



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

---

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
S.B. NO. 652, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**BEFORE THE:**  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Thursday, March 2, 2023                      **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):**     **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Jennifer Waihee-Polk,  
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-1198)

---

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comment on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate money to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023 (page 2, line 20, through page 3, line 2).

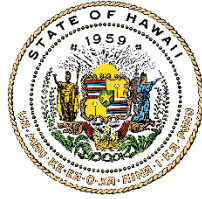
We recommend amending page 3, line 2, in relevant part, to read as follows:

". . . prior to the convening of the regular session of [~~2023.~~] 2024."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, March 2, 2023  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 652  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Senate Bill 652 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts of lands damaged by two-lined spittlebug. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in HDOA's Executive Budget request.**

High densities of two-lined spittlebug (TLSB) can result in almost 100% dieback of key pasture grasses that are important for livestock foraging. When these grasses die back, invasive plants and low-quality foraging grasses replace them. Two-lined spittlebug's rapid rate of spread and apparent preference for Kikuyu and Pangola grass creates the potential for this pest to spread throughout the islands and cause irreparable harm to large areas of valuable grazing land and natural areas, threatening the economic sustainability of Hawai'i's livestock industry, reducing the ecosystem services derived from these landscapes, and ultimately harming our island communities through decreased agricultural revenue and reduced food security.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is administered through the Department and provides policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments for the prevention, control, and eradication of harmful invasive species throughout the state. The HISC has prioritized funding to support research and the development of management tools for TLSB through its yearly competitive grant process, but stable, long-term funding is needed to manage this pest on Hawai'i Island and ensure that it does not spread to other islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### SB 652 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 652 relating to agriculture, specifically the two-lined spittlebug.

The bill makes an appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for pasture lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

For several years, CTAHR faculty and Cooperative Extension personnel have collaborated with HDOA Plant Industry Division administration and Plant Pest Control Branch to detect, mitigate, and control infestation of the two-lined spittlebug on pasture lands on Hawai'i Island.

The cattle industry is one of the top contributors to Hawai'i's agricultural production value. The two-lined spittlebug threatens the livelihood and existence of the local cattle industry that contributes to the food security in the State. Hawai'i's cattle ranchers rallied to provide local beef for our public schools' lunch program and provided food donations during the pandemic.

There exists a critical need to continue and increase recovery efforts for pasture lands damaged by this invasive pest by implementing chemical and mechanical controls, biocontrol and best practices for managing pasture lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**MARCH 2, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 652**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 652 relating to agriculture. This bill appropriates funds to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug (TLSB) and to fund recovery efforts and requires reporting by the Department of Agriculture on the expenditures appropriated by the act and discuss progress and provide findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation. The Department supports this measure.

The two-lined spittlebug is severely damaging the rangelands of Hawaii Island. This damage is not limited to the devastation of kikuyu grass, the dominant grazing forage for our cattle industry. The spittlebugs are creating opportunities for invasive weed species within the kikuyu forage including Christmas berry, lantana, pamakani and other weed species. These weed species in turn creates a very real threat of long-term damage not just to rangelands but the watershed itself. Funding would best be used to support biological control efforts for TLSB and the funding of a response task force.



The Department has already formed a tentative agreement with Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) to launch exploration for natural enemies as TLSB is native to the southeastern United States, including Florida. It is anticipated \$100,000 is needed to launch a joint HDOA/FDACS biocontrol program. A response team is needed to attack not just TLSB but for removal of invasive weeds and subsequent replacement of devastated rangelands with viable TLSB resistant kikuyu replacements.

Further, the Department strongly recommends funding the \$100,000 research program for TLSB as well funding requests from the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council as the research project is not sufficient to address the total need of the impacted rangelands and the threats posed by this insect and its impacts to the watershed.

We request one change to the language. "Section 2: The department of agriculture shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:03:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan	Testifying for Haleakala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Haleakala Ranch strongly supports SB652. Control of two-lined spittle bug is among the highest priority invasive species threats to the livestock industry, conservation efforts and our quality of life in Hawaii, especially those islands where Kikuyu grass plays an important ecological role.

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

SB652, Relating to Agriculture  
Sen WAM Decision-Making Hearing – 10:00 am  
Thursday, March 2, 2023

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.

Appreciation is expressed for the Legislature's support and acknowledgment that expanding the livestock industry contributes to Hawaii's economy and is a significant employer for local communities, especially on Hawaii Island.

