UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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HB 1514 PROPOSED HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1514 PROPOSED HD1, which appropriates moneys for control and containment of the Coffee Berry Borer.

The Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) is a severe beetle pest of coffee, first discovered by staff of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, in south Kona in late 2010. CTAHR was a founding member of the Executive Board for the Coffee Berry Borer Task Force Along with the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture, the Hawaiʻi Agricultural Research Center, the USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, and state and local coffee associations. Since this time, these parties have collaborated closely to develop management methods for this terrible pest, to educate and assist coffee growers in implementing prevention and control efforts, and to take direct action to suppress this pest. Although it is still limited to the Island of Hawaiʻi, further spread is a very real threat, particularly to the Island of Kauaʻi, where half the coffee in the state is grown.

HB 1514 PROPOSED HD1 would appropriate funds both for education and mitigation activities under the direction of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and for an accompanying program of administered by the Department of Agriculture to assist coffee growers with the high cost of the biological pesticide necessary to control CBB.

Education and mitigation efforts will focus on on-farm training and assistance to growers with proper timing and pesticide application practices, integration of the biological pesticide with site sanitation, pruning and other horticultural and harvest practices essential for effective beetle control, and collection of information from farms to further refine CBB control practices and determine the economic impact of control practices.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1514 PROPOSED HD1.