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, FEBRUARY 25, 2026
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEO CONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2139
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2139 relating to invasive species. This bill appropriates monies to the University of Hawai'i to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB) in Hawai'i.

QLB is a pest that targets not only agricultural crops such as cacao, avocado, and citrus, but also plants of significant cultural value in Hawaiian culture, such as kukui and 'ulu. The Department recognizes the importance of having a diverse range of management strategies and treatment methods to effectively address this threat. This includes supporting research and innovation to identify effective, environmentally responsible solutions. Therefore, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIAʻĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIAʻĀINA

STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA

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. KANAKAʻOLE
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. KANAKAʻOLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2139, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 2139, House Draft 1 appropriates funds to the University of Hawaiʻi to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland longhorn beetle. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided it does not replace or adversely impact priorities outlined in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Acalolepta aesthetica, often called the Queensland longhorn beetle (QLB), poses a serious threat to many tropical plant species in Hawaiʻi. QLBs tend to attack stressed, weakened, and dying trees. Larvae bore into trunks and branches as they develop, which can severely weaken small trees. Repeated attacks may eventually kill the trees. Of particular concern to the Department, federal researchers have confirmed that QLBs have been found attacking the native plant alaheʻe. This invasive beetle most often infests culturally important plants in Hawaiʻi, such as kukui and ʻulu. It has also decimated cacao trees on the east side of Hawaiʻi Island, causing several cacao farmers to abandon the crop.

By 2026, nearly 20 plant species have been identified as larval hosts for QLB in East Hawaiʻi. As this invasive beetle continues to spread, the list of vulnerable plants is expected to increase.

There are no known traditional pesticides that effectively control tree-larva infestations over the long term. However, an integrated pest management program combining active systemic

insecticide treatments at the appropriate stage of beetle development with cultural and mechanical controls may provide reliable management options.

Hawai‘i needs effective long-term management tools and integrated pest management programs to identify, treat, and reduce QLB populations at all stages of development. Therefore, the Department strongly supports funding additional research on QLB to adequately address this major invasive threat.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo

HB 2139 HD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2139 HD1. The University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2139 HD1 which will allocate funding to essential research needed to address the growing threat posed by the Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB) in Hawaiʻi.

As QLB spreads across East Hawaiʻi, it has been devastating to farmers who are losing cacao, citrus, avocado, and several other crop plants to these larvae. By targeting profitable crops on which local farmers depend, QLB has the potential to cause millions of dollars in losses to Hawaiʻi farmers. QLB also has ecological consequences. At UH Hilo's restoration site in Keaukaha, we have seen widespread mortality of kukui and ʻulu trees as a result of QLB damage. The death of these key canopy trees allows for invasive plants to move in and take over the forest. We must address this issue to mitigate the harm QLB can cause to local farms, forests, and community spaces.

Nematode biocontrol offers a promising solution to the issue of QLB. In an approach developed by scientists at USDA-ARS, locally isolated nematodes, Heterorhabditis indica, are injected into QLB-infested trees, where they then selectively target and kill the larvae. UH Hilo research on kukui and ʻulu trees in the summer of 2025 found that in most cases, nematode treatment either reduces or eliminates QLB infection. Numerous accounts from local growers also reflect the effectiveness of this treatment. Additionally, H. indica are non-toxic and safe to other organisms like cattle and their human handlers. This biocontrol gives us an opportunity to proactively control QLB before it spreads across Hawaiʻi and to other islands.

While this biocontrol is effective, it remains very time intensive and often more than one treatment is necessary to eliminate QLB in the tree altogether. It is therefore essential that we invest in research on the life cycle of QLB and implementation of different treatment methods that might be faster or more effective. It is essential to develop procedures to scale up the treatment of trees on large areas of land and to assist local farmers. Such research will contribute to reducing QLB populations in East Hawaiʻi and

support growers in protecting their trees using a non-toxic method. In addition, a low-cost, effective treatment that is scalable will be extremely valuable if QLB eventually makes it to other islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2139 HD1.

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 25, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2139, HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau supports HB 2139, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland Longhorn Beetle.

The Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB) is an invasive pest that targets many agriculturally important and culturally significant plants, including ʻulu, cacao, avocado, citrus, hibiscus, and kukui. The first known detection in Hawaiʻi occurred in Puna in 2009, and since then, it has expanded its host range and is now established in Hilo and throughout the Hāmākua Coast, with confirmed presence as far north as Honokaʻa and Āhualoa. Once established, QLB infestations can result in severe damage or death of host plants.

