



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By

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And

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SB 2907 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent for SB 2907 SD1 on classifying coffee leaf rust as an invasive species and directing funding for mitigation efforts.

As stated in SB 2907 SD1, coffee leaf rust is an important invasive fungal disease that has had significant deleterious effect on world-wide coffee production. Its introduction to Hawai'i has the potential to seriously hurt the Hawaiian coffee industry, and hence, damage the state's agricultural industry.

Combatting an infectious disease like leaf rust requires a combination of research to define additional methods of control, development of area-wide integrated pest management procedures that implement the research, and the funding to support these activities.

While the need that this bill expresses is real and needed, it does not provide specific funding to accomplish its goal. Therefore, we defer to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as to whether the current funding and diverse needs/responsibilities of the Council state-wide is conducive to meeting this requirement and whether classifying this as an invasive pest fits the Council's mode of action.

With that mind we support the intent of SB 2907 SD1.