

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
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**WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**APRIL 4, 2024
10:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2131, HD2
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2131, HD2 relating to Two-lined Spittlebug (TLSB). This bill appropriates monies to the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control infestations of the TLSB and undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the TLSB. The Department offers support for this bill with comments.

The TLSB 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 to surge and then dominate the landscape. These weed species in turn create a very real threat of long-term damage not just to rangelands but the watershed itself. In addition, the impacts of TLSB infestations are generating fire fuel—through dead grasses and large amount of “brown material” and by allowing weeds that are more fire prone and long-term fire resistant, to occupy the range landscape. Funding would best be used to support efforts to control TLSB and the funding of a response task force.

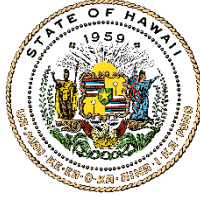


The Department has already formed a tentative agreement with Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) to launch exploration for natural enemies of TLSB which is native to the southeastern United States, including Florida. It is anticipated \$100,000 is needed to launch a joint HDOA/FDACS biocontrol program, sustainable over multiple years. 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 current research project is not sufficient to address the total needs of the impacted rangelands and the threats posed by this insect and its impacts to the watershed. To run the \$800,000 program, the Department requests a 1.0 program manager at the cost of \$120,000. Finally, given the climate zones occupied by kikuyu, the development of resistant rangeland forage is essential, and this work must also be funded.

The Department supports this bill to appropriate funding for the mitigation of the impacts of TLSB so long as it does not impact the budget priorities set forth in the Executive budget submitted.

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2131 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

House Bill 2131 House Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the spread of two-lined spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts for areas affected by it; require a report; declare that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded; and make an appropriation. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive FY 2025 Supplemental Budget Request.**

The Department recognizes that the cattle industry is a leading economic engine on Hawai'i island and throughout the State. A clear and present threat to this industry is the invasive insect Two-Lined Spittlebug (TLSB). This insect has already killed thousands of acres of foraging grasses in pastures ranchers use to feed their cattle. TLSB consumes the nutrients of these foraging grasses and does not allow the grasses to regrow, leaving the areas barren. This compounds the problem by enabling other invasive weeds, such as fireweed and wild blackberry, to take hold.

This bill states that TLSB, as of 2021, now infests almost 280 square miles on Hawaii Island, and the Big Island Invasive Species Committee advises that, like other invasive species like Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, little fire ants, or coqui frogs, TLSB can be easily transported by people, vehicles, or through the plant trade. Making matters worse, TLSB now threatens flora in watersheds and natural areas critical to Hawai'i's environment and cultural resources.

The Department supports this bill to protect the ranching industry and natural areas of Hawai'i. The bill also instructs that the Department of Agriculture submit a report detailing the progress of activities to mitigate and control infestations of the TLSB prior to the start of the 2025 Legislative Session.

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



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, April 4, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2131 HD2 – RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2131 HD2 relating to the two-lined spittlebug.

The bill makes an appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug and for the recovery of areas affected by infestation.

For several years, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (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-line 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.

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, and the reseeded of pasture.

We support HB 2131 HD2 provided its adoption does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.

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

HB2131hd2, Relating to The Two-Lined Spittlebug
Senate Ways and Means Decision-Making Hearing – 10:15 AM
Thursday, April 4, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate 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 being 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 HB2131hd2 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

HB2131 HD2
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:15 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports HB2131 HD2** which appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts for areas affected by it.

We are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but this invasive species directly affects food production and natural resource conservation. We respectfully ask that a minimum of \$800,000 per year be allocated to this effort, which will allow HDOA to develop a program that assists ranchers in their efforts to combat the invasive species.

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 ask that there be guidelines to ensure that the funding goes directly to actions that mitigate the invasive species, such as the actions ranchers have been taking.**

We **strongly support HB2131** and appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter. You can learn more about the Two-lined Spittlebug at www.TLSBhawaii.com and the Hawaii Rangelands Website at <https://rangelandsgateway.org/twolined-spittlebug>

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:15:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Morgan	Testifying for Kualoa Rancha and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 2131 which will help fight the invasive species of two lined spittlebug, that threatens the Hawaii livestock industry. Hawaii's livestock industry, its history, legacy and importance to the future of Hawaii is vital.

The two lined spittlebug is extremely damaging to the stable ecosystems that support ranching and when the pasture grasses die because of it, only unproductive weeds take over. The unproductive weeds provide no economic, environmental or cultural benefit and our capacity to grow our own food im further minimized.

Please suppport HB 2131

Mahalo

John Morgan



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

April 4, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2131, HD2
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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 HB 2131, HD2, which appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts for areas affected by it.

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, fencing, and prescribed grazing.

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

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:21:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2131 which will continue the funding for the State and private ranchers' work to preserve and protect grazing on Hawaii Island and the beef industry of Hawaii.

Mahalo!



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15 AM Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB2131 HD2

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB2131 HD2, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug**, which provides funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug (TLSB), undertake recovery efforts for areas impacted by TLSB, and take measures to reduce TLSB populations.

First detected in Kealahou in 2016, the TLSB has become a serious threat to range lands on Hawaii Island. TLSB has also been reported in residential areas on Hawaii Island where it can impact lawns and sod. Now is the time to pour resources into TLSB control before it spreads further on Hawaii Island or spreads to other islands. The funding for the recovery of TLSB-impacted areas is needed as pasture areas impacted by TLSB do not recover and the grass species are replaced by invasive plants like fireweed and wild blackberry, which can spread across ranchlands and further decrease the quality of forage.

