

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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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. 2909
RELATING TO PLANT QUARANTINE FACILITIES**

Chairperson Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2909. The bill provides a certification process for privately-owned and operated plant quarantine facilities to streamline importation and quarantine procedures for rust-resistant coffee varieties.

The Department supports the intent of the bill, recognizing the importance of adequate facilities for quarantine purposes. However, the Department would like to note that the ability to allow private quarantine facilities already administratively exists pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules 4-70-4 and 4-70-5.

The Department also has comments related to the importation of coffee material. According to 7 CFR Part 319 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), coffee plants are prohibited to be directly imported from overseas to Puerto Rico and Hawaii to prevent the introduction of the coffee berry borer, *Hypothenemus hampei*, and the coffee leaf rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*, and other serious coffee pests. Recently, the Department has initiated a pilot study, in collaboration with its federal counterpart, USDA APHIS Plant Protection and



Quarantine, USDA Agricultural Research Service, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center and our coffee industry to identify a safe and stream-lined process of importing rust-resistant coffee varieties to Hawaii using the Clean Plant Diagnostic approach of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). In short, resistant varieties would be imported from overseas to an accredited and certified NCPN or other laboratory in California, screened and tested for pests and pathogens, reproduced as clean tissue culture, and then imported to a certified facility in Hawaii for propagation and subsequent release into the field. This process would guarantee clean coffee stock material for propagation thus reducing normal post entry quarantine restrictions here in Hawaii. This would also eliminate the need for private quarantine facilities which would be inherently higher risk as they could be placed within close proximity to susceptible hosts which effectively eliminates the ability to deal with infested materials within the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 2:20:14 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	Yes

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



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
February 7, 2022

RE: Testimony on SB2909; RELATING TO PLANT QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) testifying in strong support of SB2909.

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 private investment in Hawaii's quarantine facility infrastructure - one that is vital to our industry, and more broadly, agriculture and environmental biosecurity.

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

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2909
RELATING TO PLANT QUARANTINE FACILITIES

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 2909, which provides a certification process for privately-owned and operated plant quarantine facilities.

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.

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.

The long-term strategy for CLR is replacing existing coffee trees with CLR-resistant coffee varieties already growing in other coffee-producing countries. Permit rules require that these imports remain in a plant quarantine for a duration of time. Hawaii's current state-owned plant quarantine capacity is unable to meet the demand for a disease-resistant stock.

Developing privately-owned, state-certified, plant quarantine facilities will help streamline the importation and quarantine process for CLR-resistant coffee varieties. as allowed in HAR, Chapter 4-70-3, Hawaii's quarantine facility infrastructure - one that is vital to our industry, and more broadly, agriculture and environmental biosecurity.

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

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:10:57 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 SB2909 to provide a certification process for privately-owned and operated plant quarantine facilities. Increase quarantine capacity will facilitate growers to import disease- or pest-resistant cultivars in response to invasion of new pathogens and pests.

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:10:17 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 2909.

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 10:51:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sayaka aoki	Testifying for harc	Support	No

Comments:

I support this registry for the future of our coffee in Hawaii. It will be instrumental to have quarantine facility expanded for the importation of resistant coffee varieties.

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 10:40:22 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:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and members of the committee,

I am asking you to support SB2909 as a means to help the dire situation regarding finding space to comply with the State of Hawaii quarantine rules. The HDOA's current facilities are in bad disrepair, too small and even non-existent in some cases (Maui County). By having the HDOA certify private facilities (greenhouses) to fulfill the quarantine rule(s), it allows a wider overview for inspectors to frequently monitor these locations and reduces the opportunities for the illicit bypassing of the process since this opportune method becomes more accessible and less of a bureaucratic obstacle. There are numerous substantiable cases where this has been allowed case by case in the past.

The coffee industry has a dramatic need now to bring in millions of seedlings of new Coffee Leaf Rust resistant varieties, but has no facility to accommodate that need. We literally have the plant material to import now, but because our State is so ill-equipped, we cannot. Farms are failing today, ask anyone from Kona how bad it is. Please give this measure your best effort in supporting it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:30:36 AM

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:

I strongly support SB2909.

The Hawaii coffee industry has been plagued with infestations - CBB, nematodes and CLR. We were the last coffee origin to be infested with CLR. We farmers need other options for coffee trees that are more resistant to all these pests and fungi. Many of such varieties/cultivars have already been developed in other coffee growing regions of the world. We need to take advantage of this advanced research and practical experience. To do so, we must be able to import seeds and tissue from chosen candidate cultivars in these regions. To do this on a large scale we need to ask private industry to step up with the HDOA and invest in private quarantine facilities under HDOA guidance. The state is simply unable to provide adequate quarantine space to accommodate a large scale quarantine/grow capability to provide new resistant cultivars to the many coffee growers on the islands. The coffee industry can help. Each island could have its own grouping of facilities strategically located to accommodate the farmers wanting to replant their orchards.

I also see this legislative opportunity as a possible private/public partnership with the coffee growers, working hand in hand with the HDOA to save our Hawaii coffee industry.

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo nui,

David Bateman, President

Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

Holualoa HI 96725

78-1136 Bishop Road

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 9:10:30 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 the passage of SB2909

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 5:17:45 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 certification of privately owned plant quarantine facilities to help in the development and entry of Rust Resistant Coffee varieties to help Hawaii Coffee farmers combat the devastating effects of Coffee Leaf Rust.

