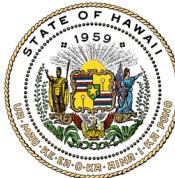


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 4, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2321 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.

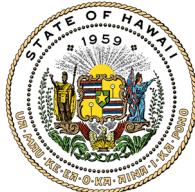
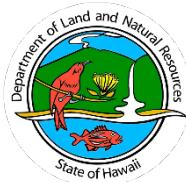
TLSB is severely damaging rangelands of Hawai'i Island, and in the process, creating opportunities for invasive weed species to dominate the landscape. In addition, TLSB infestations result in the accumulation of dead grasses which increase wildfire risk. The spread of TLSB from South Kona to Glenwood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

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

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

Senate Bill 2321 seeks to allocate funds to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program aimed at controlling and reducing the spread of the two-lined spittlebug. It also mandates reporting to the Legislature by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided its passage does not replace or negatively affect priorities listed in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.**

The Department recognizes that the cattle industry is a key economic driver on Hawai'i Island and throughout 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 vital pasture grasses—especially Kikuyu—by injecting toxins that cause yellowing, browning, and death of the grasses. 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, which helps the Department maintain a balance that keeps out even worse pests.

As of 2021, 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, two-lined spittlebug can be easily transported by people, vehicles, and the plant trade. Making matters worse, two-lined spittlebug threatens watersheds

and natural areas vital to Hawai‘i’s environment and cultural resources by facilitating the spread of noxious weeds.

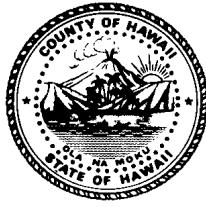
The Department supports this bill to safeguard Hawai‘i's ranching industry and natural areas. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor

Benson Medina
Director

William V. Brilhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Dennis Lin
Deputy Director



County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

February 2, 2026
HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

TESTIMONY ON SB2321:
Relating to the Two-lined Spittlebug

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i, offers its **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2321 relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug, which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the Two-Lined Spittlebug.

One of the Department's objectives is to "support research, development, control, and education that improves **agricultural production, quality, resilience, and producer viability or reduces the impact of pests or disease on agricultural crops, livestock, forests or the community.**"

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. 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 TLSB will protect them from runoff and provide forage for cattle. Recovery efforts for ranches affected by TLSB include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

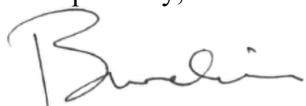
Feb. 2, 2026

Page 2

Healthy grazing lands are integral to watershed health and function in Hawaii. TLSB 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2321**.

Respectfully,



Benson Medina
Director



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2321

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports SB2321** 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



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

February 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2321
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2321, 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 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 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.

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i



Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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 Heaivilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



The Senate
Committee On Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
3:00 PM Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2321

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB2321, 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 Kealakekua in 2016, the TLSB has become a serious threat to range lands on Hawaii Island. As noted in SB2321, 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, 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 and for consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:45:47 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Wall	Testifying for Wall Ranch Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wall Ranch strongly supports SB2321. We have been at the epicenter of the outbreak for over 10 years. We have attempted every recovery effort to save our forgeable grasses, all of which are very expensive. This is why funding is critical to those directly affected. We think this pilot program will be crucial to keep Hawaii Island agricultural lands in agriculture. If nothing is done to help these affected operations, landowners may have no choice but to exit agriculture altogether jeopardizing our state's food security.

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

SB2321, Relating to The Two-Lined Spittlebug
Sen AEN Hearing – 3:00 PM
Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Testimony By: Larry Jefts
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Sen AEN 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, 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 SB2321 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || www.agstewardshiphawaii.org

February 2, 2026

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Re: Testimony in Support of SB2321 – Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we strongly support SB2321, which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of this invasive species.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the viability and sustainability of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers through technical assistance, resource coordination, business education, and policy support. **We have helped ranchers apply for limited funding to manage two-lined spittlebug and have seen firsthand the devastation that this invasive species has caused to pasturelands and livestock operations.**

Ranchers have been raising the alarm for years, and the spread of this pest puts an entire industry at risk. Without immediate and coordinated action, we face the potential loss of significant portions of Hawai'i's livestock operations. The State must step up to provide resources, technical support, and funding to control this threat before it escalates further.

