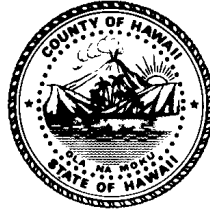


Harry Kim
Mayor



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March 9, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1861, HD1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1861, HD1.

As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island, and I am informed that the coffee berry borer continues to be a substantial threat to coffee's economic survival. Any assistance the State can offer, including the pesticide subsidy that helps farmers manage the cost of controlling this terrible pest, is much appreciated.

I hope you will extend the pesticide subsidy program, extend the program manager position, and make appropriations for the program and position, all as set forth in HB 1861, HD1. Including these expenditures in your budget recommendations, separate from this bill, would also be tremendously valuable.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR