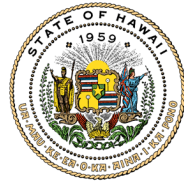


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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 FINANCE

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2321, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2321, SD1, HD1, 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.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2321 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
(House Committee on Finance)

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

‘Apelila 2, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 308

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2321 SD1 HD1**, which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug (TLSB) Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the TLSB.

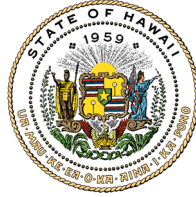
Since it was first detected in 2016, the TLSB has destroyed thousands of acres of foraging grasses used by ranchers for cattle. In 2016, approximately 2,000 acres were affected by TLSB. In 2021, TLSB had affected to 176,000 acres, and spread from its original siting in Kona up to Glenwood on Hawai‘i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

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS SB2321 SD1 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

¹ <https://www.tlsbhawaii.com/>

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, April 2, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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

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

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

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

watersheds and natural areas vital to Hawai'i's environment and cultural resources by aiding in the spread of noxious weeds.

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



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

April 2, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2321, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2321, SD1, HD1, which establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug.

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

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

SB 2321, SD1, HD1 builds on previous response efforts by establishing a focused pilot program that emphasizes detection, mitigation, pasture recovery, and outreach. We support the bill's approach of combining technical assistance, approved control measures, and cost reimbursement to help ranchers manage infestations and rehabilitate damaged lands. These efforts are critical to restoring pasture productivity and preventing further spread.

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

SB 2321, SD1, HD1 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, Hawaii

East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii

Gina Lind
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union

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

SB2321sd1,hd1 Relating to The Two-Lined Spittlebug
House Finance (FIN) Hearing – 2:00 PM
Thursday, April 2, 2026

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

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

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 40 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

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

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

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

Your favorable consideration of SB2321sd1, hd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Thursday, April 2, 2026
2:00 pm Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2321 HD1

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB2321 HD1, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug**, which establishes a two-year pilot program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to respond to the two-lined spittlebug (TLSB). The program will, among many other things, develop a management plan for TLSB-infested areas, which is urgently needed for Hawaii Island.

First detected in Kealahou in 2016, the TLSB has become a serious threat to range lands on Hawaii Island. As noted in SB2321 HD1, 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.

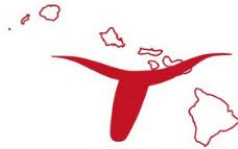
We support the program established in SB2321 HD1, believe it will develop and improve methods to control TLSB on Hawaii Island, and hope it will prevent TLSB from spreading to other islands of the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support SB2321 HD1 and for consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

SB2321 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

April 2, 2026, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports SB2321 SD1 HD1** 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



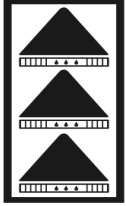
denuded by the Two-lined Spittlebug will protect from runoff and provide forage for cattle. Recovery efforts for ranches affected by Two-lined Spittlebug include brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, range planting, forage and biomass planting, and fencing and prescribed grazing.

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



THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

Members

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
USGS Biological Resources Division
Kamehameha Schools
USDA Forest Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i

PO Box 52 · Hawai'i National Park, HI · 96718 · Ph 808.985.6197 · FX 808.985.6029

Corie Yanger
Three Mountain Alliance
P.O. Box 52
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718
808-430-0913, cmlyanger@hawaii.edu

1 April 2026

Re: Support for SB2321 SD1 HD1 Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug.

Aloha Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership, I write in strong support of funding for the pilot program proposed in SB2321 to address the growing threat of the Two-Lined Spittlebug (TLSB) in Hawai'i.

TMA is a collaborative watershed partnership dedicated to protecting and restoring native forests, watersheds, and cultural landscapes across Hualālai, Mauna Loa, and Kīlauea. Our work spans diverse ecosystems and landownerships, requiring coordinated, landscape-scale approaches to conservation and resource management. The emergence of TLSB represents a serious and immediate threat to these efforts.

The Two-Lined Spittlebug has already impacted multiple sites on Hawai'i Island. While its distribution is not yet widespread, the current trajectory is deeply concerning. This invasive insect threatens not only native ecosystems but also food security and agricultural productivity. Many lands within and adjacent to the TMA partnership—such as former Keauhou Ranch and Kapāpala Ranch—contain extensive areas of kikuyu grass, which is the preferred host species for TLSB. These conditions create a high risk for rapid expansion if early detection and control measures are not strengthened.

The University of Hawai'i's Cooperative Extension Service, along with other partner organizations, has already invested significant time and effort into understanding TLSB and working directly with landowners. These efforts have laid a critical foundation, but additional resources are urgently needed to scale up monitoring, outreach, and mitigation.

The pilot program funded through SB2321 would provide essential support to address this gap. Specifically, it would enable more comprehensive monitoring to detect new populations early,

implement timely management strategies to reduce impacts, and strengthen coordination among agencies, researchers, and land managers. Early intervention is key—without it, TLSB has the potential to spread beyond manageable levels, resulting in far greater ecological and economic consequences.

TMA strongly supports this proactive investment. By acting now, we can protect vital watershed resources, support local agriculture, and preserve the ecological integrity of Hawai'i Island's landscapes. We appreciate your support for SB2321 and the critical resources it would provide to combat the Two-Lined Spittlebug before it becomes an irreversible problem.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,

Corie Yanger
Program Manager
Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership



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

Date:04/01/26

TO: FIN Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Committee Members Hartsfield, Holt, Hussey, Keohokapu-Lee Joy, Kitagawa, Kusch, Lee, Miyake, Morikawa, Perruso, Templo, Yamashita, Alcos, Gedeon, Oda

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Association (HFA)

SUBJECT: In support of SB2321 SD1 HD1 Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and FIN Committee members,

The Hawai'i Forest Association (HFA) is in its 37th year. It is a state-wide association of landowners, woodworkers, forest professionals and concerned citizens working toward healthier and more productive forests across the state of Hawai'i. On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Association, please support SB2321 SD1 HD1.

