

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. 2988
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2988, relating to the Department of Agriculture. The bill appropriates funds from general revenues for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be expended by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug, including but not limited to reducing the two-lined spittlebug population using insecticides, integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, and reseeding pastures damaged by infestations. The bill also requires the Department to report on progress and potential legislation needed to the Legislature. The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. Funding for control of invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses that mitigate negative impacts on agriculture, the environment, and the economy can be implemented and maintained effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2988

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Senate Bill No. 2988 appropriates \$1,200,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Agriculture for mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug (TLSB), which includes reducing the TLSB population using insecticides, integrating weed management measures in affected rangelands, and re-seeding pastures damaged by infestations.

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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 — 10:05 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2988, Relating to the Department of Agriculture.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports SB 2988, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

Ulupono supports the State's goal to increase local food production, which includes strengthening the local livestock industry. The two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island in September 2016 where it damaged roughly 2,000 acres of pastureland. As of October 2019, damage from infestation has skyrocketed to about 142,468 acres of rangelands on Hawai'i Island. In highly infested areas, there is 100% die-off of key pasture grasses such as Kikuyu and Pangola. Rapid spread and die-off due to this pest are affecting the local livestock industry and pose a massive threat to production on Hawai'i Island. Increasing State resources to support the local livestock industry will be crucial in maintaining the growth of local livestock production and meeting State food production goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB2988
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports SB2988** to Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug. We appreciate that the legislature understands the implications of this invasive species and therefore appropriated funding toward this issue in the 2021 legislative session. Ranchers are awaiting access to those funds, but continue to deploy efforts to curb the spread of the Twolined Spittlebug, and further years of investment in control and research is necessary. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council has been holding consistent meetings to keep up to date on this issue and work towards finding solutions. This group includes NRCS, CTAHR researchers, HDOA, HISC, BIISC affected ranchers, and ranchers who are at threat. Outcomes include a website (www.tlsbhawaii.com), several informational videos, and outreach via webinars and conventions, and radio spots to raise awareness.

Both assistance to ranchers as well as continued research is needed to understand best practices for addressing the Twolined Spittlebug. We respectfully ask SB2988 also allow the Department of Agriculture to fund continued research in addition to recovery efforts.

We are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but this invasive species directly affects food production. Hawaii Island is responsible for 80% of the state's cattle production, so an outbreak of this invasive species will be devastating not only to cattle ranchers, but to our endeavor for food security. This invasive species issue affects all of Hawaii, not just the cattle ranchers. Two-lined Spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of September 2021 infests 178,369 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawaii have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while



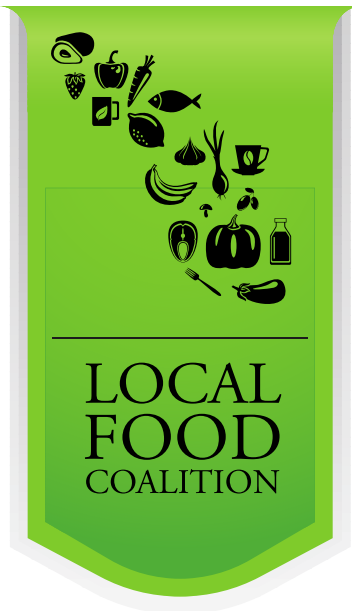
significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle. Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

Healthy grazing lands are integral to watershed health and function in Hawaii. The Two-lined Spittlebug severely disturbs the Hawaiian grazing land plant community by killing the grass. This loss of living ground cover leaves the land vulnerable to soil loss which contributes to sediment-laden runoff into our near shore coastal waters, affecting coral reef health. Healthy coral reefs provide important services such as shoreline protection, marine ecosystem habitats that support important food chains that also help support our communities. Invasive weeds move in on these degraded lands, changing the entire character of the landscape hindering not only agriculture, but also other land management efforts, and recreational uses such as forest and wildlife conservation projects, hiking and hunting, not to mention the change to the aesthetic value of the land.