Although the Queensland Longhorn Beetle is a relatively newer invasive threat compared to other pests Hawaiʻi has faced, its spread underscores a familiar and concerning pattern. When invasive species are not addressed early and effectively, they become far more costly and difficult to manage over time. Farmers and ranchers are often the first to experience these impacts directly, through lost production, increased management costs, and reduced viability of certain crops.

HB 2139, HD1 represents a proactive step by investing in research to identify effective treatment and control methods before this pest becomes further entrenched statewide. Supporting research through the University of Hawaiʻi is consistent with past efforts to

strengthen Hawai‘i’s invasive species response by pairing science-based solutions with on-the-ground agricultural realities.

More broadly, this measure highlights the need for Hawai‘i to continue strengthening its biosecurity and invasive species prevention systems. Without sustained and coordinated efforts to address invasive species at all stages, prevention, detection, research, and response, Hawai‘i will continue to face new pest introductions that threaten agricultural production. This directly undermines shared goals such as increasing local food production, expanding Farm to School and institutional purchasing programs, and strengthening food system resilience.

HFB supports HB 2139, HD1 as part of a larger strategy to protect Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector, environment, and food security. Addressing invasive species early and effectively is essential if we expect farmers and ranchers to meet the State’s long-term agricultural goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:43:51 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryken Ige	Mililani High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Invasive species have plagued our island ever since the missionaries from England came to our islands. Our environment is a result of many years of natural geological relocation and evolution, culminating into the extremely well balanced but also fragile ecosystem of Hawaii. Invasive species are able to run rampid in our islands because most of the species here in Hawaii are specialists, evolved to live in harmony with other natives. Adding invasive species to the mix serves as a way to destroy those many years of delicate balance, making one of Hawaii's main selling points, it's nature, less beautiful. Soon, the true beauty of Hawaii won't be because of the nature that hold so dear, but artificial makings of trying to keep the tourism industry booming. That's the reason why this act would be so important. These beetle are trespassing on our lands, destroying everything that we consider beautiful. Putting this act into place will contribute to the effort to sustain our environment. Please help our environment stay beautiful.

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
2:00 AM Room 308
State Capitol

SUBJECT: Testimony – In Support of HB2139 HD1 "Relating to Invasive Species"

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) in strong support of HB2139 "Relating to Invasive Species" that would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i to study effective treatment methods for the Queensland longhorn beetle (*Acalolepta aesthetica*).

This beetle is a serious threat to agriculture and forests across Hawai'i. It attacks important crops and culturally significant trees, including 'ulu, cacao, avocado, citrus, and kukui. Its larvae bore into trunks, often killing trees. Without effective control tools, the beetle is likely to spread beyond Hawai'i Island to other islands.

Investing in research now is both practical and cost-effective. Identifying proven treatment methods will help protect local food production, prevent further ecological damage, and reduce long-term management costs to the State.

OISC supports proactive, science-based solutions to invasive species threats and respectfully urges passage of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Nate Dube
Manager
O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC)

743 Ulukahiki Street • Kailua, Hawai'i 96734 • Ph: (808) 266-7994 Fax: (808) 266-7995
www.oahuisc.org

cgaps
STOP THE SILENT INVASION

COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
2:00 PM Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB2139 HD1

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB2139 HD1,** *Relating to Invasive Species*, which provides funds to the University of Hawaii to study effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland Longhorn beetle (QLB).

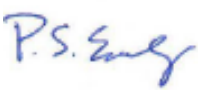
As noted in the bill, QLB can damage or kill a number of agriculturally and culturally significant tree species, including breadfruit, kukui, citrus, cacao, avocado, and many others. At this time, QLB are found in limited areas of Hawaii Island. Unfortunately, there is no treatment for QLB infestation. The only control method is to destroy infested trees, chip them in place, and avoid moving infested material to new areas.

The funds provided by HB2139 HD1 will allow the University of Hawaii to study promising treatments for QLB to reduce population numbers, and, hopefully, prevent the spread of the pest to new areas and islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and to support HB2139 HD1.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, February 25, 2026
2:00pm
Conference Room 30..8 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB2139 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 350 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS House Bill 2139** appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland Longhorn Beetle

We appreciate any efforts to help strengthen and enforce Biosecurity. The Long Horn Beetle has started to become a concern for our Floriculture Nurserymen and Women. We support this pro-active attempt to conduct a study so we can better understand how to fight and repel this invasive pest.

