

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2018  
11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2305 HD1  
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2305 HD1. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position exemption to correspond to the two-year extension of the program by Act 65, SLH 2017, and to continue the position for a year beyond the program sunset date to process applications for subsidies of costs incurred in the final year of the program. The Department strongly supports this bill.

The civil service exemption of the program manager position, which is responsible for division and distribution of available subsidy funds, needs to be extended to correspond to the new program sunset date of June 30, 2021, as extended by Act 65, SLH 2017, and for a year beyond that sunset date because of the particular requirement as to when applications for subsidy must be filed. In order to provide continuous support for local coffee farmers, the pesticide subsidy manager position must be extended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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February 20, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2305, HD 1 Relating to Pesticide Subsidy Program for the Coffee Berry Borer**  
**Hearing Date: 02/22/18 – 11:00 am; House Conference Room 308**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2305, HD 1.

As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island as well as other counties, and I am informed that the coffee berry borer continues to be a substantial threat to coffee's economic survival. Any assistance the State can offer, including the pesticide subsidy that helps farmers manage the cost of controlling this terrible pest, is much appreciated. Over the years, this program has provided a significant savings to the coffee producers.

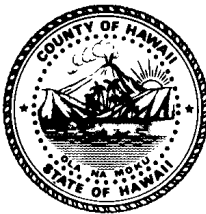
I hope you will extend the pesticide subsidy program manager position through June 30, 2022, as set forth in HB 2305, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



County of Hawai'i  
Council District 9 -  
North and South Kohala



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**Chair:** Committee on Agriculture,  
Water & Energy

**Vice Chair:** Committee on  
Environmental Management

**HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III**  
**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**District 9**  
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 20, 2018

House Committee on Finance  
Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Honorable Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Email: [repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Email: [repcullen@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repcullen@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**RE: Support of HB2305**

Hearing Date/Time: February 22, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Dear House Representatives:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2305**, which extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from Chapter 76, HRS, of the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program.

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is critical to the livelihood of our coffee farmers and agriculture as a whole for Hawai'i Island and the state. Our prized coffee continues to be threatened by the Coffee Berry Borer and it is imperative that the program manager remain in place to assist our agriculture industry, and I therefore strongly urge the enactment of HB2305.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

**TIM RICHARDS**  
Hawai'i County Council, District 9



February 20, 2018

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**Support of HB 2305, H.D. 1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 76, of the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program).**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 308**

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 a utility company. 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 HB 2305, H.D. 1.**

**HB 2305, H.D. 1.** This bill proposes to extend the civil service exemption of the pesticide subsidy program manager position to correspond with the extension of the program pursuant to Act 65 and to further extend the exemption of that position through the fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date in order to process applications for subsidies for costs incurred in the final year of the program.

**LURF's Position.** Extension of the program manager position is necessary to process the applications for subsidies for costs incurred in the final year of the program which assists coffee growers by offsetting the costs of purchasing certain pesticides known to be effective against the coffee berry borer. The highly destructive coffee pest has infested crops on Hawaii island and has recently been detected on Oahu and Maui as well.

Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people, and 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, including the coffee berry borer, now threaten to invade all of the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

Support and help of local farmers including coffee growers, is essential to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species in Hawaii and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. HB 2305, H.D. 1 will assist local coffee growers by extending the Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager position needed to help administer and cover the cost of effective pesticides incurred through the final year of the pesticide subsidy program as intended by Acts 105 (2014) and 152 (2015), which were specifically enacted to aid with the prevention and control of the coffee berry borer and ultimately, the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 2305, H.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

**HB-2305-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:00:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES****DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 22, 2018

11:00 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2305 HD1 RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2305 HD1, relating to Coffee Berry Borer; and Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager Position.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 2305 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 2305 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the pesticide subsidy program manager position in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program..

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry." (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 112-113 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2305 HD1 extends through June 30, 2022, the exemption from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the pesticide subsidy program manager position in order to provide assistance to local coffee farmers for pesticide costs incurred through the final year of the program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889





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February 22, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2305, HD1**  
**RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Room 308  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2305, HD1**, which extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the civil service and collective bargaining exemptions for the position, through June 30, 2022.

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. The CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries and the pesticide subsidy program manager position is critical to its success.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**HB-2305-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 11:09:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Francisco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018

**LATE**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Thursday, February 22, 2018

**STATEMENT OF ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2305 HD 1  
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER BEETLE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2305 HD 1, which extends the sunset date of the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2022, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer, and appropriates funds.

The ILWU represents almost 200 workers at Kauai Coffee. They are part of a highly valued industry that not only plays a key role in Hawaii's agricultural economy, but also has a positive impact on Hawaii's tourism industry.

Currently, there is evidence that the coffee berry borer beetle has been found in all four counties. As a consequence, it becomes more important to continue and to ramp up our efforts to better manage the beetle if not eradicate it entirely. Therefore, continuing the current program and providing adequate funding to at least maintain the on-going efforts is imperative.

Passing H.B. 2305 HD 1 would also support the Administration's attempt at achieving greater sustainability by increasing the production levels of all crops that are grown locally. Passing this bill will provide for the two-year extension, that would also achieve the five-year period for implementing the original pesticide subsidy program, since it took longer to develop and make the program available to assist coffee growers.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2305 HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.