

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:38:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Colehour Bondera | Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair & Committee Members:

As a long-time Kona coffee farmer (21 years), and as President Emeritus of Kona Coffee Farmers Association (as well as a current Board member), I find it critical that HDOA properly designate pests and take needed actions to address.

Please support this legislation with the anticipation that it will be helpful for all coffee farmers and all consumers of Hawaii coffees.

Thank you in advance,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 8, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 744
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 744. This bill requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to classify coffee leaf rust (CLR) as an invasive species in its administrative rules. The Department supports the intent of this bill and offers comments.

Although the HISC, through Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §194-2(a), can promulgate administrative rules, the HISC has not engaged in active rulemaking at this time to create a list of invasive species necessary to include the coffee leaf rust, CLR. The Department has listed the invasive plant pathogen *Hemileia vastatrix*, the coffee leaf rust under Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 4-69A as a pest for response and control under the authority of Hawaii Revised Statutes RS §141-3. As such, the Department believes it has sufficient authority to act and respond to CLR issues. However, the Department does not currently have the funds to support mitigatory efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for CLR other than maintaining the existing restrictions on importation of coffee into the State and to fund the pesticides subsidy program for Coffee Berry Borer and CLR. As long as it does not impact other



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February 8, 2023

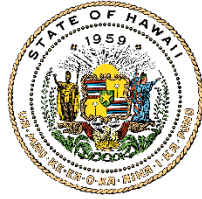
items and initiatives included in the administration's budget, the Department requests an appropriation of \$200,000 to address prevention, control and research for CLR.

The Department is a member agency of HISC and looks forward to working with HISC on invasive pests such as CLR.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 744
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 744 proposes to require the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council was established in 2003 by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 194 and is administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Council is co-chaired by the chairs of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the Department and members include representatives from the Departments of Transportation, Health, Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawai'i that provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the state and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. As part of their mandate, HISC disburses state funding to support interagency invasive species projects via an intra-governmental grant process wherein state, county, and federal offices may submit requests for funding and collaboratively draft a recommended budget for HISC review and final approval.

The measure calls for HISC to designate coffee leaf rust as an invasive species under its administrative rules, however HISC does not currently have administrative rules under Chapter 194, HRS. HISC Program Support staff has drafted rules that are currently being reviewed by the

Department of the Attorney General. The Department recognizes that coffee leaf rust is major agricultural threat in Hawai‘i, and additional coordination and resources are needed to manage its spread.

Similar actions to address coffee leaf rust have already been taken by HDOA, who is leading the response effort and listed the invasive plant pathogen, *Hemileia vastatrix*, the coffee leaf rust, under Chapter 69A, Hawai‘i Administrative Rules, as a pest for response and control under the authority of Section 141-3, HRS. HISC and the Department will continue to coordinate with HDOA as necessary on response efforts.

The Department is currently requesting an increase in recurring funds to be dedicated to HISC for the early detection, response, and control of invasive species.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment this measure.

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:34:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Kimo Falconer | Testifying for Hawaii Coffee Growers Association | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support SB-744



IN SUPPORT OF SB744

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Department of Agriculture; Healthy Soils Program; Carbon Sequestration; Appropriation

Aloha Chair, and Esteemed Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association stands in strong support of SB744. The KCFA represent over 170 farms and agribusinesses in the Kona districts and our mission is to protect the economic interests of our growers.

Coffee leaf rust represents a real and direct threat against the future of coffee in Hawaii. This fungus, first discovered in Maui in late 2020, is responsible for reducing the 2022 Kona crop by 50% or more on most farms. It has had a devastating impact on tree health, crop yields and farmer incomes. Coffee's downstream economic impact on small rural businesses is significant. The crop supports year-round employment, cottage industries, cafes and agritourism.

Empowering the Invasive Species Council to focus attention on coffee leaf rust is vital to bringing more statewide resources to combat this issue.

Thank you for considering this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
President



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February 8, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 744
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 SB 744, which requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few.

A new threat, *Hemileia vasatrix* (coffee leaf rust), threatens the entire Hawai'ian coffee industry. Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death that can result in up to 70% loss of yield. CLR has already been identified on Hawai'i Island, Maui, and Oahu. CLR is the most destructive coffee disease in the world and can kill an entire farm in a matter of weeks. This fungus is a serious threat to Hawai'i's agriculture industry and the state's economy.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council plays a critical role in the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. Coffee leaf rust

should be classified as an invasive species in HISC's administrative rules to utilize available funding to protect Hawai'i's iconic coffee industry.

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

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:16:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Will Caron | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB744.

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:38:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Franz Weber | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am strong in support of the classification

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:28:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jim Monk | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please pass SB744. It requires the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust. Now that the lax governance of the State of Hawaii has allowed Coffee Leaf Rust to invade our State, the Council should be empowered to do something about it. Please pass this bill to help all of us small coffee farmers to survive the latest invasive species to attack our coffee trees.