We ask that you support our industry and agriculture, so that we may continue to bring the beauty of Hawaii to others through flowers and ornamentals.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

HAWAI'I FOOD+ POLICY
Honolulu, HI 96813
food@purplemaia.org

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2026

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **HB2139 HD1**, Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha,

I am writing in **strong support of HB2139 HD1**, which appropriates funding to the University of Hawai'i to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland longhorn beetle (Acalolepta aesthetica).

The Queensland longhorn beetle is a highly destructive invasive species that poses serious risks to Hawai'i's agricultural production, native forests, and culturally significant trees. The wood-boring insect has already expanded its host range to important crops such as 'ulu (breadfruit), cacao, avocado, citrus, as well as culturally significant species like kukui. During its larval stage, it bores deep into tree trunks of its host, causing internal damage by feeding, ultimately compromising the structural integrity of the tree that may even lead to plant death.

If left unmanaged, the beetle's spread will increase economic losses for farmers and create additional costs for forest restoration and containment. Early investment in research is more cost-effective than responding after an invasive species becomes well established. Once widely established, eradication becomes significantly more expensive and often impractical.

Funding this research through the University of Hawai'i supports local expertise and the development of Hawai'i-specific treatment strategies. HB2139 HD1 represents a proactive and responsible investment that can reduce long-term financial burdens on the State while protecting agriculture and natural resources.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to pass HB2139 HD1, which supports invasive species prevention related to the Queensland longhorn beetle, protects agriculture, and helps conserve Hawai'i's lands and resources.

Mahalo,
Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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[1] U.S. Geological Survey. (n.d.). Invader of Hawai'i: Queensland longhorn beetle (Acalolepta aesthetica). Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center.
https://www.usgs.gov/pacific-island-ecosystems-research-center/science/invader-hawaii-queensland-longhorn-beetle#data

[2] Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. (2020). New Pest Advisory: Acalolepta aesthetica (Queensland longhorn beetle).
https://dab.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2020/02/Acalolepta-aesthetica-NPA-2-3-2020.pdf

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.

HFUU
Hawai'i Farmers Union United
Kaua'i · O'ahu · Moloka'i · Maui · Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance 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 HB2139.**

Since 2014, the Queensland Longhorn Beetle has expanded its host range to nearly 20 species, including critical food security staples like 'ulu, avocado, and citrus. Without the treatment methods funded by this bill, these foundational crops face potential statewide collapse. This wood-boring pest kills mature trees, effectively wiping out the generational equity and economic viability of small-scale diversified farms in Puna and across East Hawaii.

Appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii for population reduction studies provides the necessary data to move from reactive crisis management to proactive eradication, shifting the burden of biosecurity off the individual farmer and onto a coordinated state response.

Invasive species are persistent threat to the economic survival of Hawaii's agricultural sector, early rapid action is the necessary response.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heaivilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:23:00 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!!

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
2:00 PM, House conference room 308
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2139

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, My name is Thomas Ino and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2139.

I am testifying because I think it is important that we reduce our invasive species population here in Hawai'i. Invasive species in Hawai'i are especially harmful to our native plants and animals, and can lead to a significant decrease in said native populations. The Queensland Longhorn Beetle weakens our plants and leads to a decreased ability for the plants to be able to get water and nutrients. The Queensland Longhorn Beetle is an especially difficult invasive species because there are no known treatment methods for this beetle. A study focused on what methods we can implement to treat the Queensland Longhorn Beetle would be very beneficial in helping our ʻāina.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2139 because it is important to be able to find sustainable methods to remove the Queensland Longhorn Beetle from our native ecosystems. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Thomas Ino
Mililani High School

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:35:11 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Invasive species present an ongoing, critical threat to the economic viability of Hawaii's agricultural sector, requiring swift, early-stage intervention. Please PASS this important measure.

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:35:56 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2139 HB RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

PROTECT LOCAL PRODUCE FOR DOE STUDENTS/RESIDENTS, ETC.

USE CURRENT METHOLOGY THAT WORKS AND TWEAK IF NECESSARY

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:21:59 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trinity Huynh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Trinity Huynh, and I am currently a student at Mililani High School enrolled in AP Environmental Science. As a student and individual passionate about our future, I am writing in strong support of HB2139, which provides funding to the University of Hawai'i to continue research on the invasive Queensland longhorn beetle (QLB).

