



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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By
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and

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HB 1931 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, we respectfully submit testimony in support of HB 1931 HD1 SD1, which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture and the University of Hawai'i to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the University of Hawai'i strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Macadamia felted coccid is a severe pest of macadamia, a crop with a \$38.2 million farm value in Hawai'i in 2012. It was found in south Kona in February 2005, and at this time, the coccid is distributed throughout the Island of Hawai'i. Development of new control methods and appropriate management recommendations are essential for Hawai'i's producers to stop this invasive pest. Horticultural and harvest methods used in Hawai'i and the large size of trees in our well-established orchards contribute to great difficulties in achieving effective control.

HB 1931 HD1 SD1 includes an appropriation of \$735,000 for the efforts of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, to research and develop methods to control macadamia felted coccid. Section 4 states that funds appropriated are not to lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium. This is the equivalent of \$367,000 for a single fiscal year, which would support hire of research and extension staff to address this problem, in addition to funding for travel and operations.