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

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

This is the time not only to do the right thing by cattle ranchers; we need to do the right thing for our potential forest lands and lands that are in transition. This is an issue that should have the support of DLNR's Land Division as well as its Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Therefore, the HFA supports SB2321 SD1 HD1 and we hope that you will support it as well.

Mahalo,

Irene Sprecher, President
 Hawai'i Forest Association

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

HFA Board of Directors

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

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

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:33:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Kualoa Ranch is in full support of this bill. Funding this initiative is imperative to the control of this invasive species that has real potential to impact the state's ability for food resiliency.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii



April 1, 2026

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

Support of SB 2321, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG (Establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 3/1/3000. [HD1])

**Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 308, and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i (LURF) is a private research and trade association founded in 1979, whose members include major Hawai'i landowners, developers, utility companies, and land use professionals. LURF's mission is to research, educate, and advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, laws, and regulations that encourage well-planned and sustainable economic growth in agriculture, housing, renewable energy, commercial and industrial uses, and tourism, while safeguarding Hawai'i's significant natural, environmental, historic, and cultural resources, public health, and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support for SB 2321, SD1, HD1.**

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers, ranchers, and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural production, operations, and research and have consistently supported research, initiatives, programs, funding, and incentives for diversified agriculture, biosecurity, and a broad range of farming and ranching issues to sustain and improve Hawai'i's agricultural industry and food security.

The two-lined spittlebug is an invasive pest that has already damaged thousands of acres of pasture grasslands essential for cattle grazing and poses a significant and immediate threat to the ranching industry in Hawaii. The pilot program will help safeguard and preserve the State's grasslands, and out ranching industry and food chains by mitigating and controlling the spread of the two-lined spittlebug, will curb its spread and prevent further damage to grasslands and the ranching industry.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2321, SD1, HD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



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

April 1, 2026

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

- **Re: Testimony in Support of SB2321 SD1 HD1– Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program**

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we strongly support SB2321 SD1 HD1, 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 pilot program will focus on detecting new areas of infestation early to prevent further spread and will explore the most cost-effective methods for managing pastures once TLSB is identified.

The Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program will help mitigate the economic impact of this invasive pest by preventing further damage to pastures, which are vital to Hawai'i's cattle production and overall working lands management. By supporting early detection and cost-effective management strategies, the program will safeguard the state's food security, protect natural resources, and preserve the livelihoods of local producers, ultimately boosting economic stability for the agriculture sector.

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

Date of Hearing: 2 April, 2026

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

Subject: **SB 2321 SD1 HD1**, Relating to the Two-Lined Spittlebug

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy is writing **in support of SB 2321 SD1 HD1 with comments**. This measure establishes a two-year two-lined spittlebug response pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. The program will identify and manage infested areas; apply insecticides and managed grazing; implement weed management and pasture reseeding methods; conduct a cost-benefit study of two-lined spittlebug mitigation techniques; conduct outreach to state and county departments to reduce the spread of two-lined spittlebugs through heavy machinery; take measures to reduce spittlebug populations and assist in recovery efforts; and provide support for livestock ranchers' mitigation efforts. This bill also mandates a report to discuss expenditures and program efficacy. We acknowledge and support the amended date to leave further discussion for the implementation timeline.

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

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

Controlling these invasive insects is essential for protecting both Hawai'i's agricultural economy and food system. Therefore, **I ask the committee to pass SB 2321 SD1 HD1** while keeping the indigenous perspective of protecting land in mind.

Mahalo,
The Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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

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

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 1:18:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	Kealia Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I know that this testimony is late but I want to ask your support to this Bill 2321.

A task force is imperative to the ranching community and our island food sustainability.

This TLSB is a devastating invasive insect that I have been dealing with for 10 years. I have managed 7500 acres of grazing lands in South Kona and it is discouraging to see the amount of damage that has been inflicted on our beautiful, productive pastures. This pest must be stopped and the already affected ranchers are desperate for help to recover.

Mahalo for your continued support by voting "yes" on this bill.

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 4:35:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to stop the spread of the two line spittle bug. Over 100,00 acres have hit the island of Hawaii. We can't afford the spread of this bug to other islands. If this happen we will no longer have grazing for ranching operations.

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 4:37:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support the intent of this bill. TLSB infestations can leave once healthy pasturelands denuded with restoration or recovery unceratin and often practically unfeasable. Remember that in addition to the food security value of a healthy grazing industry, well managed rangelands provide multiple ecosystem benefits to the broader commuity. Ranchers are the stewards of our rangelands, They are the boots on thr ground. This precious rangeland resource comprises almost 20% of our Strate's land area. We must find a way to better control this threat.

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 8:05:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:49:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB2321.

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 5:11:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2321, we must do whatever is possible, to control the Two-Spittlebug. If it continues to spread on the Big Island and make its way to the rest of the State it will devastate Hawaii's Cattle Industry.

Thank You,

Alex Franco

SB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:53:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2321 SD1 HD1. This invasive species continues to spread on Hawaii Island destroying tens of thousands of acres of grazing lands that have been developed and has been in livestock production for nearly 200 years. Grazing lands make up approximately 25% of Hawaii's land mass. Continued unchecked spread of this invasive species will have a devastating impact on Hawaii's environment and food production.

A two-year pilot will dedicate funds and resources towards identifying new infestations early and develop mitigation measures to control or even eradicated this costly pest.