Establishing this pilot program will allow the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to implement targeted response efforts, track outcomes, and develop best practices for long-term management. Appropriating funds for this program is essential to protect ranchers, sustain livestock production, and preserve the economic and cultural value of Hawai'i's cattle and pasture-based agriculture.

We urge your strong support for SB2321 to act decisively against this invasive species and protect Hawai'i's ranching industry.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Shaw".

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator
Email: amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org, Tel: 808 429 5310

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2321

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

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

My family owns a ranch in Volcano, Hawai'i and has not been affected by TLSB yet, however with the spread of this pest being found in Glenwood, Hawai'i, it is too close to home.

We have seen how previous support of the legislature has provided resources and taken action to quickly identify new infested areas.

I **strongly support SB2321** and appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter.

Sharlei Iranon

Triple S Livestock LLC

President



February 4, 2026

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Tim Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Aloha,

I am writing in support of **SB 2321**. 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.

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.

Controlling these invasive insects is essential for protecting both Hawai'i's agricultural economy and food system. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass **SB 2321**.

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.

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:20:22 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The two line spittle bug has devastated West Hawaii in the last decade, putting ranchers on their knees at the mercy of this tiny insect. We very much appreciate the support you and all of the Legislative and Administrative branches of Hawaii government have given to support our industry. In the last year, though, the two-lined spittle bug has moved to East Hawaii in Glenwood and the southern border of Hawaii Island at Kahuku.

Kapapala Ranch has public access roads to the Ka‘u and Kapapala Forest Reserves. Our risk exposure to being infected with two-lined spittle bug is greatly enhanced due to the fact that around 3,000 vehicles per year cross our ranch lands. I hope you will continue your support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lani Petrie

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:15:25 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB2321.

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:10:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

SB-2321

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 10:33:33 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

As a constituent of Senate District 4 in Hilo, I strongly support this measure. There is evidence that the two-lined spittle bug has spread from west Hawai'i to east Hawai'i in the past year. This invasive species is detrimental to our pasturelands and requires immediate attention for containment and control. Please pass this measure to help our local ranchers and protect our pastureland. Thank you.

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:53:15 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Jason Moniz. My family and I have ranched on and managed a sizable State lease for the past 36 years. I have also been affiliated with Hawaii's cattle industry professionally for the past 45 years. We strongly support SB2321

- This is the most serious pest and detriment I have experienced affecting ranchers in my entire professional career.
- The two lined spittle bug has cause substantial damage and continues to spread. that I have experienced in my affects everyone because it affects food production
- This two-year pilot will dedicate needed funds and resources towards control, early detection and preventing further spread
- The detriment caused by this pest affects local food production and is causing serious environmental damage

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:32:12 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I ask for your support for SB2321.

I am a ranch manager in South Kona and have worked for two ranches totallying 7300 acres. We have been severely effected by TLSB and it is only with the support of the UH-CTAHR, USDA, and the Hawaii State Legislature that we have been able to work on mitigation. We are far from recovered! Continuing support for Hawaii Island ranches already effected is essential. Recovery is a long-term commitment.

Outreach and response to new areas will prevent the devasation that we are enduring.

Your support to this SB2321 is crutial to the land and the industry. We do not want this invasive pest to spread.

Mahalo

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:12:40 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support and agree with the testimony of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. I would underscore the massive threat that the TLSB represents. I have experienced it in Kona and we MUST stay on top of the problem as this bill proposes. There are tens of thousands of acres of rangeland in this State that rely heavily on the greases that the TLSB aggressively attacks and annihilates with its infestation. Please recognize the need to be more proactive on this threat and support this bill.

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:42:30 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of continued funding to quickly find ways to find ways of controlling 2 line spittle bug. The loss of our pastures would be the demise of the cattle industry in Hawaii. We need information for the ranchers that can be used, NOW, to prevent the spread of of TLSB to unaffected areas.

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:43:36 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support. We must work to stop this invasive pest that poses a great risk to our pasture lands. Mahalo.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2321 RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, 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** 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 (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** and greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this important matter.

Shannon Wilson, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher
Hilo, HI

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:58:33 AM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!!

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:38:12 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in total support of this bill. I support Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony. We need all the help to stop the two lined spittle bug. We don't need this pest to travel to neighbor islands as we will not have a cattle industry.

SB-2321

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:12:57 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this measure! Thank you.