

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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2131 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

House Bill 2131 House Draft 1 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, and that 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 used by ranchers to feed their cattle. TLSB consumes the nutrients of these foraging grasses and does not allow the grasses to regrow leaving the areas barren which then compounds the problem by allowing 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 the big island, and the Big Island Invasive Species Committee advises that, like other invasive species like Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, little fire ant, 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 is in support of this bill to protect both the ranching industry and natural areas of Hawai‘i, as well as the bill’s instruction that the Department of Agriculture submit a report prior to the start of the 2025 Legislative Session detailing the progress of activities to mitigate and control infestations of the TLSB.

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
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2131 HD1 – RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2131 HD1 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 HD1 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.

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
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 FINANCE

FEBRUARY 22, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2131, HD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2131, HD1 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.

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

HB2131hd1, Relating to The Two-Lined Spittlebug
House FIN Hearing – 1:00 PM
Thursday, February 22, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House FIN 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 HB2131hd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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 Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance 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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 22, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2131 HD1, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug.

Dear Chair Yamashita 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 HD1, 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



House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 22, 2024
1:00 PM Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB2131 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB2131 HD1, 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 HD1 and for consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



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 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2131, HD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
1:00 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 HB 2131, HD1, 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-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:46:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	KEALIA RANCH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appreciate your full support of HB 2131 as this is the worst pest to invade the Kona area and it is spreading. It has affected not only the grazing for livestock, but also the forest and native landscape. The TLSB has caused extensive damage to the existing groundcovers allowing dangerous exotic weeds to proliferate, especially "Coster's Curse" a highly invasive bushy bramble that is extremely hard to penetrate or control. That is only one of many invasive weeds that are taking over the forest. The lack of a solid groundcover also allows the feral pigs to damage the land. We are seeing more and more feral pig damage to the lands that have been denuded by the TLSB. This causes a multitude of resource issues.

To date, it is the ranchers that have been implementing most of the mitigation efforts to restore the landscape, with the research and assistance of CTAHR personnel. It is daunting and costly. CTAHR has been instrumental in its work to find cost-effective methods for control and restoration, but funds run out.

We ask that you continue to fund these efforts, and allow for responsible allocation to directly address the issue by both ranchers and staff.

Sincerely,

Sara Moore



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

HB2131 HD1

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 1:00PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports HB2131** 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. 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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 22, 2024 1:00 PM Conference Room 308

In SUPPORT of:

HB2104 HD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

HB2131 HD1: RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

HB2133 HD1: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HB2139 HD1: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HB2644 HD1: RELATING TO LITTLE FIRE ANTS

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB2104 HD1, HB2131 HD1, HB2133 HD1, HB2139 HD1, and HB2644 HD1**, which will help to mitigate the ongoing and future impacts of invasive pests on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Hawai'i's history provides us with a host of lessons regarding the wide-ranging and potentially irreversible damage that invasive species can inflict on our islands and ways of life. Invasive plants and wildlife have overtaken entire watersheds, impacting not just native habitat but also reducing aquifer recharge, increasing our vulnerability to floods and wildfires, and smothering our nearshore reefs and waters with runoff. Parasites and other pests have impacted local food production and increased the use of toxic pesticides on farms and in home gardens, risking both public health as well as threatening stream and nearshore species critical to our aquatic ecosystems. Invasive animals have also extirpated native species, continue to threaten others with outright extinction, and continue to undermine public health by acting as vectors for zoonotic diseases. Most recently, the spread of invasive pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, hala scale, two-lined spittlebug and others will require substantial and long-needed policies and investments over the long-term, to prevent additional and even greater impacts to our islands and our future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports the much needed policies and investments contemplated in these measures. More financial support is critical for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to fulfill its biosecurity mission; funding for targeted campaigns to address the little fire ant and two-lined spittlebug are critical to preventing the ecological, cultural, agricultural, public health, and economic impacts of these pests; financial support for businesses and organizations to engage in invasive species control and eradication will engage more of the community in the all-hands-on-deck fight to combat their spread; and



agricultural invasive species placards will encourage agricultural producers to proactively employ best management practices and other measures to prevent and address invasive species on agricultural lands.

