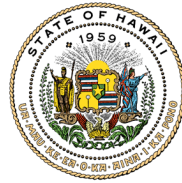


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2321, SD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG**

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2321, SD1, relating to the two-lined spittlebug (TLSB). This bill appropriates monies to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) for the establishment and operation of a two-year TLSB response pilot program to mitigate and control the spread of TLSB. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

TLSB is severely damaging rangelands of Hawai'i Island, and in the process, creating opportunities for invasive weed species to dominate the landscape. In addition, TLSB infestations result in the accumulation of dead grasses which increase wildfire risk. The spread of TLSB from South Kona to Glenwood in Hawai'i Island further underscores the need for a coordinated TLSB response program.

To ensure the TLSB response program is effective and impactful, dedicated coordination is essential. The Department is requesting an allocation of \$120,000 to fund a full-time program coordinator who will oversee and manage program activities. This position will help ensure that the needs of impacted rangelands and the threats posed by TLSB are properly addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2321 SD1

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana Mahi‘ai a me ka ‘Ōnaehana Mea‘ai
(House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems)

Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 20, 2026

9:30AM

Lumi 325

Aloha e Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2321 SD1**, which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug (TLSB) Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the TLSB.

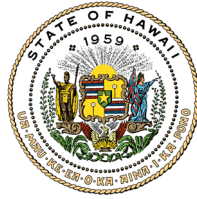
Since it was first detected in 2016, the TLSB has destroyed thousands of acres of foraging grasses used by ranchers for cattle. In 2016, approximately 2,000 acres were affected by TLSB. In 2021, TLSB had affected to 176,000 acres, and spread from its original siting in Kona up to Glenwood on Hawai‘i Island.¹ By damaging and killing these grasses, invasive species are able to establish themselves, increasing wildfire risk and damaging our delicate watersheds. TLSB are easily spread by people, vehicles, and the plant trade. OHA supports SB2321 SD1’s efforts to create a TLSB management plan and outreach to reduce TLSB’s movement. Hawai‘i cannot let inaction on addressing invasive species continue, especially as we now face the severe and widespread devastation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS SB2321 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

¹ <https://www.tlsbhawaii.com/>

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Friday, March 20, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2321, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG**

Senate Bill 2321, Senate Draft 1, aims to allocate funds to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program focused on controlling and reducing the spread of the two-lined spittlebug. It also requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to report to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided its passage does not impact priorities listed in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.**

The Department recognizes that the cattle industry is a vital economic driver on Hawai'i Island and across the State. A major and immediate threat to this industry is the invasive insect known as the two-lined spittlebug. This insect has already destroyed thousands of acres of foraging grasses in pastures used by ranchers to feed their cattle. It damages essential pasture grasses—especially Kikuyu—by injecting toxins that cause yellowing, browning, and death. Kikuyu affected by the two-lined spittlebug dies off, leaving bare ground. Invasive plants, such as fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*), lantana, and wild blackberry (*Rubus* species), invade and establish themselves in these bare areas. While Kikuyu itself invades native forests, it also forms a thick mat that prevents other invasive plants from growing, helping the Department maintain a balance that keeps out even worse pests.

As of 2021, the two-lined spittlebug had infested nearly 280 square miles on Hawai'i Island. The Big Island Invasive Species Committee warns that, like other invasive species such as Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, little fire ants, or coqui frogs, the two-lined spittlebug can be easily spread by people, vehicles, and the plant trade. Making matters worse, the two-lined spittlebug threatens

watersheds and natural areas vital to Hawai'i's environment and cultural resources by helping spread noxious weeds.

The Department supports this bill to safeguard Hawai'i's ranching industry and natural areas.

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

SB2321sd1, Relating to The Two-Lined Spittlebug
House Agriculture & Food Systems Hearing – 9:30 AM
Friday, March 20, 2026

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 40 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, serving as 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.

Mitigating the damage and spread of the two-lined spittlebug is a daunting task that requires continued collaboration with state and county agencies and the industry. Funding for the proposed response program will support the livestock industry with a multi-pronged approach.

Your favorable consideration of SB2321sd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
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Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

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Lahaina, Maui

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North Shore, O'ahu

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Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB2321.**

Two-lined Spittlebug poses a significant threat to island agriculture, primarily impacting pasturelands that support cattle and other livestock. By establishing a two-year response pilot program, this bill prioritizes research and action plans tailored to mitigate and control the spread of this destructive insect. The program's dual focus on practical response efforts and thorough reporting ensures that the State Legislature remains informed about progress and can allocate resources effectively where they are needed most.

