

Frequently Asked Questions

3-Month Voluntary Stop Movement of CRB Host Materials to Curb the Spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) in West Hawai'i

The County of Hawai'i, in coordination with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), is issuing a **3-month voluntary compliance order**, effective **July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025**, to stop the movement of CRB Host Materials. These materials include: decomposing plant materials such as compost, wood or tree chips, and mulch; plant propagation media; other items, such as landscaping materials, that are comprised of decomposing organic plant materials; and all live palm plants in the genera *Cocos*, *Livistona*, *Phoenix*, *Pritchardia*, *Roystonea*, and *Washingtonia* (except unsprouted seeds of these palms), which may serve as hosts or breeding materials for CRB, from a specific geographic area in West Hawai'i. This is a precursor to a mandatory compliance structure that will be forthcoming from HDOA.

Nothing in this voluntary stop movement order is intended to cover the movement of commercially-produced plant propagation media that is completely intact within undamaged original packaging; plant products intended for consumption, such as coconuts, fruits, nuts, edible leaves, leaves used for cooking, and spices; plant products preserved from decay by treatment or intended use, such as lumber, woven hats, wooden posts, wood carvings, and firewood; and cut flowers and foliage for decoration, such as lei, floral bouquets, or arrangements.

Why is this voluntary compliance order needed?

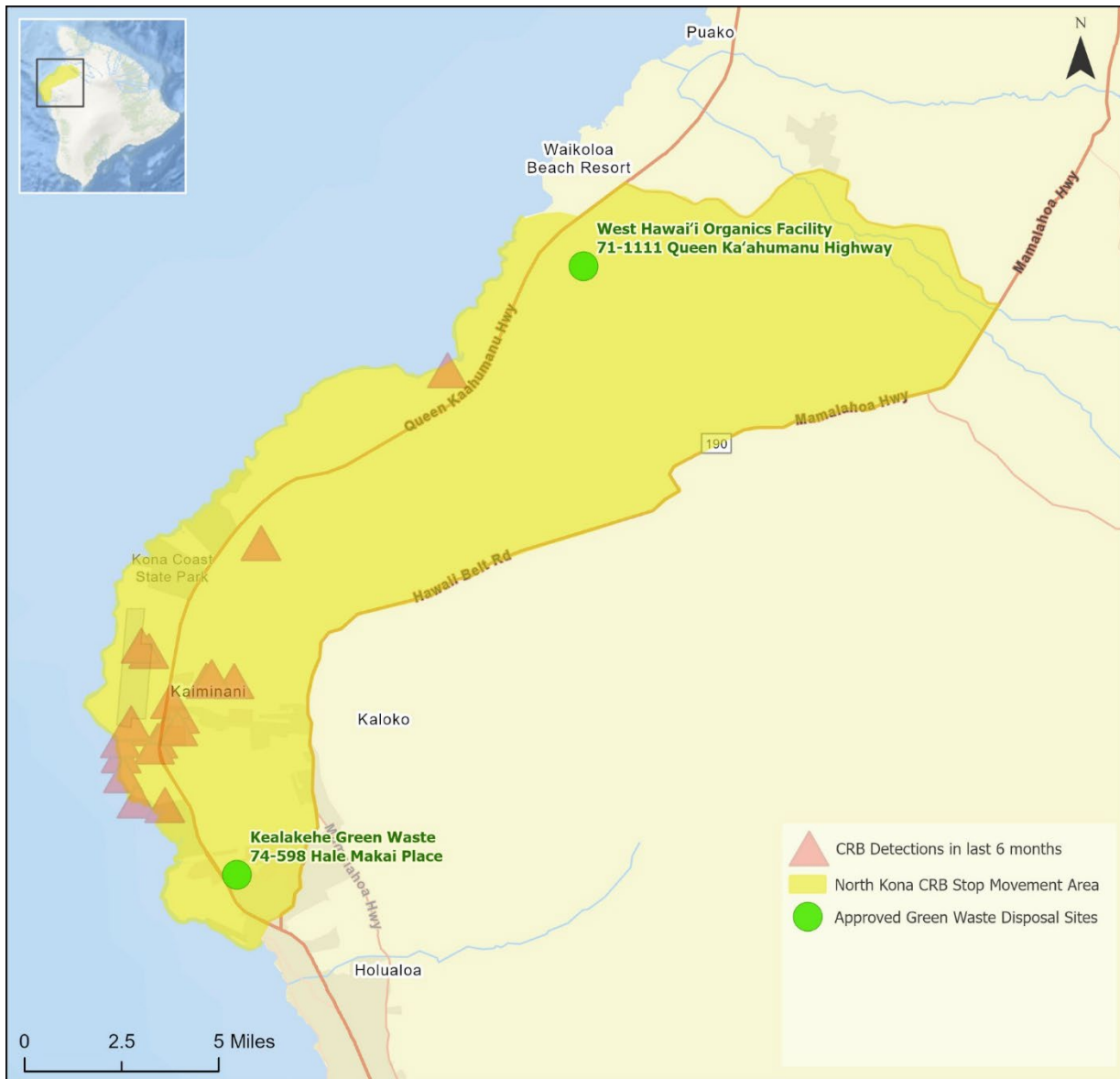
CRB has been found in West Hawai'i, and we need to confine it to areas with confirmed CRB detections. This will allow ongoing treatment efforts to kill/starve the adult CRB and enhance efforts to prevent its spread throughout the County of Hawai'i, ultimately aiming to eradicate CRB from Hawai'i Island.

Why is moving mulch and other organic materials a problem?

