

HB 2305

HD 1

**RELATING TO
COFFEE BERRY
BORER**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014,
2 established a pesticides subsidy program in the department of
3 agriculture for five years to assist coffee growers with
4 offsetting the costs of purchasing certain pesticides known to
5 be effective against the coffee berry borer, a highly
6 destructive coffee pest that has infested coffee crops on Hawaii
7 island, and more recently has been detected on Oahu and Maui.
8 Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established a
9 pesticide subsidy program manager position as a full-time,
10 temporary position exempt from chapter 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes. Section 76-16(b)(17), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
12 provides that any exemption created after July 1, 2014, shall
13 expire three years after its enactment unless affirmatively
14 extended by an act of the legislature. Pursuant to section 76-
15 16(b)(17), the exemption from civil service of the pesticide
16 subsidy program manager position will expire on June 30, 2018,



1 three years after it was created by Act 152, Session Laws of
2 Hawaii 2015.

3 Because it took longer than anticipated for Act 105 to be
4 implemented, Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, extended the
5 pesticide subsidy program from its original sunset date of June
6 30, 2019, to a new sunset date of June 30, 2021, to assist
7 coffee growers for the number of years intended when Act 105 was
8 enacted. However, Act 65 did not extend the civil service
9 exemption of the pesticide subsidy program manager position.

10 Pursuant to section 3(c) of Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii
11 2014, to be eligible for subsidy, applications for subsidy for
12 pesticide purchases made in a fiscal year must be filed in the
13 immediately following fiscal year. For pesticide purchases made
14 in the last fiscal year of the program, from July 1, 2020, to
15 June 30, 2021, applications for the subsidy must be filed in the
16 immediately following fiscal year, anytime between July 1, 2021,
17 and July 2022. The manager position will be needed to process
18 these applications for subsidies for costs incurred in the final
19 year of the program.

20 The purpose of this Act is to extend the civil service
21 exemption of the pesticide subsidy program manager position to



1 correspond with the extension of the program pursuant to Act 65
2 and to further extend the exemption of that position through the
3 fiscal year immediately following the program sunset date in
4 order to process applications for subsidies for costs incurred
5 in the final year of the program.

6 SECTION 2. Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, section
7 3, as amended by Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, and Act
8 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, is amended by amending
9 subsection (g) to read as follows:

10 "(g) There is established within the department a
11 pesticide subsidy program manager position, which shall be a
12 full-time, temporary position exempt from chapters 76 and 89,
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes. The pesticide subsidy program manager
14 shall possess a requisite level of knowledge and expertise in
15 the area of program management necessary to carry out the duties
16 of the position. The pesticide subsidy program manager shall:

- 17 (1) Facilitate the efficient division and distribution of
18 available subsidy funds; and
- 19 (2) Manage the day-to-day coordination for the pesticide
20 subsidy program.



1 The pesticide subsidy program manager shall receive a
2 salary of not more than \$50,000 per year. The pesticide subsidy
3 program manager position shall expire on June 30, 2022."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 31, 2150.



Report Title:

Coffee Berry Borer; Pesticide Subsidy Program Manager Position

Description:

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. (HB2305 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



HB 2305

HD 1

TESTIMONY

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

**FEBRUARY 15, 2018
10:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

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

Chairperson Johanson 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

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 13, 2018

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Johanson and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2305, HD 1 Relating to Pesticide Subsidy Program for the Coffee Berry Borer
Hearing Date: 02/15/18 – 10:30 am; House Conference Room 309

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, 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



February 12, 2018

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

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 15, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., in Conference Room 309

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.



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 15, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2305, HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 309
10:30 am

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt, 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

LATE

TESTIMONY

HB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 10:39:30 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/15/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

DRAFT