Ranchers in Hawaii are working hard to try to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and to keep their lands healthy and productive, but the task is too big for them to take on alone. HDOA has provided funds for research efforts and we respectfully urge the legislature to provide them with funding to continue supporting this effort.

We **strongly support SB2988** for funds to be appropriated to aid in research and recovery from the damage from the Two-lined Spittlebug and preventing the spread of the invasive species.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 23, 2022 – 10:05 a.m. – Via Videoconference

**RE: SB 2988- Relating to the Department of Agriculture –
In Support**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** SB 2988, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

The two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016, where it had caused damage nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. As of September 2021, it has infested over 278 square miles or about 178,369 acres.

The two-lined spittlebug severely impacts the cattle industry as it kills the grass completely, providing conditions conducive to the growth of invasive species, weeds and lower forage quality grasses. While much has been done to address this issue, which included funding by the Legislature last session, more support and funding are needed to continue the efforts of the DOA and all stakeholders in mitigating and controlling the two-lined spittlebug population in the state. This effort should include assistance to ranchers as well as continued research to understand best practices for addressing the two-lined spittlebug. We need to continue to find ways to stop the spread of this invasive species to avoid a negative impact on local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 2988. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:11:59 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alan Gottlieb | Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support SB 2988

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

SB2988, Relating to the Department of Agriculture
Sen WAM Decision Making Hearing
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
10:05am

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Sen WAM Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Livestock ranching has an estimated annual value of \$68 million, with 142,000 beef cattle on more than 1,300 ranches---80% are raised on the Big Island. It's an industry striving to bring local food to Hawaii consumers.

Two-lined spittlebug damage results in entire pastures reduced to dust and replaced with weeds that cattle cannot eat. This damage causes runoff and affects the surrounding land and water. More importantly, it directly impacts food production and the replacement of imported beef.

We understand and appreciate the 2021 Session appropriations to address this issue. We also understand that the HDOA received limited funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug.

However, your continued support is needed to help ranchers mitigate and recover pasture lands. We strongly support the Hawaii Cattlemen Council's proposed amendment to describe the appropriations to include research to inform best practices and monitor the status of the two-lined spittlebug.

Your favorable consideration of SB2988 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



TESTIMONY OF JACOB D. TAVARES, LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS BUSINESS MANAGER,
PARKER RANCH, INC.
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 23, 2022 10:05 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2988

TITLE: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz , Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Parker Ranch, Inc. strongly supports Senate Bill 2988 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lines Spittlebug (TLSB) and recovery of rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

TLSB is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's local beef production. The TLSB is already affecting more than 175,000 acres of land on the Big Island and is spreading rapidly. Fellow rancher's whose grazing lands have been impacted by this invasive species, are dramatically reducing their herd sizes, and thus revenue streams. The livestock business is very low margin to begin with, and in light of Covid-19, we risk losing more of our family ranchers if a solution to this pest is not discovered soon.

We at Parker Ranch are fortunate that the TLSB has not yet reached our grazing lands, however the potential impacts that it would have on our grazing operations are, quite frankly, terrifying. The University of Hawaii CTAHR, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, HISC, BIISC, affected ranchers, those of us who are at threat, and other stakeholders within the Hawaii conservation and livestock industries have been hard at work to develop a solution to this growing infestation. That being said, more resources are needed if our industry is to combat this challenge in a timely manner.

Beyond affecting the livestock industry, this pest will continue to impact other food security concerns, watershed lands, and the further spread of invasive weeds. Healthy grazing lands are integral to watershed health and function in Hawaii. The Two-lined Spittlebug severely disturbs the Hawaiian grazing land plant community by killing the grass. This loss of living ground cover leaves the land vulnerable to soil loss which contributes to sediment-laden runoff into our near shore coastal waters, affecting Hawaii's delicate ecosystems. Invasive weeds move in on these degraded lands, changing the entire character of the landscape hindering not only agriculture, but also other land management efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Jacob D. Tavares
Parker Ranch
Manager, Livestock Business Operations



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 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2988
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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 2988, which appropriates funds to HDOA for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the invasive pest.

The Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawai'i in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of October of 2019 infests over 222 sq. miles or about 142,468 acres. We must stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawai'i have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle.

Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage, and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

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



February 18, 2022

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Comments in Support of SB 2988, Relating to Two-Lined Spittlebug (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the invasive pest.)

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 a.m., in Conference Room 211 and Video Conference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2988** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

SB 2988. This bill proposes to appropriate funds for the DOA to mitigate and control infestations of two-lined spittlebug infestations and to undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the pest. The DOA shall take measures such as the use of insecticides, weed management, and reseeded pastures, to reduce the population of the two-lined spittlebug and assist in recovery efforts.

LURF's Position. Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, tourism, the natural environment, native species and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests, such as the two-lined spittlebug now threaten to infest and damage pasture lands, severely affecting and reducing the quality and quantity of forage pastures, thereby impairing livestock

ranching, which is a highly productive, expanding, and extremely valuable industry on all islands with an estimated current annual value of more than \$68 million. LURF understands that the pest has rapidly expanded its range, and as of September 2021 infests over 179,000 acres.

LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future. The two-lined spittlebug threatens job and food security not only in the agricultural and ranching industries, but throughout the State, making it vital to address infestations and restrict further uncontrolled spread.

As potentially devastating threats to food safety and security continue to be a significant concern, LURF and its members appreciate measures being taken, including research efforts to assist agricultural stakeholders to manage and protect against this invasive pest.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2988** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:43:03 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Harry von Holt | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:10:08 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Woody Child | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB2988

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:11:09 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jimmy Gomes | Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch | Support | No |

Comments:

I support per Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

Personal Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2988
RELATING to TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS

by
Jenee S. Odani, DVM, DACVP

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2022
10:05 am; via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2988**. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii nor CTAHR.

I know that this year brings with it many challenges for the State, including fiscal restrictions. However, I believe that the ongoing and growing threat posed by the Two-lined Spittlebug to Hawaii's lands and the ranchers that steward these lands warrants special consideration. Please appropriate funds to the Dept. of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lined Spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:20:00 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alex Franco | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB 2988

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:35:24 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Theresa M Thompson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:22:50 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Carolyn Auwelo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2988 for funds to be appropriated to aid in research and recovery from the damage from the Two-lined Spittlebug and preventing the spread of the invasive species.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:25:34 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jordan | Testifying for Haleakala Ranch | Support | No |

Comments:

i support

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:07:48 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Frances Kama-Silva | Testifying for Barbed S Ranch LLC | Support | No |

Comments:

Senators,

We strongly support this Bill. The absolute destruction this tiny insect has caused in some of our pasturelands and the real potential for the decimation of our cattle industry is cause for immediate, focused, funded attention. The continued development of Hawaii's ability to self-feed its masses is dependant on it.

Thank you,

Frances Kama-Silva and Henry Silva

LATE

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:53:24 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Springer Kaye | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, to fund research and management of the Two-Lined Spittlebug which has caused costly and alarming damage to pastures across West Hawaii. This damage should concern everyone in the state, because the spittlebug may continue to move, island-by-island, greatly decreasing our beef-production potential and hopes for food self-sufficiency. The spittlebug can move into native grasslands and grass-covered woodlands, such as those found across Pohakuloa Training Area and on Mauna Kea, reducing tens of thousands of acres to dustbowl conditions, affecting military training, possibly affecting visibility for astronomy, and greatly impacting biodiversity and water recharge. Finally, as existing pastures become degraded, there may be more pressure to move rangeland into forested areas currently held for conservation, impacting our forests, watersheds, and climate change.

The Two-Lined Spittlebug may be tiny, but its impact is vast. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Aloha,

Springer Kaye