The QLB is highly destructive because its larvae tunnel through wood, weakening trees from the inside and often leading to dieback or death. This directly threatens culturally significant trees such as our kukui trees, as well as important agricultural crops like avocado. In Hawai'i, where our ecosystems are fragile and lack natural defenses against invasive species, the impact is especially severe. Through threatening economically valuable crops, our local farmers that sustain these crops are also harmed, ultimately affecting our food security. In a state, where we import a large portion of our food, protecting local agriculture is not only an environmental priority, but also a matter of sustainability.

Furthermore, the loss of trees contribute to reduced carbon sequestration and habitat destruction for native species, resulting in the long-term decline of biodiversity. Proactive research and prevention are imperative to responding to the fragility of our ecosystems caused by our actions. Currently, there are no effective pesticides or established control methods for this species. Continued research through the University of Hawai'i is essential to better understand these species and eventually, develop biological control methods which will reduce their numbers. Without investing in our scientific resources, we risk irreversible damage to our ecosystems.

As a part of this current generation, we will inherit the long-term environmental consequences of today's decisions. It is our responsibility to advocate for policies that protect Hawai'i's

biodiversity and cultural heritage. Supporting HB2139 represents a proactive step toward preserving the ecosystems that define our islands and sustain our communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please support HB2139, for our future.

Sincerely,

Trinity Huynh

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:04:32 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryder Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Through this Bill (HB2139) discussing the topic of the invasive species, Queensland Longhorn Bteetle, I support this bill and believe it is a very important subject because of the affect it has on our surrounding agriculture. Most of this agriculture that is being affected are significant to our people and many use these to survive, so without this bill and someone taking care of these beetles, who knows what kind of long last affect they can have to our envrionment.

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
2:00pm, Conference Room 308 Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2139

Aloha, Chair Todd and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

My name is Jayden Coloma and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2139.

I am testifying in support of the invasive species research and control portion of the bill. I think that it is necessary to implement this part of the bill for the health of our environment and for those that depend on local agriculture. The spread of the Queensland longhorn beetle means it is threatening our important trees across the islands, such as: cacao, kukui, citrus, etc. This would impact farmers, local food production, as well as stability in our ecosystems. Invasive species introduced through global trade and travel, damage our environment and weaken food security within Hawaii. Without research and action, the hard work will continue to grow. The long term environmental and economic benefits outweigh the short costs of investing in prevention and taking action.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2139 because it will help our state push for stronger environment protections and sustainability. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jayden Coloma
Mililani High School

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:03:16 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keira Mulligan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Chris Todd, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

2:00PM, House Conference Room 308

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for HB No.2139

Aloha Chair Todd and other members of the House Committee of Finance,

My name is Keira Mulligan and I'm currently a high school senior attending Mililani High School, and I am testifying in support of HB No.2139.

I am testifying to express how important I think it is for the University to receive funding to experiment on how to solve the growing Queensland Longhorn Beetle problem that our island is facing. I know all of us appreciate the beauty and diversity of our native plants, and, unaddressed, the beetles will tunnel their way through our beloved aina. This inevitably will affect our farmers, and as we know agriculture is the center of humanity as we know it. An attack on the agriculture of Hawaii, is an attack on the people who live here as a whole. The money that goes to research will be used to help find constructive solutions to the present beetle problem at hand. This investment isn't just to handle the beetles, it's to save the future of our aina.

Thank you for your time.

Keira Mulligan,

Mililani High School

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:37:36 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minor Maddox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature, my name is Minor Maddox and I am testifying to support this bill, HB2139. Hawaii has always been under threat of invasive species for a long while. As someone who lives in Hawaii, invasive species affect agriculture all around us, which affects many peoples way of life. It is important that we end any further effects that invasive species may have, and this bill will help push that to the right direction. By studying effective treatment methods we can safely remove invasive species that greatly effect our agriculture and our peoples way of life.

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:45:49 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Sakihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Isaiah Sakihara, and I am a resident of Mililani on the island of Oahu. I am also part of my schools AP Environmental Science class as well as its Hui Malama club where we are educated about our environments, provide volunteer work at environment sites, and work on our gardens. I am writing in support of House Bill 2139, which would provide important funding to attack the growing problem of invasive species in Hawai'i like the Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB).

Being someone who likes being out and enjoying the nature Hawai'i provides, visiting Hilo I have seen the serious impacts QLB has had on the island of Hawai'i. It is a destructive pest towards native trees specifically in the area of Puna and Hilo districts, and there is no known treatment for an infestation which makes controlling it difficult.