We support this increase in funding to control TLSB and develop methods to recover impacted areas.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB2131 HD2 and for consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, April 4, 2024 — 10:15 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2131 HD2, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug.

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, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 2131 HD2, which appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the spread of the two-line spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts for areas affected by it.

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



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

April 3, 2024

Subject: HB2131 Testimony

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki and the honorable members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Hawaii Food+ Policy is in strong **SUPPORT** of HB2131, appropriating \$800,000 for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations and undertake recovery efforts for affected lands. This legislation is not merely a response to an agricultural pest; it is a vital investment in the resilience of our local communities, the long-term sustainability of our agricultural sector, and the preservation of our natural ecosystems.

The livestock industry is not just an agricultural sector; it is a cornerstone of employment and economic stability for local communities, especially on the island of Hawaii, home to nearly 60% of the state's cattle. The two-lined spittlebug poses a dire threat to this industry, jeopardizing jobs and the economic wellbeing of rural areas. This investment reflects a commitment to preserving the livelihoods of those who form the backbone of our rural economies, ensuring that they continue to thrive even in the face of agricultural challenges. At a time when global food systems are increasingly under threat from climate change and geopolitical tensions, strengthening our domestic food sources has never been more critical. By protecting our pastures and crops from the devastating impacts of the spittlebug, we are safeguarding our ability to produce local, sustainable food.

Moreover, investing in the mitigation and control of the spittlebug now will result in significant cost savings in the future. Without intervention, the damage caused by these pests will escalate, leading to higher recovery costs and potentially irreparable damage to our agricultural infrastructure. Proactive measures are not only fiscally responsible but also essential for the sustainability of our agricultural sector. Beyond its impact on agriculture, the spittlebug also poses a threat to our native forest grasses, which are integral to the health and biodiversity of our forests. These ecosystems are not only vital for the environmental balance but also for the cultural heritage and the natural beauty of Hawaii. Investing in the control and mitigation of this pest is an investment in the preservation of our natural heritage.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued service to the people and the environment of Hawaii,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2131.**

This invasive insect has wreaked havoc on our pastureland, imperiling agricultural livelihoods and undermining Hawaii's food security.

We believe that it is crucial to take immediate action to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug. This is particularly important considering the detrimental impact it has had on our agricultural sector. The appropriation of funds for the Department of Agriculture to address this issue will help us to effectively combat this pest and protect our industry.

By assisting ranchers in restoring their lands and recovering from the damages caused by this invasive species, HB2131 recognizes the importance of supporting our farmers and ensuring their resilience in the face of such challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:46:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carolyn auwelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Funds should be responsibly allocated to directly address the issue. Ranchers have been expending funds to combat this invasive species from day 1.

This pest probably came in in imported potted plants. Ranchers did not create this problem but they are impacted the most severely. Two-lined Spittlebug damage causes unprecented damage to stoloniferous pastures and essentially eliminates a ranch's forage base.

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.

Our livestock industry is critical to Hawaii's food security and environment for managing large tracts of marginal land and important ecosystem functions.

Please support them as they deserve.

mahalo,

carolyn auwelo

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:00:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Melone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2131 HD2 which appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts for areas affected by it.

Two-lined Spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i island in September 2016. This intrusive pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of September 2022 infests over 178,369 acres of pastureland which affects the ability for agricultural production and conservation of these lands. As Hawai'i Island is responsible for 80% of the state's cattle production, an outbreak of this TLSB will be devastating not only to cattle ranchers but to our State's endeavor to double local food production by 2030.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations are especially concerning for pastureland systems. Specifically TLSB in Hawaii has 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 invasive species issue affects all of Hawai'i, not just the cattle ranchers. We must stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist all landowners and stewards affected in recovery efforts.

Reseeding the areas that have been devastated by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect them from runoff and provide ecosystem services of soil coverage while providing 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 throughout Hawai'i. The Two-lined Spittlebug severely disturbs the Hawaiian grazing land plant community by killing desirable grass and forage species. This loss of a living ground cover leaves soil erosion and contributes to sediment-laden runoff into our nearshore coastal waters, which affects water quality and coral reef health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:09:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:02:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT this important bill to address a serious invasive species who's damage can causes runoff that affects the entire ahupua'a. Ranchers in Hawaii are working hard in conjunction with UH researchers to try to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and find resistant grasses to keep their lands healthy and productive. This task is too big and important for ranchers to take on alone.

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:22:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2131HD2 for the reasons expressed in the testimony from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. We have experienced that devastating destruction the TLSB can cause and the daunting challenge of trying to restore the invasive infested aftermath. We cannot afford to back off on this work albet recognizing the other priorities the State is trying to balance, particularly this year. Passing this measure is very important to protecting the vital natural resource that our rangeand represents to the broader community as well as the farmers and ranchers that have been affected or are possibly at risk of being impacted in the future. Thank you

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:50:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2131.

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:09:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Taylor Kellerman

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:24:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hopefully this pest will stay confined to the big island. But unlike the fire weed ,fire ants and others they make their way through out the state. It is only the deer that so far have not made it to Honolulu or the big island. Kauai has black tail but not the agressive axis. They are large not like bugs or fungus so harder to move. Supporting the controle on the big island will lessen the numbers and maybe delay the transport of them to other islands

LATE

HB-2131-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:59:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Two-lined Spittlebug adversely impacts agriculture in Hawaii. It's important to provide the necessary funding to combat it. I also like the reporting requirement because it will encourage HDOA to stay on top of the issue.