About 70% of all beef cattle in Hawaii are grass-fed. 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.

I understand that ranchers are working hard to find cost-effective ways to manage this invasive species and to keep pastures healthy and productive. It is a daunting task that requires collaboration with state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and funding.

Your favorable consideration of SB652 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

McCandless Ranch **strongly supports SB652**

Kona ranchers are on the leading edge in the battle to contain the Twolined Spittlebug, but we need help. We continue to work hard to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and to keep their lands healthy and productive, but the task is enormous. HDOA has provided funds for research efforts in the past that have greatly helped ranchers fight the Twolined Spittlebug. We respectfully urge the legislature to continue to provide them with funding through SB652 to continue supporting this effort.

Keith Unger  
McCandless Ranch





February 27, 2023

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 652, Relating to Two-Lined Spittlebug (Appropriates moneys 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; requires a report to the Legislature.)**

**Thursday, March 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m.;**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

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 652** 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 652.** 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 insect. The DOA shall take measures including the use of insecticides, weed management, and reseeded pastures, as necessary 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 major 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 has infested over 278 square miles of land.

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 use of insecticides, weed management, reseeding pastures, as well as any research efforts to reduce the population of two-lined spittlebugs and assist agricultural stakeholders to manage and protect against this invasive pest.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 652** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

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

**SB652**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports SB652** which appropriates moneys 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 are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but this invasive species directly affects food production and natural resource conservation. 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 pastureland. Monthly pasture surveys that began in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of September 2022 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 enables the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality and availability 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, and marine ecosystem habitats that support important food chains and thus our communities. Invasive weeds move in on these degraded lands, degrading the aesthetic 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.



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 SB652** and appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter. You can learn more about the Two-lined Spittlebug at [www.TLSBhawaii.com](http://www.TLSBhawaii.com) and the Hawaii Rangelands Website at <https://rangelandsgateway.org/twolined-spittlebug>

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
(HFIA)**

P. O. Box 66 □ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774  
Phone: 808-933-9411  
Email: [hfia@hawaiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiforest.org)  
Website: [www.hawaiiforest.org](http://www.hawaiiforest.org)

Date: 2/28/23

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee Members

**FROM:** the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support for SB652 relating to agriculture

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) is in its 33rd year. It is a state-wide association of landowners, woodworkers, forest professionals and concerned citizens working toward healthier and more productive forests across the state of Hawaii. On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association, please support SB652.

Hawaii cattlemen face a very difficult foe. HFIA agrees with the intent of this bill to continue appropriating monies to address the issue that is the two-lined spittlebug, and to address lands already devastated by the pest.

While it may seem like a good idea to take advantage of the demise of Hawaii's kikuyu and pangola grass lands to reforest Hawaii; that would be a mistake. Once the spittle bug is done wreaking havoc in an area, the land would be exposed to a plethora of aggressive pyrophytic (fire-loving) weeds. Once fires are extinguished the exposed damaged soil is going to attract more weeds. This is not good for cattle ranching; it is not good for forestry; it is not good for our communities and it is highly degrading to the land and soils. To do nothing and allow "nature to take her course" is disrespectful to the land and people of Hawaii. Addressing the spittlebug appropriately, and managing the lands strategically will ultimately yield a better outcome.

This is the time not only to do the right thing by cattle ranchers; we need to do the right thing for our potential forest lands and lands that are in transition. This is an issue that should have the support of DLNR's Land Division as well as its Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Therefore, the HFIA supports SB652 and hopes that you will support it as well.

Mahalo,

*Peter Simmons*

Peter D. Simmons, Secretary  
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

*Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.*

**HFIA Board of Directors**

Officers: Vice-President/Acting President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee  
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh



2 March 2023

Attn: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
RE: SB652 relating to Two-lined Spittlebug

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

We would like to express our support for this measure, recognizing the serious threat posed by the introduced two-lined spittlebug and allocating funds to support HDOA in addressing this pest.

The two-lined spittlebug was only identified as a pest in Hawaii in 2016, when it had damaged 2,000 acres of ranch on the Big Island. By 2019, the number had grown to 150,000 acres. Unlike other pasture pests that we've had in Hawaii, the impacts do not recede with time. Affected ranchers have found 100% death of the grass after infestation, with no recovery. Instead, pastures are quickly invaded by aggressive brush species such as pamakani, fireweed, and blackberry, none of which are suitable for cattle forage.

