

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 744, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 744, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council was established in 2003 codified as Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and is administered under the Department. The Council is co-chaired by the chairs of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the Department and members include representatives from the Departments of Transportation, Health, Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawai'i that provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the state and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. As part of their mandate, HISC disburses state funding to support interagency invasive species projects via an intra-governmental grant process wherein state, county, and federal offices may submit requests for funding and collaboratively draft a recommended budget for HISC review and final approval.

The measure calls for HISC to designate coffee leaf rust as an invasive species under its administrative rules, however HISC does not currently have administrative rules under Chapter 194, HRS. Coffee leaf rust is currently an agricultural pest and as such HDOA is leading the response effort for coffee leaf rust and has already listed the invasive plant pathogen

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

Hemileia vastatrix (coffee leaf rust) under Chapter 69A, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, as a pest for response and control under the authority of Section 141-3, HRS. HISC and the Department will continue to coordinate with HDOA as necessary on response efforts.

The Department does recognize coffee leaf rust as a major agricultural threat in Hawai'i and agrees that additional coordination and resources are needed to manage its spread. The Department is currently requesting an increase in recurring funds to be dedicated to HISC for the early detection, response, and control of invasive species, and these additional funds could be used to combat coffee leaf rust and other invasive species throughout the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**MARCH 29, 2023
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 744, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 744, SD1, HD1. This bill requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to classify coffee leaf rust (CLR) as an invasive species in its administrative rules. The Department supports the intent of this bill and offers comments.

Although the HISC, through Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §194-2(a), can promulgate administrative rules, the HISC has not engaged in active rulemaking at this time to create a list of invasive species necessary to include the coffee leaf rust, CLR. The Department has listed the invasive plant pathogen *Hemileia vastatrix*, the coffee leaf rust under Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 4-69A as a pest for response and control under the authority of Hawaii Revised Statutes RS §141-3. As such, the Department believes it has sufficient authority to act and respond to CLR issues. However, the Department does not currently have the funds to support mitigatory efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for CLR other than maintaining the existing restrictions on importation of coffee into the State and to fund the pesticides subsidy program for Coffee Berry Borer and CLR. As long as it does not impact other



items and initiatives included in the administration's budget, the Department requests an appropriation of \$200,000 to address prevention, control and research for CLR.

The Department is a member agency of HISC and looks forward to working with HISC on invasive pests such as CLR.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

REBECCA VILLEGAS

*Council Member
District 7, Central Kona*



Phone: (808) 323-4267

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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER,
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 744 SD1, HD1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 744 SD1, HD1. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer is a significant coffee pest in Hawai'i and the world. Coffee leaf rust causes severe defoliation that greatly reduces the photosynthetic capacity of the coffee plants. Long-term effects of coffee leaf rust may include dieback, which has a significant impact on the following year's yield and causes an estimated thirty per cent to eighty per cent loss if not properly treated. Efforts to control coffee leaf rust are critical to sustaining the coffee industry.

This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program to June 30, 2025, and extends the position of the pesticide subsidy manager to June 30, 2026. The extension of the subsidy will allow the Department to control the coffee berry borer and the coffee leaf rust to mitigate the damage these organisms cause to the coffee beans and plants.

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

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

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 2:50:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Ma'alaha Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support requiring the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

SB-744-HD-1

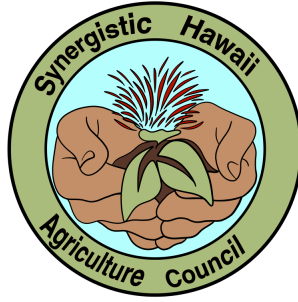
Submitted on: 3/27/2023 4:07:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Zemby	Kona Bae Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having coffee leaf rust (CLR) classified as an invasive species in the administrative rules is essential to both large and small farmers. As the owner of a small coffee farm, we need to ensure that CLR is listed as an invasive species to help protect our farms and livelihoods against CLR. Without listing CLR specifically in the administrative rules, I worry that funding will not be directed to research and prevention. Mahalo for your support.



**RE: Support for SB744 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee Leaf Rust

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council (SHAC) stands in support of this Bill. Our consortium represents 1,500 macadamia, coffee, papaya, and floriculture agribusinesses. SHAC's growers, processors, and shippers stretch across the State.

Coffee leaf rust represents a real and direct threat against the future of coffee in Hawaii. This fungus, first discovered in Maui in late 2020, is responsible for reducing the 2022 Kona crop by 50% or more on most farms. It has had a devastating impact on tree health, crop yields and farmer incomes. Coffee's downstream economic impact on small rural businesses is significant. The crop supports year-round employment, cottage industries, cafes and agritourism.

Empowering the Invasive Species Council to focus attention on coffee leaf rust is vital to bringing more statewide resources to combat this issue.

