

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
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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

MARCH 22, 2023
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE BILL NO. 744 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Gates 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



SB744, S.D. 1
Page 2
March 22, 2023

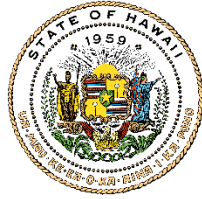
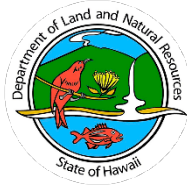
items and initiatives included in the administration's budget, the Department requests an appropriation of \$200,000 to address prevention, control and research for CLR.

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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 744, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 744, Senate Draft 1 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 codified as Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and is administered under the Department. 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. HDOA is leading the response effort for coffee leaf rust and has already listed the invasive plant pathogen *Hemileia vastatrix* (coffee leaf rust) under Chapter 69A, Hawai'i

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

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 does recognize coffee leaf rust as a major agricultural threat in Hawai'i and agrees that additional coordination and resources are needed to manage its spread. 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, and these additional funds could be used to combat coffee leaf rust and other invasive species throughout the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 744, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, 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, SD1, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 9:59:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglass S. Adams	Department of Research & Development, County of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 744 SD1, which requires the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to classify the fungal pathogen that causes 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. This measure will assist with funding opportunities that continue the battle to mitigate the effects of coffee leaf rust.

We strongly encourage the Committee to move SB 744 SD1 forward with a POSITIVE recommendation for House passage.

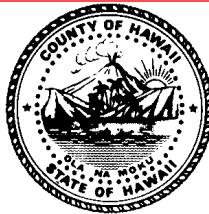
very respectfully,

Douglass S Adams

Director, Department of Research & Development

County of Hawai'i

Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280
Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 21, 2023

Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB744 Relating to Invasive Species
Hearing: March 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha,

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I am expressing strong support for SB744 relating to Invasive Species

We support this measure that would require the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify the fungal pathogen that causes coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

The long-term effects of coffee leaf rust has a significant impact if it is not properly treated, and controlling the coffee leaf rust is critical to sustaining the coffee industry here in Kona.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holeka Goro Inaba".

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member
District 8, North Kona

HGI.wpb

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:17:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and members of the House AGR Committee,

Coffee leaf rust, found originally on Maui, only took 2 years to reach every inch of the Hawaiian Island chain, not just the commercial growing areas, but the feral coffee found in the most remote, inaccessible regions. In two years the estimated yield decline in Kona alone was greater than 50%. There is not a silver bullet control for this fungus. Resistant varieties are years away from being available. It would be helpful to have CLR designated as an invasive pest even though it may not be an immediate help, but at least should a funding program arise that would require this pest to be invasive, at least we have enacted a measure to address that.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this.



**RE: Support for SB744 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee Leaf Rust

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council (SHAC) stands in support of this Bill. Our consortium represents 1,500 macadamia, coffee, papaya, and floriculture agribusinesses. SHAC's growers, processors, and shippers stretch across the State.

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 Shrinier
Administrator

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 4:55:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Corker	Rancho Aloha Coffee Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

I am a coffee farmer in Holualoa in the North Kona District and **I strongly support SB744.**

The introduction of Coffee Leaf Rust into Hawaii in 2020 has put the State's coffee production under serious threat of collapse. SB744 will assist efforts to mitigate the damaging effects of Coffee Leaf Rust. Please pass SB744.

Thank you.

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha Coffee Farm

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:31:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Ma'alaha Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. support requiring 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.



IN SUPPORT OF SB744

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee Leaf Rust

Aloha Chair, and Esteemed Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association stands in solid support of SB744. The KCFA represent over 180 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.

As a coffee farmer in Captain Cook and member of KCFA, thank you for considering this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Mark Petersen
President



PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

March 22, 2023

RE: SUPPORT for SB744 SD1; RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahalou and members of the committee,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association.

The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry. Our members are located throughout the State of Hawaii and positioned throughout the supply chain.

Coffee leaf rust (CLR) has been discovered on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Maui, Oahu and Lanai. CLR poses a devastating threat to Hawaii's coffee industry. CLR is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death. The discovery of Coffee Leaf Rust in Hawaii has been declared emergency and requires an emergency response.

A report released on January 21, 2022 by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) suggests the value of Hawaii's green coffee crop in the 2021-22 season is \$113,013,600. This figure places coffee at the top of the charts in Hawaii crop value, and does not account for upstream and downstream revenue in terms of value-added products and ancillary businesses. It's also important to note the coffee industry promotes tourism, and preserves open space, view planes and watersheds.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) was formed to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives 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. HISC fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research.

This measure is designed to empower HISC to help our industry address and survive this crisis. It will unlock resources and expertise otherwise unavailable to Hawaii's coffee farmers.

Please pass this measure to help our industry, our economy and the countless families that depend on Hawaii's coffee industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your support for Hawaii's coffee industry.

Please accept our thanks on behalf of Hawaii's hard working coffee producers.

REBECCA VILLEGAS

*Council Member
District 7, Central Kona*



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HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER,
HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 744, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 744. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer is a significant coffee pest in Hawai'i and the world. Coffee leaf rust causes severe defoliation that greatly reduces the photosynthetic capacity of the coffee plants. Long-term effects of coffee leaf rust may include dieback, which has a significant impact on the following year's yield and causes an estimated thirty per cent to eighty per cent loss if not properly treated. Efforts to control coffee leaf rust are critical to sustaining the coffee industry.

This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program to June 30, 2025, and extends the position of the pesticide subsidy manager to June 30, 2026. The extension of the subsidy will allow the Department to control the coffee berry borer and the coffee leaf rust to mitigate the damage these organisms cause to the coffee beans and plants.

For these reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at, (808) 323-4267

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Villegas'.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:53:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB744 SD1.

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:12:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

The invasive species council needs to address CLR in their rules, since this is definitely an invasive species

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:30:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franck Carisey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the owner of Uluwehi Coffee Farm, a new farm my wife and I started in 2018 in Holualoa. At the time we started the farm, no one was talking about the CLR and how it could be such a major problem for coffee farmers. We have invested our savings into this project but the CLR has significantly impacted our plans, impacting our projected yields for the past 2 years and we had to invest in spraying equipment and products we did not plan on acquiring and had not budgeted for. CLR is impacting many farms and threatening the future of many farmers in Hawaii and it is critical that the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council quickly classifies the fungal pathogen that causes coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust. Thank you.

Franck Carisey

SB-744-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:43:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.