



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Monday, February 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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HB 2131 – RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2131 relating to the two-lined spittlebug.

The bill makes an appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug and for the recovery of areas affected by infestation.

For several years, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) faculty and Cooperative Extension personnel have collaborated with HDOA Plant Industry Division administration and Plant Pest Control Branch to detect, mitigate, and control infestation of the two-line spittlebug on pasture lands on Hawai'i Island.

The cattle industry is one of the top contributors to Hawai'i's agricultural production value. The two-lined spittlebug threatens the livelihood and existence of the local cattle industry that contributes to the food security in the State.

There exists a critical need to continue and increase recovery efforts for pasture lands damaged by this invasive pest by implementing chemical and mechanical controls, biocontrol and best practices for managing pasture lands, and the reseeding of pasture.

We support HB 2131 provided its adoption does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.