



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 652 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 652 relating to agriculture, specifically the two-lined spittlebug.

The bill makes an appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for pasture lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug.

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.

We support SB 652 provided its adoption does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.