With more funding, additional research can be involved and this problem of QLB can be made of more aware. We can also help prevent the spread of QLB across the other islands before it is too late.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and commitment to protecting Hawai'is communities

Isaiah Sakihara

Mililani, Hawai'i

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:38:12 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Emma Stierhoff, and I am a Lead Technician at UH Hilo under the Liko Nā Pilina Restoration Project. I am writing to express my support of HB 2139, which will allocate funding to essential research needed to address the growing threat posed by the Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB) in Hawai‘i. As QLB spreads across East Hawai‘i, it has been devastating to farmers who are losing cacao, citrus, avocado, and several other crop plants to these larvae. By targeting many profitable crops on which local farmers depend, QLB has the potential to cause millions of dollars in losses to Hawai‘i farmers. In a 2025 survey by the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, the top issue identified by Hawai‘i growers was invasive species and pest management. QLB also has ecological consequences. At our restoration site in Keaukaha, we have seen widespread mortality of kukui and ‘ulu trees as a result of QLB damage. The death of these key canopy trees allows for invasive plants to move in and take over the forest. We must address this issue to mitigate the harm QLB can cause to local farms, forests, and community spaces.

Nematode biocontrol offers a promising solution to the issue of QLB. In an approach developed by scientists at USDA-ARS, locally isolated nematodes, *Heterorhabditis indica,* are injected into QLB-infested trees, where they then selectively target and kill the larvae. Research we did on kukui and ‘ulu trees in the summer of 2025 found that in most cases, nematode treatment either reduces or eliminates QLB infection. Numerous accounts from local growers also reflect the effectiveness of this treatment. Additionally, *H. indica* are non-toxic and safe to other organisms like cattle and their human handlers. This biocontrol gives us an opportunity to proactively control QLB before it spreads across Hawai‘i and to other islands.

While this biocontrol is effective, it remains very time intensive and often more than one treatment is necessary to eliminate QLB in the tree altogether. It is therefore essential that we invest in research that will contribute to establishing faster and more effective means of treating. This will allow us to develop procedures to scale up the treatment of trees on large areas of land and to assist local farmers. Such research will contribute to reducing QLB populations in East Hawai‘i and support growers in protecting their trees using a non-toxic method. In addition, a low-cost, effective treatment that is scalable will be extremely valuable if QLB eventually makes it to other islands.

Please vote for HB 2139 to help mitigate the spread of Queensland Longhorn Beetle in Hawai‘i, supporting our local farmers and our ‘āina.

Mahalo nui for your time,

Emma Stierhoff

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:05:00 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Haney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee,

My name is Nicole Haney, a student at Mililani High School, and I am writing in support of HB2139.

As someone who cares deeply about the health of our islands and environment, I believe that this bill is crucial for the righteousness of our land.

The Queensland longhorn beetle poses a significant threat to our agricultural resources, native species, and forests. The damage caused by this invasive species can lead to economic losses, ecological imbalances, and the loss of our unique natural heritage.

This bill takes a proactive approach to address this issue. It demonstrates a commitment to protecting our valuable resources and ensuring the long-term well being of our land.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill and help safeguard our land for future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Haney

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:10:08 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, to whom it may concern, my name is Samuel Ramos and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of HB2139 HD1. I think that we must do everything in our power to maintain the beauty of our ecosystem. Our land and the life on it is sacred. I think that putting money towards deleting threats to our plants is a good way to make sure that we take care of them. I hope this bill gets passed so we can enjoy nature more fully.
Sincerely,
Samuel Ramos

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:46:50 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilah Shapiro	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Lilah Shapiro, and I was raised in Puna, Hawai‘i. I work with Liko Nā Pilina, a forest restoration project through UH Hilo, where my focus is on the Queensland longhorn beetle and the use of nematodes as a biological control.

These islands are incredibly special places, home to an extraordinary amount of biodiversity. Within my own lifetime, I have watched invasive species spread and overwhelm our fragile ecosystems. While it can feel like we are already too late to stop many invasives, that is not the case with QLB. We still have a chance to act—and we know what works.

