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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: mauka248@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB598 on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 8:46:29 AM

SB598

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Kona Coffee farmer for many years(26) and the chairman of the Kona Coffee Farmers pest and disease committee I strongly urge the passage of this bill. The Coffee Berry Borer is doing major damage to our crop and control methods are very expensive and we could use any help we can get.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: bruce.corker@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB598 on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 7:47:06 PM
Attachments: [SB598](#)

SB598

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments:

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February 3, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 598
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414
2:45 PM

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

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in support of SB 598 which establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the pesticide subsidy program.

Coffee is one of Hawaii's signature crops; one that helps bring fame and tourists to Hawaii. Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. While the full tally is yet to be made, farms on Hawaii Island have experienced deep losses. Some have failed. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the value of the remaining crop. CBB is a serious threat to Hawaii's agriculture industry and the state's economy. While CBB is battled worldwide, no other coffee growing origin shares Hawaii's high labor costs and restrictions on pesticides that may be used elsewhere to fight this destructive pest. This places the industry at a competitive disadvantage when compared to the rest of the coffee-growing world.

Fighting CBB is a priority in other coffee-producing countries. The USDA has expressed its support targeted toward research, education and mitigation. The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. A non-profit CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. CTAHR and HDOA have been responsive and effective in their combined efforts. Industry has committed countless private sector dollars and has leveraged both State and Federal funds. The State must continue to do its part.

A recent CTAHR economic analysis estimates FY2013 crop losses due to CBB at \$7.68 million, with a resultant \$571,000 annual loss in state tax revenues.

This establishment of the pesticide subsidy program manager should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

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



February 3, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY RE: SB 598 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414, 2:45 PM

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

The Maui Chamber of Commerce is in support of SB 598 which establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the pesticide subsidy program.

The Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) is a significant threat to Hawaii's well established and growing coffee industry, a key agricultural industry for our state. Farms on Hawaii Island have already experienced deep losses from this pest and other islands' coffees are threatened as well as pests are carried between the islands. Therefore, the CBB is a serious threat to the state's agricultural economy and our coffee industry.

Fighting CBB needs to be a top agricultural priority for our state and we must continue to invest in research, education, and mitigation solutions to address this growing problem. We understand that a recent CTAHR economic analysis estimates FY2013 crop losses due to CBB at \$7.68 million, with a resultant \$571,000 annual loss in state tax revenues. This establishment of the pesticide subsidy program manager should be viewed as a modest investment in one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

Agriculture has always been and continues to be important to: our state's economy (generating \$2.9 billion to the state's annual economy and directly and indirectly providing 42,000 jobs), our ability to sustain ourselves by growing local food, protecting our beautiful green and spaces; preserving our rural areas, and our quality of life. It is essential to support this industry and the crops that have created significant opportunities and returns for our state, such as coffee, which has gained tremendous recognition in domestic and foreign markets. Coffee enhances Hawaii's reputation for creating premium quality delicacies and contributes to our visitor industry due to a growing interest in eco-tourism and visits to coffee farms. Therefore, we must take the necessary steps to protect this crop and our agricultural industry overall.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. We hope you will support this important measure.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President