The Sierra Club emphasizes that quarantine requirements will also be critical to filling a gap in our regulatory toolbox that has allowed the sale of infested plants and other communities – a gap that has likely contributed to the establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, and the ongoing spread of little fire ants across the islands. **The provisions of HB2758 HD2 would help to fill this regulatory gap and many others, and the Sierra Club accordingly strongly supports that measure as well.**

Much remains uncertain as we continue to reckon with the consequences of Hawai‘i’s longstanding failure to enact critical biosecurity protections. However, it is certain that much stronger action, including but not limited to the proposals in the aforementioned bills, will be necessary to mitigate or prevent the worst of these and other future impacts to our lives and that of our children and future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



February 22, 2024

Subject: Testimony to the Hawai'i State House of Representatives regarding House Bill 2131
"Relating to Two-Lined Spittlebug"

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) in **strong support** of House Bill 2131 which would establish increased support to control and slow the spread of the pasture-destroying Two-Lined Spittlebug (*Prosapia bicincta*).

Two-Lined Spittlebug (TLSB) is a threat to our food security, economy, environment, and culture, Statewide—especially on the Hawai'i Island. Although this species is not yet ravaging O'ahu, OISC supports this measure because satisfactory biosecurity depends on containing a species on one island so that species does not then spread to neighboring islands. In order to have a real impact on limiting the threats of TLSB, and other high-impact invasive species capable of detrimentally impacting our landscapes, Statewide biosecurity strategy needs to be framed in terms of both reactive and preventative actions. Detecting a species like TLSB early and containing it to one-island while working toward eradication also protects the neighbor islands from the threats of that species. This not only helps to save vital resources, it also helps to save costs. The cheapest way to stop the impacts of invasive species is to prevent them from arriving to our islands in the first place.

We very much appreciate your continuing leadership and support for invasive species management. For these reasons I lend OISC's full support behind HB 2131 and thank the Committee for providing our organization with the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Nate Dube
Manager, O'ahu Invasive species Committee

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:30:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Clemens Mayer, and I strongly support HB2758 HD2

As someone involved in several aspects of conservation, as well as a practitioner of hana no'eau threatened by invasive species. Invasive species, such as the two-lined spittlebug, are or can be major threats to public health, as well as being majorly detrimental to commercial sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, I strongly support this motion to protect the environment of Hawai'i nei from invasive pests.

With warmest regards, Clemens Mayer

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 3:23:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

There are two aspects of the TLSB which need State support. The first is funding to continue to develop strategies that can be applied to halt the spread of TLSB. The second is to assist TLSB impacted ranchers offset the cost of recovery efforts to restore the damaged rangeland to its optimal condition to not only provide grass and vegetative cover to stabilize soil, reduce the risk of erosion, increase soil health, maximize its watershed capacity for capture and infiltration of water, and restore lost habitat, but also to keep the rancher in business to sustain the vital stewardship functions on the land.

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:16:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:18:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to help manage the two line spit bug, its a terrible pest that transforms productive ranch land into unproductive scrub.

Invasive species are not only major threats when they impact O‘ahu. The meat production on Big Island is an essential chunk of the local food system and a key part of the states upcoming local procurement goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:21:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stand by Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:56:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2131.

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:31:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. TLSB continues to be a threat to Hawaii's livestock industry and environment. Ranchers have unfairly borne the burden of this invasive species that never should have got here in the first place. Ranchers need assistance to find solutions to the problems this insect has caused. If they do not get help, our local agricultural system will get further eroded increasing food insecurity. Ranchers are important land stewards and provide many public services when their lands are well managed such as fuel load mitigation, weed control, invasive animal control, managed public access. If they cannot stay in business thousands of acres of land may be left unmanaged. This is important to the character and health of our communities and landscapes. Please support. Mahalo.

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:02:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Boteilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:40:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am in Strong Support of HB 2131 HD1.

HB-2131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:51:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support funding for 2-lined spittle bug control.

Mahalo,
Patrick Chee