



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 Ways and Means
Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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And

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SB 652 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.