

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. 652 SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 652, SD1 relating to agriculture. This bill appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug, and establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the State and requires reports to the Legislature. The Department supports this measure with comments.

The two-lined spittlebug is severely damaging the rangelands of Hawaii Island. This damage is not limited to the devastation of kikuyu grass, the dominant grazing forage for our cattle industry. The spittlebugs are creating opportunities for invasive weed species within the kikuyu forage including Christmas berry, lantana, pamakani and other weed species. These weed species in turn creates a very real threat of long-term damage not just to rangelands but the watershed itself. Funding would best be used to support efforts to control TLSB and the funding of a response task force.



The Department has already formed a tentative agreement with Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) to launch exploration for natural enemies as TLSB is native to the southeastern United States, including Florida. It is anticipated \$100,000 is needed to launch a joint HDOA/FDACS biocontrol program. A response team is needed to attack not just TLSB but for removal of invasive weeds and subsequent replacement of devastated rangelands with viable TLSB resistant kikuyu replacements.

Further, the Department strongly recommends funding the \$100,000 research program for TLSB as well funding requests from the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council as the research project is not sufficient to address the total need of the impacted rangelands and the threats posed by this insect and its impacts to the watershed.

While the Department recognizes feral chickens and pigs can be a nuisance in suburban and residential communities, the department respectfully requests language regarding feral chickens and pigs to be removed. The Department does not perform feral animal control and does not have the personnel or financial resources to do so. As such, the Department should not be delegated the responsibility to launch a pilot program to mitigate and control feral chickens, roosters, and pigs as those activities will interfere with the Department's priority responsibilities for mitigation and surveillance and response to diseases, invasive species and pests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 652, S.D. 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Jennifer D. Waihee-Polk or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys
General

Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments on this bill.

The original purpose of this bill was to appropriate money to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug. The bill was recently amended to, among other things, require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year pilot program to provide traps to members of the public to mitigate and control the State's feral chicken, rooster, and pig populations.

Pursuant to article III, section 14, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "Each law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The Hawaii Supreme Court has held that this provision is mandatory and a violation thereof would invalidate legislation. *Schwab v. Ariyoshi*, 58 Haw. 25, 31, 564 P.2d 135, 139 (1977).

A five-year pilot program to provide traps to members of the public to mitigate and control the State's feral chicken, rooster, and pig populations does not appear to be clearly included within the subject expressed in the title of this bill, "agriculture," in the bill as currently drafted. Being feral, these animals are not livestock. Furthermore, on page 2, line 17, through page 3, line 6, the legislative findings discuss impacts to yard and gardens, native Hawaiian plants and resources, endangered and threatened species, public health, noise and odor nuisances, and driving hazards. These findings

do not appear related to agriculture. There is one reference to "damaging food crops", although it is unclear if this is damage to an individual garden or to a farm or if it is applicable to feral chickens, roosters, and pigs or just to one of these animals. See page 2, line 21. There is also a statement in the bill that the problem is a nuisance "particularly in suburban and urban residential communities." See page 2, lines 19-20.

We recommend that section 1 of the bill on page 2, line 17, through page 3, line 6, be revised to describe the link between feral chickens, roosters, and pigs and the subject "agriculture." If the Legislature finds that all of these animals destroy food crops on farms or otherwise impact agriculture in Hawaii, that may be a sufficient justification. If this link cannot be established, there may be a constitutional concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
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 652, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Senate Bill 652, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts of lands damaged by two-lined spittlebug. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in HDOA's Executive Budget request.**

High densities of two-lined spittlebug (TLSB) can result in almost 100% dieback of key pasture grasses that are essential for livestock foraging. When these grasses die back, invasive plants and low-quality foraging grasses replace them. Two-lined spittlebug's rapid rate of spread and apparent preference for Kikuyu and Pangola grass creates the potential for this pest to spread throughout the islands and cause irreparable harm to large areas of valuable grazing land and natural areas, threatening the economic sustainability of Hawai'i's livestock industry, reducing the ecosystem services derived from these landscapes, and ultimately harming our island communities through decreased agricultural revenue and reduced food security.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is administered through the Department and provides policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments for the prevention, control, and eradication of harmful invasive species throughout the state. The HISC has prioritized initial funding to support research and the development of management tools for TLSB through its yearly competitive grant process, but an investment of stable, long-term funding is needed to manage this pest on Hawai'i Island. Funds will help prevent the spread of TLSB to other islands, but will not eradicate this invasive species.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

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



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March 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 652, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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.

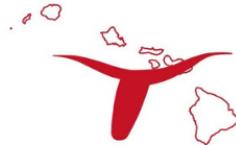
The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 652, SD1, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

The Two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawai'i in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pasture land. Monthly pasture surveys that began in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of October 2019 infests over 222 sq. miles or about 142,468 acres. We must stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawai'i have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This promotes the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle.

Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage, biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB652 SD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB652 SD1** which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

We support this measure because it is extremely important to continue efforts to assist ranchers in addressing this invasive species. We respectfully ask that the committee return the version to its original SB652 form, as the addition of a pilot program for feral chickens, roosters, and pigs is a completely different subject matter from the two-lined spittlebug issues. Additionally, the Department of Agriculture does not manage feral animals. While feral animal control is important, we ask that it be removed from this bill so that we can ensure funding is established for this important endeavor to reduce the spread and negative impacts of the spittlebug.

We are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but this invasive species directly affects food production and natural resource conservation. Hawaii Island is responsible for 80% of the state's cattle production, so an outbreak of this invasive species will be devastating not only to cattle ranchers, but to our endeavor for food security. This invasive species issue affects all of Hawaii, not just the cattle ranchers. Two-lined Spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii in September 2016 where it had caused damage to nearly 2,000 acres of pastureland. Monthly pasture surveys that began in November 2017 have revealed that the pest has rapidly expanded its range and as of September 2022 infests 178,369 acres. It is imperative that we stop the spread of the Two-lined Spittlebug and assist ranchers affected in recovery efforts.

Two-lined Spittlebug infestations in Hawaii have been shown to dramatically reduce the forage quantity and quality of pastures by killing key forage species outright, or by decreasing the nutritional value, palatability, and productivity of key forages. This enables the establishment and proliferation of invasive weeds with no economic or other value, while significantly reducing the quality and availability of foraging grasses. Reseeding areas denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle. Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

Healthy grazing lands are integral to watershed health and function in Hawaii. The Two-lined Spittlebug severely disturbs the Hawaiian grazing land plant community by killing the grass. This



loss of living ground cover leaves the land vulnerable to soil loss which contributes to sediment-laden runoff into our near shore coastal waters, affecting coral reef health. Healthy coral reefs provide important services such as shoreline protection, and marine ecosystem habitats that support important food chains and thus our communities. Invasive weeds move in on these degraded lands, degrading the aesthetic of the landscape, hindering not only agriculture but also other land management efforts, and recreational uses such as forest and wildlife conservation projects, hiking and hunting.

Ranchers in Hawaii are working hard to try to find cost-effective ways to adapt to this new challenge and to keep their lands healthy and productive, but the task is too big for them to take on alone. HDOA has provided funds for research efforts, and we respectfully urge the legislature to provide them with funding to continue supporting this effort.

We **support SB652 SD1** and appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter. You can learn more about the Two-lined Spittlebug at www.TLSBhawaii.com and the Hawaii Rangelands Website at <https://rangelandsgateway.org/twolined-spittlebug>

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



March 20, 2023

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

Comments in Support of SB 652, S.D. 1, Relating to Invasive Species; Control and Mitigation (Appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug, and establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the State. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050.)

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference**

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 utility companies. 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 SB 652, S.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

SB 652, S.D. 1. This bill proposes to appropriate funds for the DOA to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, to undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the insect, as well as to establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the State. The DOA shall take measures including the use of insecticides, weed management, and reseeded pastures, as necessary to reduce the population of the two-lined spittlebug and to assist in recovery efforts; and establish the pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the State, which shall include the provision of traps free-of-charge to members of the public to capture the feral animals.

LURF's Position. Invasive species such as animals, insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, tourism, the natural environment, native species and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Invasive species 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, such as the two-lined spittlebug now threaten to infest and damage pasture lands, severely affecting and reducing the quality and quantity of forage pastures, thereby impairing livestock ranching, which is a highly productive, expanding, and extremely valuable industry on all major islands with an estimated current annual value of more than \$68 million. LURF understands that the pest has rapidly expanded its range, and as of September 2021 has infested over 278 square miles of land.

LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future. The two-lined spittlebug threatens job and food security not only in the agricultural and ranching industries, but throughout the State, making it vital to address infestations and restrict further uncontrolled spread.

Feral chickens, roosters, and pigs have also become a persistent nuisance, damaging food crops and jeopardizing native plants, resources, and species; and exacerbating health and safety concerns and issues.

As potentially devastating threats to food safety and security continue to be a significant concern, LURF and its members appreciate measures being taken, including use of insecticides, weed management, reseeding pastures, and any research efforts to reduce the population of two-lined spittlebugs, as well as efforts to trap and reduce the number of feral animals to assist agricultural stakeholders to manage and protect against these invasive pests.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 652, S.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

SB652sd1, Relating to Agriculture
House AGR Hearing – 10:00 am
Room 325
Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Testimony By: Larry Jefts
Position: Support, Request SB652 Version

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director and chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Appreciation is expressed for the Legislature's support and acknowledgment that expanding the livestock industry contributes to Hawaii's economy and is a significant employer for local communities, especially on Hawaii Island.