Thank you for considering this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shrinier
Administrator



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

March 29, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 744, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 744, SD1, HD1, which requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

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

A new threat, *Hemileia vasatrix* (coffee leaf rust), threatens the entire Hawai'ian coffee industry. Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death that can result in up to 70% loss of yield. CLR has already been identified on Hawai'i Island, Maui, and Oahu. CLR is the most destructive coffee disease in the world and can kill an entire farm in a matter of weeks. This fungus is a serious threat to Hawai'i's agriculture industry and the state's economy.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council plays a critical role in the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. Coffee leaf rust

should be classified as an invasive species in HISC's administrative rules to utilize available funding to protect Hawai'i's iconic coffee industry.

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

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:41:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clare Wilson	Huahua Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I own and operate a Kona coffee farm near Holualoa. Control of CLR is an ongoing effort for us. We support the classification of CLR as an invasive species. Resources are needed for research and control of CLR and the HISC is the organization which should be directly involved with this pest.

Mahalo,
Clare Wilson
Huahua Farm

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:50:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kimo Falconer	Hawaii Coffee Growers Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Finance Committee,

Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) is the latest invasive pest to enter Hawaii. First discovered in East Maui, it only took under 2 years for it to spread throughout all of the islands. It is considered the most damaging threat to all coffee farms. Control is only through varietal selection and intense cultural practices. There is no easy fix with this fungus, but by creating inroads that allow for possible other ways to find funding on a larger scale, it could make the overall fight more hopeful and less daunting. One way would be to classify this disease as an invasive pest, widening the scope for organizations who focus on invasive pest control besides the coffee industry.

Thank you for considering this bill and giving me the opportunity to testify.



IN SUPPORT OF SB744
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee Leaf Rust

Aloha Chair, and Esteemed Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association stands in support of SB744. The KCFA represents over 180 farms and agribusinesses in the Kona districts and our mission is to protect the economic interests of our growers.

Coffee leaf rust represents a real and direct threat against the future of coffee in Hawaii. This fungus, first discovered in Maui in late 2020, is responsible for reducing the 2022 Kona crop by 50% or more on most farms. It has had a devastating impact on tree health, crop yields and farmer incomes. Coffee's downstream economic impact on small rural businesses is significant. The crop supports year-round employment, cottage industries, cafes and agritourism.

Empowering the Invasive Species Council to focus attention on coffee leaf rust is vital to bringing more statewide resources to combat this issue.

As a coffee farmer in Captain Cook and member of KCFA, thank you for considering this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Mark Petersen
President

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:29:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer V Perry	Volcano Isle Fruit Co, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB744, relating to research for coffee leaf rust. We grew an experimental section of coffee on our farm, but it is no longer one of our productive crops.

Coffee is an important agriculture crop in Hawaii and can be planted on prime as well as rockier ag land. This research may lead to solutions for other fungal diseases affecting other crops. Our "perfect" weather unfortunately is a breeding ground for plant diseases, especially on the wetter side of the Big Island.

We need to keep as much land as we can in agriculture, providing income, jobs, green beauty, and a specialty export crop. Farming is an industry that has provided jobs historically to young people, teaching them work skills for their future. With needs to tackle pests and marketing challenges, we can hopefully keep our brightest and best in the islands. Agriculture makes our islands independent and secure from problems outside our state. Your support of the coffee growers is support for all farmers.



PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 29, 2023

RE: SUPPORT for SB744 SD1 HD1; RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association.

The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry. Our members are located throughout the State of Hawaii and positioned throughout the supply chain.

Coffee leaf rust (CLR) has been discovered on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Maui, Oahu and Lanai. CLR poses a devastating threat to Hawaii's coffee industry. CLR is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death. The discovery of Coffee Leaf Rust in Hawaii has been declared emergency and requires an emergency response.

A report released on January 21, 2022 by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) suggests the value of Hawaii's green coffee crop in the 2021-22 season is \$113,013,600. This figure places coffee at the top of the charts in Hawaii crop value, and does not account for upstream and downstream revenue in terms of value-added products and ancillary businesses. It's also important to note the coffee industry promotes tourism, and preserves open space, view planes and watersheds.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) was formed to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. HISC fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research.

This measure is designed to empower HISC to help our industry address and survive this crisis. It will unlock resources and expertise otherwise unavailable to Hawaii's coffee farmers.

Please pass this measure to help our industry, our economy and the countless families that depend on Hawaii's coffee industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your support for Hawaii's coffee industry.

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 2:32:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Inouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE need help in mitigating the effects of coffee leaf rust.

Gordon Inouye

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 3:21:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franz Weber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:08:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Polly Petersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a small coffee farmer located in Captain Cook and member of KCFA we fully support passage of this bill.

SB-744-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:09:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB744 SD1 HD1.