This bill will allow researchers, such as myself, at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo to continue research on the effectiveness of nematodes as a biocontrol for QLB. This biocontrol offers an opportunity to be proactive about managing QLB populations before it spreads to other islands and causes widespread devastation like we have seen with the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

I have seen firsthand the devastating impact QLB has had on our forests. At the Liko Nā Pilina restoration site, many canopy trees have been lost to QLB, reducing shade and worsening the encroachment of invasive plants. With this nematode treatment, I witnessed trees go from being covered in oozing infection and losing all their leaves to completely recovering. It is remarkable to finally have a tool that actually works to fight an extremely destructive invasive pests.

The most rewarding part has been working with farmers and community members who have experienced devastating losses from QLB. Seeing their relief when they learn this treatment works shows just how urgent this crisis has been and how much this solution means to our communities. We have lead treatment workshops at OK farms and Hawai‘i Academy or Arts and Sciences as well as working in classes at Hawaii academy of arts and sciences. Working with students hands on and not only teaching about invasive species but showing them how to apply biocontrols themselves to fight against them and collect long term data monitoring trees infection and health has shown them how everyone has a kuleana in protecting our ecosystems and we can all be a part of the science behind it. I‘ve heard the excitement in their voices when they report back to me that the trees are doing better. This is getting them direct experience in science and aloha aina work.

However, we need more funding in order to continue this work. HB 2139 would allow us to continue outreach and community involvement in this project. Along with that, more research is needed if we hope to control the spread of QLB and this bill would fund research into different methods of applying H. indica to infected trees to make application less time-consuming and more effective for land managers while remaining low-cost. This research will contribute to reducing QLB populations in East Hawai‘i and support growers in protecting their trees. In addition, a low-cost, effective treatment that is scalable will be extremely valuable if QLB eventually spreads to other islands. Proactive action at the state level will protect the economic vitality of Hawai‘i's agricultural sector and reduce long-term costs to local growers.

Taking action against QLB is essential to our environmental health, local food security, and cultural heritage. HB 2139 would make a meaningful difference in our community for generations to come. Mahalo for your commitment to supporting Hawai‘i's agricultural communities.

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:04:29 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support.

More funding to address QLB infestation.

K Neal, Waimea

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:06:47 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Waileia Tupou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee,

My name is Waileia Tupou, and I am a resident of Kaimukī, Oʻahu. I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 2139 to provide funding for projects addressing the growing threat posed by the Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB) in Hawaiʻi. QLB targets many agriculturally important plants, including ʻulu, cacao, avocado, and citrus, as well as culturally significant trees such as kukui. Its continued spread across East Hawaiʻi is causing increasing damage to local farms, forests, and community spaces. As a result of QLB larvae burrowing into mature plants like cacao and citrus, farmers in east Hawaiʻi are facing increased crop losses, higher management costs, and severe damage to or death of established crop plants. As the range of QLB is rapidly expanding, it poses a threat to food producers across Hawaiʻi and must be addressed.

This bill will allow researchers at the University of Hawaiʻi in Hilo to continue research on the effectiveness of nematodes as a biocontrol for QLB. This biocontrol offers an opportunity to be proactive about managing QLB populations before it spreads to other islands and causes widespread devastation like we have seen happen with the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. H.indica, a local strain of nematode that was originally collected in Hilo Bay sands, has been shown by USDA ARS to successfully reduce populations of QLB in tropical orchard crops.Many farmers applying this biocontrol have seen the health of their trees improve. Preliminary results from a pilot study carried out by the University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo at a site in Hilo in 2025 show that for most kukui (74.2%) and ʻulu (80%) trees, nematode application either reduced or completely eliminated QLB infection in the tree. For this being such a novel biocontrol effort, these results are extremely promising.

However, more research is needed if we hope to control the spread of QLB. HB 2139 would fund research into different methods of applying H. indica to infected trees to make it less time-consuming and more effective for land managers to apply this low-cost approach. This research will contribute to reducing QLB populations in East Hawaiʻi and support growers in protectingtheir trees. In addition, a low-cost, effective treatment that is scalable will be extremely valuable if QLB eventually makes it to other islands. Proactive action at the state level will protect the economic vitality of Hawaiʻi's agricultural sector and reduce long-term costs to local growers.

Taking action against QLB is essential to our environmental health, local food security, and cultural heritage. HB 2139 would make a meaningful difference in our community for generations to come. Mahalo for your commitment to supporting Hawai‘i’s agricultural communities.

Sincerely,
Waileia Tupou

96816

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:22:33 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica de Jesus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Angelica de Jesus, a student from Mililani High School. I am testifying in favor of this bill because of the knowledge I have acquired, and being made aware of all the varying native species on the islands of Hawai‘i, it is with confidence that I can say that this bill needs to be enacted.

