



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
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by
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and
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Dean

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HB 1931 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1931, 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.

We 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. Development of new control methods and appropriate management recommendations are essential for Hawaii's producers to stop this invasive pest. The College of Tropical Agriculture and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture are collaborating in this endeavor, as permitted by available funding and personnel. Timing is critical, however, and we believe that it is both appropriate and necessary for the Legislature to appropriate funds to accelerate and strengthen this pest management effort, and protect this critical segment of Hawai'i agriculture from the severe losses that will result from infestation and continued spread of this invasive insect pest.