Maintaining healthy pasturelands is not only a matter of agricultural productivity but also of economic and environmental sustainability. The appropriation of funds through SB2321 will provide essential resources to implement targeted control measures, support collaborative research initiatives, and educate stakeholders on effective management practices. As we work to protect our island's precious natural resources, this legislation underscores the importance of proactive approaches to agricultural pest management, ultimately promoting the viability and resilience of Hawaii's agricultural industries.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



Hawai'i Forest Association
 7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
 Suite A-143A, #249
 Honolulu, HI 96825
 Phone: 808/933/9411
 Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

Date:03/18/26

TO: AGR Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, AGR Committee Members Kahaloa, Lowen, Perruso, Quinlan, Matsumoto

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Association (HFA)

SUBJECT: In support of SB2321 SD1 Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug

Dear Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch and AGR Committee members,

The Hawai'i Forest Association (HFA) is in its 37th 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 Hawai'i. On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Association, please support SB2321 SD1.

Hawai'i cattlemen face a very difficult foe. HFA 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 Hawai'i's kikuyu and pangola grass lands to reforest Hawai'i; 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 Hawai'i. 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 HFA supports SB2321 SD1 and we hope that you will support it as well.

Mahalo,

Irene Sprecher, President
 Hawai'i Forest Association

HFA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy.

HFA Board of Directors

Officers: President Irene Sprecher, Vice President Taylor Coons, Secretary Nicholas Koch
 Directors: Jeremy Campbell, Doug, Michael Sowards, Aileen Yeh, Aaron Hammer, Tawn Speetjens

HFA's members include woodworkers, landowners, sawmillers, foresters, educators, researchers, arborists, students and more.	50% of HFA members are business owners, employing nearly 150 people across the State.	HFA actively manages five restoration and/or native plant demonstration sites between Hawai'i Island and O'ahu.
HFA members and their employees reside and work in 64 of the 76 Hawai'i House and Senate districts.	HFA members reside across the Hawaiian Islands, with a majority of members on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu, as well as members located in the continental US, Canada and Guam.	HFA, with its sister organization, the Hawai'i Forest Institute, engages in regular outreach and education.



House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday, March 20, 2026
9:30 am Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2321 SD1

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB2321 SD1, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug**, which establishes a two-year pilot program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to respond to the two-lined spittlebug (TLSB). The program will, among many other things, develop a management plan for TLSB-infested areas, which is urgently needed for Hawaii Island.

First detected in Kealahou in 2016, the TLSB has become a serious threat to range lands on Hawaii Island. As noted in SB2321 SD1, pasture areas impacted by TLSB do not recover and the grass species can be replaced by invasive plants like fireweed and wild blackberry, which can spread across ranchlands and further decrease the quality of forage. TLSB has also been reported in residential areas on Hawaii Island, where it can impact lawns and sod.

We support the program established in SB2321 SD1, believe it will develop and improve methods to control TLSB on Hawaii Island, and hope it will prevent TLSB from spreading to other islands of the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support SB2321 SD1 and for consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 20, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2321, SD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 2321, SD1, which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug.

Since its initial detection in Kailua-Kona in 2016, the two-lined spittlebug has caused widespread and continuing damage to pasturelands, particularly on Hawai'i Island. Infested pastures experience reduced forage quality, leading to lower carrying capacity, increased weed invasion, and higher operating costs for ranchers. These impacts directly threaten the viability of livestock operations and the long-term sustainability of ranching in Hawai'i.

The livestock industry remains an important component of Hawai'i's agricultural economy, contributing tens of millions of dollars annually in production value and supporting rural communities across the State. Continued pest pressure without coordinated response efforts places this sector at significant risk.

SB 2321, SD1 builds on previous response efforts by establishing a focused pilot program that emphasizes detection, mitigation, pasture recovery, and outreach. We support the bill's approach of combining technical assistance, approved control measures, and cost reimbursement to help ranchers manage infestations and rehabilitate damaged lands. These efforts are critical to restoring pasture productivity and preventing further spread.

We also appreciate the requirement for reporting to the Legislature, which will help inform future decisions and ensure accountability. Addressing the two-lined spittlebug is not a short-term issue; it requires sustained attention, coordination, and investment to protect Hawai'i's pasture resources and livestock industry.

SB 2321, SD1 represents a necessary and practical step toward mitigating the impacts of this destructive pest and supporting ranchers who continue to bear the economic burden of its spread.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 5:52:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Kualoa Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kualoa Ranch is in strong support of SB 2321. Properly funding efforts to control TSLB will be a crucial step in the states management of this very important Invasive Species. Already devastating in the Kona District of Hawaii Island, if the pest continues to broaden its footprint, the impact on our cattle industry will be significant.