CRB Host Materials can contain tiny CRB eggs, larvae, pupae, and even adult CRB. CRB can spend up to 85% of its life cycle, including as an adult, in CRB Host Materials. Moving infested CRB Host Materials could unintentionally spread CRB far beyond its current range, complicating eradication efforts and hindering control measures.

Where does this voluntary compliance order affect?

The voluntary compliance order is issued for the entire area within the following geographic borders: **from Kailua Pier, up Palani Road through Mamalahoa Highway; continue North on Mamalahoa Highway to Waikoloa Road; and down Waikoloa Road to the shoreline.** Please see the map below for an image of the exact area covered.



Why should I be concerned about CRB?

Environmental Impacts

- Loss of loulu (*Pritchardia* spp.), our native fan palms, which are highly susceptible to CRB damage, leading to a loss of biodiversity and cultural resources. Hawai'i has many valuable palm collections that would be devastated by CRB.
- Increased coastal erosion due to the loss of coastal vegetation.
- Continued need for insecticides to control CRB.

Economic Impacts

- Reduced property values.
- Loss of tourism and negative impacts to visitor experience.
- Increased costs for removing and replacing dead palms.
- Loss of yield in commercial palm production.

- Increased mitigation costs, including ongoing insecticidal applications.
- Increased number of hazard trees and damage after storms.

Cultural and Social Impacts

- Loss of medium for cultural practitioners, including weavers and hula practitioners.
- Loss of crucial subsistence crops and unique coconut varieties.
- Threatened coconut groves.
- Disrupt sustainable agricultural practices and threaten composting and organic farming efforts.

If all of the coconut palms are destroyed by CRB, will they disappear?

Absolutely not! While coconut palms are the preferred food and breeding material for CRB, they are far from the only plants at risk. Adult CRB also feed on and damage date, fan and royal palms. Their secondary food sources are foxtail and sago palms, hala (screw pine), kalo, banana, pineapple, sugarcane and ulu. These are culturally and economically important crops.

Best Management Practices for CRB Host Materials

1. Inspect and Report
 - a. Inspect CRB Host Materials **at least every 4 months**, especially finished compost and nearby host palms, for CRB or signs of feeding damage.
 - i. If you cannot inspect CRB Host Materials yourself, contact BIISC, CRB Response (808-679-5244), or HDOA for assistance.
 - b. Examine incoming CRB Host Materials before accepting them to ensure they are not infested with CRB.
 - c. Collect any suspected CRB and report findings or visible CRB damage to the HDOA at 808-643-PEST (7378) or the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) at 808-933-3340.
2. Properly Manage Materials
 - a. Chip incoming CRB Host Materials within **48 hours**, prioritizing high-risk CRB Host Materials (originating from the geographic area described in this order, palm material, decaying wood chips).
 - b. Properly compost CRB Host Materials by heating piles to at least **131° F**.
 - c. Monitor finished materials **at least every 4 months** (visual during turnover). Once compost cools to around 110° F, it can be infested and is very good breeding material for CRB.
 - d. Do not stockpile or keep a mound of CRB Host Materials. Routinely distribute around plants or thinly spread up to **4 inches** in depth to enable it to dry completely.
3. Prevent the Spread
 - a. Utilize or process CRB Host Materials that are already on-site for end use, eliminating the need to move potentially infested materials.

- b. Safeguard CRB Host Materials which have been properly composted or treated in completely sealed containers that prevent CRB entry. Containers made of metal, concrete or glass are acceptable. CRB can chew through many plastics.
- c. Ensure CRB Host Materials are still at acceptable composting temperatures or are subjected to an effective treatment before being transported, especially to any area outside the voluntary compliance order.
 - i. Profume®, a Restricted Use Pesticide approved under FIFRA 24(c) Special Local Need (SLN) for fumigation treatment, is one option for treating certain CRB Host Materials, such as compost. Call HDOA for additional information about the use of this chemical.
- d. If you receive CRB Host Materials, ensure it comes from a reputable source that follows CRB Best Management Practices (BMPs). Ask suppliers to provide documentation of their CRB prevention efforts.

If you must move CRB Host Materials despite the **3-month voluntary stop movement**, please **contact the County of Hawaii (Glenn Sako, 808-961-8811)** and take the appropriate steps to minimize the risk of spreading CRB as listed above.

I have palm fronds, pruned branches, leaves, decaying and other organic materials including unused mulches and compost. What should I do with them?

Do not dump these materials in vacant lots or leave them piled up on your property. As they decompose, they can become an ideal breeding site for the CRB. To prevent the spread of CRB, please take all organic waste to an approved green waste drop-off site within the compliance area:

- **West Hawai'i Organics Facility at 71-1111 Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway**
- **Kealakehe Green Waste drop off site at 74-598 Hale Makai Place**

Besides not transporting CRB Host Materials, what other things can I do to assist?

1. Stay Informed
 - a. Know the signs/symptoms of CRB damage.
 - b. Learn to identify CRB from other look-alike species.
 - c. Receive and review training and updates on CRB and BMPs from either CRB Response or BIISC.
 - d. Immediately report suspected CRB or damage to BIISC, HDOA, or CRB Response.
2. Community Action
 - a. Educate others about CRB and what they can do to prevent the spread of it to their communities.
 - b. Install, maintain, and regularly check CRB traps around the perimeter of your property, including covering exposed CRB Host Materials with netting or plastic

- sheeting, if available, as these can help determine if CRB infestations are occurring. Contact CRB Response or BIISC for additional guidance.
- c. Report illegal dumping of CRB Host Materials.

You can find more information at the links below:

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/crb/>

CRB Response: <https://www.crbhawaii.org/>

Big Island Invasive Species Committee: <https://www.biisc.org/pest/coconut-rhinoceros-beetle/>

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/invasive-species-profiles/coconut-rhinoceros-beetle/>