About 70% of all beef cattle in Hawaii are grass-fed. Two-lined spittlebug damage results in entire pastures being reduced to dust and replaced with weeds that cattle cannot eat. This damage causes runoff and affects the surrounding land and water. More importantly, it directly impacts food production and the replacement of imported beef.

I understand that ranchers are working hard to find cost-effective ways to manage this invasive species and to keep pastures healthy and productive. It is a daunting task that requires collaboration with state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and funding.

We are concerned with the SD1 that adds on a funding request for a five-year pilot project to mitigate and control feral chickens, roosters, and pigs in the suburban and urban residential areas. These animals are a persistent nuisance but do not significantly contribute to food production like Hawaii's beef cattle industry.

Please restore the focus of this bill to SB652, which wholly supported the management of the invasive two-lined spittlebug, which is devastating the cattle industry.

Your favorable consideration to revert to SB652 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 4:00:39 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lisa Wood | Hawaii Cattlemen's Council | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We support this measure because it is necessary to assist ranchers in addressing this invasive species. However, we respectfully request the committee return the version to its original SB652 form. The pilot project for feral chickens, roosters and pigs is unrelated and should be addressed separately.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB 652, SD1
Relating to Agriculture

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Enright and I work as a consultant for Hawaii Sustainable Beef Enterprises and I strongly support SB 652, SD1. Hawaii has realized its need for local food security and managing and monitoring agricultural threats such as the two-lined spittlebug are crucial. The funding for this research is important to understand how to manage and protect the ranching community from this invasive pest.

In closing, appropriating funds to the two-lined spittlebug project is crucial to increase local beef production and protect the State's ranch lands. It is extremely important to continue efforts to assist ranchers in addressing the two-lined spittlebug infestation. I respectfully ask that the Committee return to its original SB 652 form, as the addition of a pilot program for feral chickens, roosters, and pigs is a completely different subject matter from the two-lined spittlebug issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Enright

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:22:14 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Alan Gottlieb | Ponoholo Ranch Limited | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We support this measure because it is extremely important to continue efforts to assist ranchers in addressing this invasive species. We respectfully ask that the committee consider returning the version to its original SB652 form, as the addition of a pilot program for feral chickens, roosters, and pigs is a completely different subject matter from the two-lined spittlebug issues. Additionally, the Department of Agriculture does not manage feral animals. While feral animal control is important, we ask that it be removed from this bill so that we can ensure funding is established for this important endeavor to reduce the spread and negative impacts of the spittlebug.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 652 SD1, Relating to Agriculture.

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SB 652 SD1, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug, and establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the State.

Ulupono supports the State's goal to increase local food production, which includes strengthening the local livestock industry. The two-lined spittlebug was first detected in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island in September 2016. It damaged roughly 2,000 acres of pastureland. As of September 2022, damage from infestation has skyrocketed to about 178,369 acres of rangelands on Hawai'i Island. In highly infested areas, there is 100% die-off of key pasture grasses such as Kikuyu and Pangola. Rapid spread and die-off due to this pest are affecting the local livestock industry and pose a massive threat to production on Hawai'i Island. Increasing State resources to support the local livestock industry will be crucial in maintaining the growth of local livestock production and meeting State food production goals.

We also support efforts to mitigate and control feral animals and ungulates as they relate to agricultural damage across the state. While the pilot provided in this measure may be worthy of funding, we ask this committee to consider a separate measure for this effort as the two-lined spittlebug efforts identified in the original bill pose a different agricultural invasive species risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

We support this measure because it is extremely important to continue efforts to assist ranchers in addressing this invasive species. We respectfully ask that the committee return the version to its original SB652 form, as the addition of a pilot program for feral chickens, roosters, and pigs is a completely different subject matter from the two-lined spittlebug issues.



**HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
(HFIA)**

P. O. Box 66 □ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774
Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiforest.org
Website: www.hawaiiforest.org

Date: 03/21/23

TO: AGR Chair Gates, AGR Vice Chair Kahaloa and AGR Committee Members

FROM: the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support for SB652 SD1 relating to agriculture

Dear Chair Gates and Committee Members

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) is in its 34th year. It is a state-wide association of landowners, woodworkers, forest professionals and concerned citizens working toward healthier and more productive forests across the state of Hawaii. On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association, please support SB652 SD1.

Hawaii cattlemen face a very difficult foe. HFIA agrees with the intent of this bill to continue appropriating monies to address the issue that is the two-lined spittlebug, and to address lands already devastated by the pest.

While it may seem like a good idea to take advantage of the demise of Hawaii's kikuyu and pangola grass lands to reforest Hawaii; that would be a mistake. Once the spittle bug is done wreaking havoc in an area, the land would be exposed to a plethora of aggressive pyrophytic (fire-loving) weeds. Once fires are extinguished the exposed damaged soil is going to attract more weeds. This is not good for cattle ranching; it is not good for forestry; it is not good for our communities and it is highly degrading to the land and soils. To do nothing and allow "nature to take her course" is disrespectful to the land and people of Hawaii. Addressing the spittlebug appropriately, and managing the lands strategically will ultimately yield a better outcome.

This is the time not only to do the right thing by cattle ranchers; we need to do the right thing for our potential forest lands and lands that are in transition. This is an issue that should have the support of DLNR's Land Division as well as its Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Therefore, the HFIA supports SB652 SD1 and hopes that you will support it as well.

Mahalo,

Peter Simmons

Peter D. Simmons, Secretary
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: Vice-President/Acting President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:38:56 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gordon Inouye | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

these funds will enable the DOA to carry out its mission to support agriculture in Hawaii.

Mahalo, Gordon Inouye

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:36:19 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gregory FRIEL | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this measure because it is important to continue efforts to find a solution in dealing with the Two-Lined Spittlebug. However, I respectfully ask that the committee return it to it's original SB652 form, as the pilot program dealing with the control of feral chickens and feral pigs are a completely different problem than the two-lined spittlebug.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:40:44 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jimmy Greenwell | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The TLSB threat remains and the State's ability to help fund mitigation and recovery reserach and implementation remains vital. I strongly endorse and appreciate those who similarly back this measure

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:52:08 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Theresa M Thompson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this measure because it is extremely important to continue efforts to assist ranchers in addressing this invasive species. I respectfully ask that the committee return the version to its original SB652 form, as the addition of a pilot program for feral chickens, roosters, and pigs is a completely different subject matter from the two-lined spittlebug issues.

Mahalo, Theresa Thompson

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:51:15 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 SB652 SD1.

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:43:44 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristin Mack Almasin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB 652 with the exception of the addition of a pilot program to control of feral pigs, chickens, and rooster, which has nothing to do with the control of the TLSB. Please consider moving SB652 forward in its original form.

Thank you

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:16:20 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aileen K . F. Yeh | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

i support this measure because it is extremely important to continue efforts to assist ranchers in addressing this invasive species. We respectfully ask that the committee return the version to its original SB652 form, as the addition of a pilot program for feral chickens, roosters, and pigs is a completely different subject matter from the two-lined spittlebug issues.

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:17:59 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jenee S Odani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in SUPPORT of SB652. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii nor CTAHR.

I believe that the ongoing threat posed by the Two-lined Spittlebug to Hawaii's lands and the ranchers that steward these lands warrants special consideration. This invasive species damages pastures and reducing the ability of ranchers to raise cattle for food sustainability. Please appropriate funds to the Dept. of Agriculture for the control of the Two-lined Spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:05:03 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randy Cabral | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strong support

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:15:55 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Woody Child | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support SB652.

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:15:57 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taylor Kellerman | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill as a positive step in the battle against invasive species that ranchers and farmers face on a regular basis.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:04:06 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| DeeDee Bertelmann | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a local rancher and food producer on Hawai`i island. The TLSB has not yet reached my pasturelands yet and it is very worrismatic for me to think about the negative impact should this invasive species reach my 'aina. The land is already negatively impacted by feral goats and sheep, and other invasive weeds and to have this TLSB reach our pastures would be the most devastating to our grasses, soils, landscapes and natural resources.

Please support this bill to help those already impacted and I also hope that this will help those not impacted yet to be able to have a preventative plan.

Mahalo~

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:26:59 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Chuck Chimera | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB652 SD1 to appropriate moneys to the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, and to undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

While I agree that feral chickens and feral pigs are also a problem in the islands, I feel that the issue is better addressed through separate legislation and should not be included in SB652 SD1.

As a Honokaa resident, I regularly drive past cattle pastures along the Hamakua coast and on the way to Waimea and recognize the importance of a healthy and viable ranching industry as an important component of the Big Island's agricultural economy.

As a former Maui resident and national park service employee, I also recognize that well managed ranchlands bordering conservation lands provide an important buffer against the establishment of invasive, woody weeds that impact native ecosystems. In addition, these ranches serve as natural fuel breaks, slowing or preventing the spread of wildfires into native ecosystems.

The impacts of TLSB will therefore have terrible consequences to both our economy and natural environment if they are not addressed now, while there is still time to minimize the negative effects and find solutions to mitigate their impacts.

I therefore urge you to support SB652 and provide HDOA and the ranching industry with the resources needed to continue to study and find solutions to this existential invasive pest. In addition, please address the problem of feral pigs and chickens in a separate bill and remove that language from SB652 SD1.

Mahalo,

Chuck Chimera

Honokaa, Hawaii

SB-652-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:38:44 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 bill in its original form. The addition of a pilot program to control feral chickens, roosters, and pigs confounds the purpose of this measure.

Thank you.