The Hawaii Cattle industry is currently the only scalable protein source produced locally, and allowing this to be impacted directly jeopardizes the states goal of doubling local food production

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa ranch Hawaii

BIISC
23 E. Kawili St.
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 933-3340
www.biisc.org



Mar 19, 2026
RE: SB2321 Relating to the Two-lined Spittlebug

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice-Chair Kusch, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

We would like to express our support for this measure, recognizing the serious threat posed by the introduced two-lined spittlebug (TLSB) and establishing a TLSB pilot response program.

The two-lined spittlebug was identified as a pest in Hawaii in 2016 after it had damaged 2,000 acres of ranch on the Big Island. In just 3 years, the number of affected acres had grown to 150,000 acres, and the spread continues, with new populations discovered in 2025 on the east side of Hawaii Island. Affected pastures are quickly degraded, either down to bare earth, causing soil erosion, or conversion into aggressive brush species such as pamakani, fireweed, and blackberry, none of which are suitable for cattle forage.

More research is sorely needed. The unique landscape of Hawaii's cattle pastures makes research on methods very challenging. Methods that work to reduce TLOS populations in a cattle pasture at 800 feet in South Kona will not work for a pasture at 3000 feet in Glenwood. TLSB-resistant grasses can be imported, but grass species will not thrive equally on lava flows of different ages and rainfall of wildly varied amounts across the island. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for managing TLSB in Hawaii, and so ongoing research, in close collaboration with the ranchers and land managers, is critical if we are going to stop the loss of our productive lands.

Conservation partners are also struggling with this threat. As old pastures are restored to native forest, kikuyu and pangola act as "placeholders" until native species can be outplanted. These grasses are easy to control in those instances. The replacement weeds are a much more challenging and expensive problem, requiring significantly more time and effort to control.

TLSB is a threat to our food security, economy, environment, and culture, on the Big Island, and throughout the state. We urge you to respond decisively and provide the support needed for our researchers and ranchers to test and develop methods of controlling and recovering from TLSB.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Franny Brewer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Franny' being more prominent than the last name 'Brewer'.

Franny Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu



Date of Hearing: March 20, 2026

To: Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Subject: **SB 2321 SD1**, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy is writing **in support of SB 2321 SD1 with comments**. This measure establishes a two-year two-lined spittlebug response pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. The program will identify and manage infested areas; apply insecticides and managed grazing; implement weed management and pasture reseeding methods; conduct a cost-benefit study of two-lined spittlebug mitigation techniques; conduct outreach to state and county departments to reduce the spread of two-lined spittlebugs through heavy machinery; take measures to reduce spittlebug populations and assist in recovery efforts; and provide support for livestock ranchers' mitigation efforts. This bill also mandates a report to discuss expenditures and program efficacy. We acknowledge and support the amended date to leave further discussion for the implementation timeline.

Two-lined spittlebugs are a highly invasive species that attack key forage grasses used by the livestock industry. Infestations have already damaged nearly two thousand acres of pastureland, posing a serious and ongoing threat to the livestock industry. If no action is taken, two-line spittlebugs pose a threat to one of the state's most productive and valuable industries. Furthermore, this biosecurity concern weakens our already-fragile food system, threatening food security for all residents of Hawai'i.

At the same time, we would like to acknowledge the harms of cattle ranching to the 'āina. The crops affected by the two-lined spittlebug are non-native despite potentially spreading to our Indigenous and native-introduced flora, and had the lands not been allocated for ranching, this problem may have never arisen for us to respond to. The cattle industry in Hawai'i is complicated and energy-demanding, as livestock are shipped to the continent to be slaughtered, and then the meat is imported back. To protect the longevity of the food system, we should consider the environmental impact of this unsustainable system rather than trying to fix each effect, like the introduction of invasive species.

Controlling these invasive insects is essential for protecting both Hawai'i's agricultural economy and food system. Therefore, **I ask the committee to pass SB 2321 SD1** while keeping the indigenous perspective of protecting land in mind.

Mahalo,
The Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

LATE

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 1:25:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Dube	Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) stands in support of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Nate Dube
OISC Manager

LATE

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:48:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council **strongly supports SB2321 SD1** which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug.

The Two-Lined Spittlebug (TLSB) 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.

Unfortunately, TLSB has spread from its location in South Kona, and is now detected in Glenwood of Hawaii Island. The good news is that we were made aware of these new locations and CTAHR was able to confirm TLSB presence, as well as provide direct recommendations for mitigation. The Hawaii Rangeland Stewardship Foundation then distributed funds from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to assist these producers with addressing this invasive species. Thanks to the legislature’s support in previous years, awareness has grown, and we are able to provide resources quickly.

However, with the spread of the pest, we know that we must continue to conduct outreach and provide resources to producers who discover TLSB on their pastures. It is important to focus on identifying new areas of infestation before it can spread, and learn more about the most cost-effective ways to care for the pasture once TLSB is identified, which this pilot program will provide.

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.