Having the Queensland longhorn beetle population be reduced in a way that is both ethical and humane to the land, we can manage to keep all of these culturally significant trees from the threat of going extinct. As it is well known for natives as well as most locals, the kukui nut tree is a fundamental staple in the Hawaiian traditions. Not only does this nut have various symbolisms and practices tied to it, but it is also the tree in which the Hawaiian demi-god Kamapua'a takes form. To allow it to have continuous harm be done to it would not only be hurting us, but the aina as well. "**Malama ka 'aina i ke kai**" is a quote in which must be taken seriously because we humans are able to ensure that we continue living on these beautiful islands and being able to keep such sacred and beloved traditions alive. If we choose not to enact this bill, we will be hurting our aina, ourselves, our neighbors and the plants that we so carefully cultivate.

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:23:09 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maille Malone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

FROM: Maille Malone

FOR: Hearing on HB2139

RE: Testimony in Support

Aloha Representative Chris Todd, FIN, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maille Malone. I am a resident of Mililani and a senior at Mililani High School. I am writing to express my **support** for this measure to appropriate funds for the study and control of the Queensland Longhorn Beetle.

As a student in Environmental Science, I have learned that invasive species are one of the greatest threats to island biodiversity. The Queensland Longhorn Beetle is particularly dangerous to our ecosystem. Because its larvae bore into the heartwood of trees, they don't just eat the leaves; they destroy the structure of the plant.

This is not just an environmental issue; it is a **food** and **cultural** crisis. This beetle targets:

- ʻUlu (Breadfruit): A vital traditional food source and staple for local sustainability.

- Cacao and Citrus: Key components of our local diversified agriculture economy.

- Kukui: Our state tree, which holds immense cultural significance. I have learned the importance these things hold since I was young, and I beleive it is vital to remember it even as we grow.

If this beetle is allowed to spread from Hawaii Island to the rest of the archipelago, the damage to our native forests and agricultural sectors will be irreversible. We have seen how invasive pests like the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle have devastated local industries when we react too slowly. We cannot afford to wait, espeically when the solution could possibly be in our face.

Giving crucial funds to the University of Hawaii is a critical step. We need data-driven treatment methods—whether through biological controls or specialized trapping—before this population reaches a tipping point.

I urge the committee to pass this measure to protect our lands and our legacy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Maille Malone

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:24:23 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Chavez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CHAIR OF HOUSE/SENATE : Rep: Todd (EEP)

My name is Nathaniel Chavez, and I'm testifying in strong support of this measure to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland longhorn beetle.

The Queensland longhorn beetle poses a serious and growing threat to Hawai‘i’s agriculture, native ecosystems, and cultural resources. Since its initial detection in 2009 and its later association with ‘ulu in Puna in 2014, this invasive pest has expanded its host range to nearly twenty species and continues to spread across Hawai‘i Island.

This beetle attacks agriculturally important crops such as ‘ulu, cacao, avocado, and citrus, as well as culturally significant trees like kukui. Its larvae bore into tree trunks for months, weakening and often killing mature trees. The visible small exit holes are signs of extensive internal damage that is often irreversible. If it is left unchecked, infestations could lead to severe crop losses, increased costs for farmers, degradation of native forests, and potential loss of endemic species.

Investing in research now is both government revenue and environmentally responsible. By funding the University of Hawai‘i to study and identify effective treatment and mitigation strategies, the State can proactively manage this threat before it spreads statewide. Early intervention will help protect local farmers, strengthen food security, preserve cultural resources, and safeguard fragile ecosystems.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure and provide the necessary funding to address the growing threat of the Queensland longhorn beetle. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Nathaniel Chavez

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:25:01 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Prestosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair of the EEP Committee, Rep. Todd, and committee members. My name is Hope Prestosa, and I'm a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No.2139.

I strongly support Bill H.B. No. 2139 because it is important for protecting our ʻāina and our future. The Queensland longhorn beetle is an invasive species that is not native to Hawaii. It is now spreading across our islands and damaging many important plants like ʻulu, avocado, and native trees such as kukui. These trees are part of our culture and our environment. If we do not take action now, this beetle could cause serious damage, destroy native forests, and hurt our local agriculture.

We need to use our knowledge and resources to find safe and effective ways to stop this pest. Funding research at the University of Hawaii will help us learn how to control and reduce the beetle's population. Protecting our ʻāina means caring for our land, our plants, and our native species. It also means thinking about future generations who will depend on the health of our environment. I believe this bill is a step in the right direction to keep our land healthy and safe.

