



# 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 Finance  
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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And

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#### SB 652 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 652 SD1 HD1 relating to agriculture.

The bill makes an appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, the recovery efforts for pasture lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug, and establishes a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens and pigs throughout the State.

For several years, 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-lined 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. Hawai'i's cattle ranchers rallied to provide local beef for our public schools' lunch program and provided food donations during the pandemic.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments SB 652 SD1 HD1 as it relates to the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug, however, we defer to HDOA on the provision to establish a five-year program to mitigate and control the population of feral chickens and pigs throughout the State.