We **strongly support SB2321** 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>

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Managing Director

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

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Nicole Galase

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Managing Director

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:40:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. name is Jason Moniz. My family and have been ranching on Hawaii Island for the past 36 years. We strongly support SB2321 SD1. SB2321 SD starts putting rubber on the road funding more than just research and surveillance by funding control and recovery efforts in the battle against the two-lined spittlebug. Beside the obvious importance of food production, Hawaii's pristine pasture lands stabilize our precious soils and provide a scenic backdrop to mauka lands, as important to Hawaii as the coconut tree provides to our makai lands. Both are under attack and both require serious intervention to prevent further devastation to Hawaii's Aina.

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:06:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Alonzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for S.B. No. 2321

Aloha chairpersons and members of the committee of the AGR

My name is Rachel Alonzo and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B. 2321. As a student in AP environmental science, we are taught about how detrimental invasive species can be to our ecosystems, especially those with an abundance of native species. I think that it is important to provide funding for this two lined spittle bug response program as a way to address the potential threat of invasive species as they arise. If this pilot program is successful in finding a way to minimize the spread of the species, then this program can be used as a framework for similar programs to ensure that all invasive species that are causing harm to our ecosystems are appropriately addressed. It is important to prioritize the funding of programs such as these since the work they are doing will ultimately benefit all of our ecosystems and the people of Hawaii in the long run.

Mahalo for your time,

Rachel Alonzo

Mililani High School

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:18:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara G Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB2321 SD1 which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug.

As a former and current manager of over 7000 acres of productive rangeland in South Kona, I have seen firsthand the devastation that the TLSB can inflict on a ranch and it's production.

The funding of this bill will help ensure that all areas oif our island with it's productive acreage will be guarded from this invasive pest. It is a very serious issue and needs long-term attention. There is no short-term fix once an area is infected, so prevention and detection, along with action is key! We need knowledgable personnel to help the livestock producers with this.

Mahalo!

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:15:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in total support of this bill and stand with the testimony from Hawaii Cattlemens Council. We need to stop this bug and not let it get to other islands as it would destroy our pasture lands and the ability to raise livestock.

SB-2321-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:26:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT. MAHALO!

Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Rep. Cory M. Chun, Chair
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

LATE

SB2321 SD1

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

March 20, 2026, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shannon Wilson, and I am a Postdoctoral Researcher with a research focus on Twolined Spittlebug (TLSB) biology, management, and rangeland ecology and I **strongly support SB2321 SD1** to establish a TLSB Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of this insect pest.

I conducted my PhD dissertation research on TLSB biology, ecology, and management in Hawaii rangelands and have been studying this invasive insect and its impacts in Hawaii for the past decade, so I have witnessed first-hand the devastating damage TLSB has caused to Hawaii Island pastures and the livelihoods of ranchers.

Pastures comprise 83% of the entire agricultural footprint in the State of Hawaii and occupy nearly 20% of the state's total land area. TLSB is a threat to ~750,000 acres of rangelands in Hawaii, of which, 72% are located on Hawaii Island. Consequently, this pest is threatening food and job security, ecosystem services provided by well-managed pastures (i.e., clean water, soil retention, soil carbon storage, improved soil health, fire risk reduction, suppression of invasive weeds, flood reduction, and open spaces for recreation), paniolo culture, communities of diverse ranch workers, and surrounding conservation areas and grassland forests (without grasses as a buffer, weeds can invade and threaten nearby native forests).

From 2017 to 2021, TLSB rapidly spread throughout the North and South Kona districts and caused widespread damage to pastures, resulting in landscape transformation through severe forage grass dieback and the invasion and establishment of weedy forbs and shrubs and low-quality grasses. The establishment of invasive and unwanted plant species has greatly decreased the likelihood of forage grass recovery and reduced the value of the land for livestock production.

In 2024, TLSB was detected outside the Kona districts for the first time near South Point. By 2025, this pest was detected in Glenwood and now occupies an estimated 354,000 acres on Hawaii Island. It is crucial to prevent the spread of TLSB to new locations on Hawaii Island and to other Hawaiian Islands. In particular, the Kohala and Hamakua districts of Hawaii Island are the heartland of the livestock industry in the state, and introduction of TLSB could further devastate the ranching industry and drastically alter the landscape.

Beef cattle ranching serves as an economic engine for the state and is culturally and ecologically important. With the continued spread of TLSB, this pest remains an existential threat to the persistence of the ranching industry. Continued funding to fight this pest is critical for producers impacted by TLSB and for reducing the spread and impact of this pest through outreach efforts, monitoring for infestation in new areas, and improving the effectiveness of management tactics in infested areas. I **strongly support SB2321 SD1** and greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this important matter.

Shannon Wilson, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher
Hilo, HI