senate Bill No. 2908 appropriates \$500,000 in general funds in FY 23 for the expansion of State-run quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Branch.

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.

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 2:22:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fred Cowell	Testifying for Kauai Coffee Company, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for your interest,

Coffee leaf rust has the potential to severely harm the entire Hawaiian Coffee industry. As the largest single coffee farm in the state, I'm learning first hand how difficult it is to combat this disease. Our industry needs to rapidly and safely acquire and distribute rust resistant varieties into our state. Our plant quarantine capability needs to dramatically increased to do this. I support expanding, modernizing, and potentially licencing private quarantine facilities to meet the anticipated quarantine demand.

Fred Cowell,

General Manager, Kauai Coffee Company, LLC

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 5:11:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Gridley	Testifying for Maui Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Maui Coffee Association strongly supports the expansion of the Plant Quarentine facilities to help in the development and entry of Rust resistant coffee varieties to help farmers combat the devastating impact of Coffee Leaf Rust!

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 9:12:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 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 SB2908. I think it is important to add a certification process for private quarantine facilities

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:48:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I want to support this Bill SB 2908 because we as coffee farmers need the establish coffee varieties resistant to coffee leaf rust (CLR) as soon as possible. Any thing that we can do to support Quarantine facilities is expecting to help coffee farmers to address the CLR issues and minimize economic losses on coffee production in Hawaii.

Luis F. Aristizabal

Independent Consultant

Coffee Farmer

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:34:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

I am testifying in support of SB 2908.

February is Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness month and I have been made aware of the dire need of resources to prevent, control, and/or eradicate invasive species in Hawaii. Not only are we losing endemic species, but agriculture in Hawaii is under severe threat. Hawaii coffee specifically is known globally as a superior and unique coffee. There are strategies in place to save our precious coffee industry against coffee leaf rust CLR (a recent invasive species established in Hawaii)

We need to support our state agencies and coffee private industry entities in implementing these strategies. This bill addresses one long term strategy which is to expand Hawaii's quarantine facility capacity. The goal is to be able to import resistant CLR varieties already growing in other coffee growing areas. These imports require a quarantine period and we need more quarantine facility capacity to do so expeditiously.

Please pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Iwami

Honolulu, Hawaii



ISLAND SUN COFFEETM

78-5967 Makenawai St.

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Phone/Fax: 808.322.6575 info@islandsuncoffee.com

RE: Testimony on SB 2908; Relating to Plant Quarantine Branch

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am a farmer in Kona and am testifying in support of SB2908.

Coffee leaf rust and Coffee Berry Borer has devastated our crop, we produce an average of 10,357 lbs that give us an income of 43,000 in the sale of green coffee.

This year because of the extensive damage we have had to stump all of our fields, this means I will have no income from this farm next year.

To our business it is vital that the quarantine rules be adjusted and allow more quarantine facilities in the state enabling us to plant new coffee varieties that are disease resistant.

Our survival of this invasive disease depends on the cooperation between the public and private sectors. Currently the state's quarantine facility infrastructure lacks the capacity to meet this challenge alone. The development of design standards will enable and encourage private investment in safe, state approved quarantine facilities.

Please pass this measure.

Thank you

Donna Woolley
Island Sun Coffee

Specialty Coffee Association of America Member
Kona Coffee Council Member

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:10:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Testifying for Growing Together Edible Landscaping	Support	No

Comments:

As owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping, I support SB2908 and believe there should be additional funding and staffing support for the Plant Quarantine Branch. This is vital to help protect the future of sustainable agriculture in Hawaii and this department is under funded and over worked already.

thank you,

Drew Wilkinson



RE: SUPPORT for SB2908

RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH
Coffee Berry Borer; Coffee Leaf Rust, Subsidy Program

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council stands in support of this Bill. Our four consortium members, the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association, the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association and the Hawaii Coffee Association - represent 1,000 agribusinesses, from growers to processors and shippers, stretching across the State of Hawaii.

Accessible plant quarantine is a huge benefit to our agricultural economy. Whether is it new varieties of coffee to combat Coffee Leaf Rust, or for anthurium breeding, our industries thrive when plant tissue can be safely and economically brought into the state.

The ongoing lack of quarantine space has created a significant economic barrier that reduces the growth of our agribusinesses. Expansion of state facilities is long overdue, and will aid Hawaii in recovering from the setbacks of invasive diseases as well as slowdowns from COVID lockdowns. Please pass and fund this bill.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
Administrator

Each measure is important in our battle against Coffee Leaf Rust and strengthening biosecurity throughout the State.