Mahalo for your time and for supporting this important effort to mālama ʻāina and our future.

Sincerely,

Hope Prestosa

Mililani High School

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:40:10 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase VanLangeveld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Evening Rep. Todd Chair of the EEP. My name is Chase VanLangeveld, a Senior at Mililani High school, and I am testifying in support of Bill H.B No. 2139 HD1.

I strongly stand in support of enacting this Bill into frution, as I view the Acalolepta aesthetica (Queensland longhorn beetle) species a detrimental threat to the state of Hawai‘i across all islands. As you may already understand, the the beetle targets many agriculturally significant plants (‘ulu, cacao, avocado, and citrus, and native speices like kukui to name a few), and using these plants as hosts to house their eggs. Being local to the Mililani region, I have seen the destructive impact of these pests to our land and I am very deeply concerned about what the future holds if we do not take accountability now. Please recognize that as stewards we must look out for each other, ‘āina, and future generations, and enacting this bill would be a step in the right direction.

Sincerely, Chase VanLangeveld from Mililani High School

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:24:39 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Todd Chair of EEP. My name is Andrea Ballesteros, a senior at Mililani High School, and I strongly support the passing of this bill.

I believe this should be passed because I care about the land, and I'm positive that goes for most of Hawai'i citizens. Hawai'i is not just sacred land, but also culturally valuable enough that it simply can't afford to be destroyed by the Queensland Longhorn Beetle. Putting a stop to these parasitic insects will save our islands native plants, such as kukui nut trees, and keep our crops flourishing. Finding ways to reduce these pests populations will not only save our environment, but our economy as well! I see to it that there are no down sides with this bill, and with it passing will keep our island fruitful. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Andrea Ballesteros (Mililani High School)

To: Representative Todd
Chair, Energy & Environmental Protection Committee

Re: Support of HB2139

Aloha Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Téa Takamoto, and I am a student from Mililani, Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of HB2139, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to study effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland longhorn beetle (Acalolepta aesthetica).

Pono stewardship of ‘āina means taking responsibility to protect Hawai‘i’s land, food systems, and native ecosystems before damage becomes irreversible. Invasive species threaten the balance of our environment and place both cultural and agricultural resources at risk. Addressing these threats requires research, planning, and long-term solutions rooted in science.

Supporting this measure shows a commitment to caring for our forests, farmers, and future generations. Investing in prevention and management today reflects mālama ‘āina and ensures Hawai‘i remains resilient tomorrow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Téa Takamoto
Mililani, Hawai‘i

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:28:34 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola Orian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Chris Todd, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

2:00 PM, House conference room 308

Hawai‘i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2139

H.B. No.2139

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Keola Orian and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am in support of H.B.No. 2139.

I support this bill because of the impact of invasive species. As a concerned citizen of Hawai’i, I believe it's crucial to address the growing threat of invasive species in our delicate ecosystems. The Queensland Longhorn Beetle (QLB) poses a serious danger to native plants and animals, leading to significant population decline within these vulnerable habitats.The QLB weakens native plants, hindering their ability to access water and nutrients. This not only impacts individual plant health but also the overall balance of the ecosystem. The lack of effective treatment methods for this beetle is particularly concerning, making control measures increasingly difficult over time. I urge you to support

H.B. No. 2139, this is to provide funding for research and development of effective QLB control measures. By investing in scientific exploration, we can ensure a sustainable ecosystem. The Queensland Longhorn Beetle poses a significant threat to Hawai'i's fragile environment. We need to prioritize research and action now to protect our native plants and animals, ensuring the long-term health of our ʻāina and contributing to a more sustainable future for all.

Thank you,

Keola Orian

Mililani High School

HB-2139-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:39:54 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zade Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Zade Lee and I am a student at Mililani High school. I am writing this in support of this bill relating to funding to the University of Hawai at Manoa to effect Queensland Longhorn Beetles. I have been living in Hawaii for all my life and I used to have a kukui nut tree I would always sit by and play by on trips to see my family in Puna. Recently the tree was found to be infested and lead to it being cut down along with some of my grandmothers hibisucs plants. The study is important as these invasive beetles are destroying native plants and harming the fragile ecosystem. If this study was funded more I wholeheartedly believe a solution to mitigating this invasive species will be found.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of this important legislation.