Conservation partners with restoration work in pastures are also struggling with this threat. As pastures are restored to native forest, kikuyu and pangola act as "placeholders" until native species can be outplanted. These grasses are easy to control in those instances. The replacement weeds are a much more challenging and expensive problem, requiring significantly more time and effort to control.

TLSB is a threat to our food security, economy, environment, and culture, on the Big Island, and throughout the state. We urge you to respond decisively and provide the support needed for our researchers and ranchers to test and develop methods of controlling and recovering from TLBS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter. Please contact me with any questions.

Frances Brewer  
Communications Director  
(808)933-3340  
Fbrewer@hawaii.edu



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

March 2, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 652**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:00 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 652**, which appropriates moneys 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.

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 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, biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

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



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Thursday, March 2, 2023 — 10:00 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 652, Relating to 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 choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports SB 652**, 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. It damaged roughly 2,000 acres of pastureland. As of September 2022, damage from infestation has skyrocketed to about 178,369 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*



**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 2:01:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB652 to appropriate funds to mitigate and control the two-lined spittle bug and to fund recovery efforts.

As a Honokaa resident, I regularly drive past cattle pastures along the Hamakua coast and on the way to Waimea and recognize the importance of a healthy and viable ranching industry as an important component of the Big Island's agricultural economy.

As a former Maui resident and Haleakala National Park employee, I also recognize that well managed ranchlands (such as Haleakala Ranch and Ulupalakua Ranch) bordering conservation lands provide an important buffer against the establishment of invasive, woody weeds that impact native ecosystems. In addition, these ranches serve as natural fuel breaks, slowing or preventing the spread of wildfires into native ecosystems.

The continued impacts of the TLSB will therefore have terrible consequences to both Hawaii's economy and natural environment if they are not addressed now, while there is still time to minimize the negative effects and find solutions to mitigate their impacts.

I therefore urge you to support SB652 and provide HDOA and the ranching industry with the resources needed to continue to study and find solutions to this existential invasive pest.

Mahalo,

Chuck Chimera

Honokaa, Hawaii

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

**SB 652 - Support**  
Relating to Agriculture

Thursday, March 2, 2023  
10:00AM  
Conference Room 211  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

My name is Scott Enright and I work as a consultant for Hawaii Sustainable Beef Enterprises and I strongly support SB 652. Hawaii has realized its need for local food security and managing and monitoring agricultural threats such as the two-lined spittlebug are crucial. The funding for this research is important to understand how to manage and protect the ranching community from this invasive pest.

In closing, appropriating funds to the two-lined spittlebug project is crucial to increase local beef production and protect the State's ranch lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:23:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Harry von Holt	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 652.

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:56:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Moore	Testifying for Kealia Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB652.

I manage two ranches in Kona encompassing 7300 acres that are drastically affected by the TLSB. It is the worst grass pest I have known in my 35 years of ranching in Kona. This funding of the Dept. of Agriculture is crucial to helping ranchers find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and to keeping these lands healthy and productive. We need the Dept. of Agriculture to be funded as they research ways to control and mitigate damage by the TLSB, and to assist in recovery efforts for the land that is devastated by this invasive species. It must be stopped from spreading, and we need to fight the weeds that are taking over our pasture lands and forests. I ask your serious consideration to this bill. Mahalo!

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:04:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB652.

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 4:58:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill. Invasive species can have a huge impact on our state's ability to improve food security, and the TSLB is a major threat.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

Board Chair, Hawaii Rangeland Stewardship Foundation

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 7:12:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 12:09:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB652



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

**SB652**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

By  
Melelani Oshiro, MS

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melelani Oshiro and I am a Extension Agent of livestock programs with the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I **SUPPORT SB652** because livestock industry an integral and valuable across all islands. Mitigation plans need to continue to stay a ahead of this invasive insect, Two-Lined Spittle bug, to help protection our islands rangelands and livestock industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this process.

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 4:06:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB652.

**SB-652**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 6:26:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jenee S Odani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, 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 SB652**. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii nor CTAHR.

I believe that the ongoing threat posed by the Two-lined Spittlebug to Hawaii's lands and the ranchers that steward these lands warrants special consideration. This invasive species damages pastures and reducing the ability of ranchers to raise cattle for food sustainability. 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-652**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:28:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important Bill for the beef cattle industry.