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:37:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bruce Corker	Testifying for Rancho Aloha	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am a coffee and avocado farmer in the North Kona District of Hawaii County.

I oppose SB2909.

Having failed to prevent the introduction of Coffee Berry Borer in 2010, the introduction of Coffee Leaf Rust in 2020 and the introduction of Avocado Lace Bug in 2021, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture’s quarantine system needs to be strengthened and better funded to protect Hawaii’s farmers—not privatized. It would be a mistake to weaken Hawaii’s current plant quarantine system by authorizing an even less effective system run by privately-owned, profit-generating plant quarantine facilities. The State of Hawaii should not be outsourcing its responsibility to protect against the introduction of invasive pests and diseases.

Also, what is the basis of the “finding” in SB2909 that “an effective, long-term solution to coffee leaf rust is the replacement of existing coffee trees with rust-resistant varieties imported from overseas”? Research from Latin America has shown an increasingly prevalent “resistance decline” in what had been previously classified as CLR resistant varieties. The fame of Hawaii-Grown coffee has been built over the last 100+ years on the flavor profile our heritage varietal “Arabica Typica”. It would be far more reasonable to first request the HDOA and USDA to determine if protections against CLR for Hawaii’s historic Typica varietal can be identified before gambling on replacement varieties.

Please defer SB2909.

Bruce Corker

Rancho Aloha

Holualoa, Hawaii County

SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:17:42 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:

Any thing that we can do for address the CLR issue in Hawaii, is expecting to support the coffee industry and help coffee farmers to overcome this devastaing plant disease.

Indtroduction of coffee varieties resistant to CLR is one of the best thing tha we can address to support coffee farmers.

Luis F. Aristizabal

Independent Consultant

Coffee Farmer



ISLAND SUN COFFEETM

78-5967 Makenawai St.

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Phone/Fax: 808.322.6575 info@islandsuncoffee.com

RE: Testimony on SB 2909; Relating to Plant Quarantine Facilities

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am a farmer in Kona and am testifying in support of SB2909.

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 infrasture 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-2909

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:41:08 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 2909.

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. SB2908 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.

This bill, SB2909 provides a certification process for private quarantine facilities: This would allow private entities to construct and get permitting for privately owned quarantine facilities.

Please pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Iwami

Honolulu, Hawaii



February 06, 2022

Re: SB 2909

Greetings:

With all due respect please accept apologies for the tardiness of this testimony.

As an organization who represents Kona coffee farmers, it is the diverse perspective of our members from which my requests/input are put forth. Kona Coffee Farmers Association has approximately 200 members.

In sum, it is with condolences that SB 2909 is best for postponement (deferral) so that it can be more fully and properly prepared and vetted.

For many Kona coffee farmers, the dangers of the introductions of other races of coffee leaf rust (CLR) far outweigh any potential benefits of importing coffee varieties for helping control CLR.

Note that a significant ration of Kona coffee farmers (in my estimation, actually a majority) cannot and will not be able to engage in the option of planting, "new" coffee varieties. Kona typica is one of the bases of the whole of Hawaii coffee. Our desire should be to seek to preserve Kona typica as viable.

Rather than pass legislation for the HDOA to facilitate importation of other coffee varieties, which have worldwide all become less resistant with time to new strains of CLR (and biologically is inevitable and therefore new varieties is only a short- or medium-term solution and not a long-term resolution to CLR), we can and should instead focus on how to learn from Guatemala (where Kona typica originates) and how of their seven varieties and over 90,000 coffee farms, Guatemala typica (from which Kona typica evolved in Hawaii) is still commercially produced to this day.

Note that while this legislation should be postponed, help to coffee farms today, through focus on tree health and well-being should be considered and supported so that we can keep our existing trees healthy while we seek "solutions" for CLR...

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera, President

colemel2@gmail.com

P.O. Box 5436, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, 96745 * info@konacoffeefarmers.org



SB-2909

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:41:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jean Orłowski	Testifying for Hala Tree	Support	No

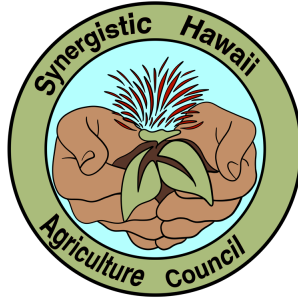
Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,
I am Jean Orłowski owner of Hala Tree Coffee testifying in support of SB2909.

But I would like to add a comment on the private facilities. To help the smaller farmers those private facilities should be mandate to sell at least some of the trees they will be growing. This would make sure the larger farms don't build private nurseries to grow rust resistant trees only for themselves. Smaller farmers that will not have the means to have a certified nursery will dependent on those private facilities to replant rust resistant trees.

Mahalo

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



RE: SUPPORT for SB2909
RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH

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.

While this Bill specifically discusses coffee, privately-owned quarantine facilities would also be a great benefit to floriculture and other crops. Both floriculture and coffee face severe restrictions on their capacity to import and quarantine through the current state facilities. It is an unacceptable barrier to ongoing trade.

After the 2018 Kilauea lava flow disaster, floriculture received Federal money to build a private plant quarantine facility to assist the orchid growers in rebuilding their crops. To this date, that facility has not been built because the Department of Agriculture lacks the internal process to approve the structure. This Bill will give a pathway forward for our industries to safely construct and certify such structures.

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.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
Administrator