



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāina

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE CAPITOL

415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

September 23, 2025

Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity
Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Molokai

Aloha Chair Hurd and Board Members,

Mahalo for recognizing the urgent nature of this issue and for taking swift action to protect Molokai from the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB). I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of the Niphipali Petition and the findings of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals, which unanimously affirmed that this is an emergency situation.

The threat CRB poses to Molokai's environment, agriculture, and cultural resources is profound. We have seen the devastation it has caused on other islands, and we understand that once the beetle becomes established, eradication is nearly impossible. CRB has not yet been detected on Molokai, and unless urgent and decisive preventative actions are taken now the potential damage to our native ecosystems, food security, and cultural practices could be irreversible.

Community members are urgently calling for temporary interim rules, stricter inspections at all ports of entry to Molokai, increased investment in CRB detection and biosecurity efforts, and close collaboration with local organizations to design and implement long-term prevention strategies.

Please, continue to support the Molokai community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

With aloha,

Rep. Mahina Poepoe

Hawaii State House of Representatives, District 13

Portion of Kahului, Pāʻia, Haʻikū, East Maui, Molokai, Lānaʻi, Kahoʻolawe, Molokini

Representative Mahina Poepoe
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 331
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-6790 reppoepoe@capitol.hawaii.gov

September 19, 2025

Testimony: SUPPORT Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

SUBMITTED TO:

Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814

SUBMITTED BY:

Dr. Heather McMillen
Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street STE 325
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Heather McMillen and I am the coordinator for our state Urban and Community Forestry Program (Kaulunani) in the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR.

I am again respectfully submitting the following testimony in **strong support** of the "Interim Rule to Prohibit the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i" **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali**. This community-driven effort marks a critical point in the state's biosecurity and fight against CRB.

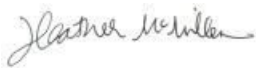
From conversations with those in our network of urban and community forestry professionals, we understand that community awareness and concern about CRB in Hawai'i is at an all-time high. Host plants threatened by CRB include coconut, loulu, banana, and kalo – cornerstones of Hawai'i's community forests and agricultural heritage. The mission of our program is to support all of Hawai'i's communities with a focus on equity to cultivate well-being and resilience through restorative and environmental justice, planting, caring for, and growing relationships with the trees and forests where we live, work, learn and play. As such, we are called to offer support to Moloka'i community members closely connected with coconut and other hosts of CRB.

Please do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support

the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

As your agency recognizes, the costs to prevent the spread and establishment of invasive species like CRB are drastically lower than long term CRB management and control. These costs are now shouldered by families, farmers, organizations, and agencies on O'ahu and Kaua'i. Maui and Hawai'i Island may follow. Further, the chemical treatments for CRB applied in maintained landscape and port settings are inappropriate for coconut and other host plants cultivated for food. Moloka'i's self-sufficiency and agricultural vitality must be led by Moloka'i farmers and family members, who call for stronger protection against CRB through this interim rule.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather McMillen".

Heather McMillen

Program Coordinator

Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Alix Lunsford <alixveronica89@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 7:14 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Hello,

This is my testimony in support of doing everything possible and in your power to prohibit the CRB from entering Moloka'i. Please do everything you can to protect the coconut groves and the entire island.

Thank you,
Alix Lunsford

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Ashley Hogue <outreach@hfuu.org>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 12:45 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Ashley Hogue - currently residing in Haiku, Maui with roots tied back to Moloka'i - and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

As a resident of Moloka'i, I have witnessed firsthand how deeply the island relies on the health of its land and the strength of its community to sustain daily life. The niu is not just a tree, but a source of food, culture, and identity woven into every part of the island. Moloka'i's small size and relative isolation mean that the introduction of CRB would not be a minor inconvenience—it would be catastrophic. Once established, the beetle would devastate the island's coconut trees, threaten native ecosystems, and undermine the community's ability to live self-sufficiently. Protecting Moloka'i from CRB is not only about preserving agriculture, but about honoring and safeguarding a way of life that is inseparable from the health of the 'āina.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the

'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Ashley Hogue

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Ashley Hogue
Outreach Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union, proudly affiliated with the National Farmers Union
hfuu.org

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - CRB Protection for the Island of Moloka'i

From Audrey Newman <audnewman@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 8:51 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

I strongly support the strongest protections to prevent the devastating introduction of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i. I urge you to take emergency action on Agenda IV.C.I at the upcoming Sept 23 Board meeting. My name is Audrey Newman, a Molokai resident for more than 20 years. My career in nature conservation showed the importance of immediate preventative action as the most effective and cost-efficient method for dealing with new invasive species. Waiting to take action is extremely risky & always more expensive. Please do not delay on these essential early actions. Most important is the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as strongly supported by the Moloka'i community.

I deeply appreciate & support the leadership of Niu Now, Niu Now - Molokai and the Molokai Invasive Species Committee and the actions they propose to protect our island. Mahalo nui to the Board for your continuing leadership and support on this critical CRB issue. It is so important to EVERYONE on Molokai, since niu is a cornerstone of our culture, history, agriculture, food security, and coastal ecosystems & landscapes.

Mahalo nui for helping us protect Molokai!

Audrey Newman

Kāla'e, Molokai



Testimony to
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

September 23, 2025

9:00 AM

PQB Conference Room

Agenda Item IV.C.1

In SUPPORT of the Adoption of an Interim Rule Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §150A-9.5, to Restrict the Transportation of Plants, Soil, Gravel, and Other Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material Including Decomposing Plant Material Such as Compost, Wood or Tree Chips, and Mulch, Plant Propagation Media and Other Items Comprised of Decomposing Organic Plant Material Such as Landscaping Material or Erosion Control Socks, to the Island of Molokai From Any Other Area in the State to Prevent the Spread of CRB

Aloha mai e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges you to **ADOPT** the interim rule as proposed by petitioners Kunani and Ipo Nihipali, to temporarily protect Moloka'i from the **devastating and multigenerational agricultural, cultural, and environmental impacts and cultural erasure** that would result from the introduction and establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB).

Both this Board as well as the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals have acknowledged that this rule is a common sense and urgently needed intervention, in light of the rapidly spreading and profoundly devastating impacts of CRB across multiple islands. Already, predominantly Native Hawaiian communities on O'ahu are preparing for the heartbreaking loss of their niu, including trees that have graced their landscapes for generations, due in large part to the lack of proactive support of and regulatory action by government agencies for well over a decade - including the former Department of Agriculture in particular. We must not allow history to repeat itself, and let the failure to act lead to even more devastating consequences for the island and people of Moloka'i.

The Sierra Club notes that Plant Quarantine Branch staff had recommended an alternative rule for the Advisory Committee's consideration, which would have allowed for the shipment of CRB host material to Moloka'i from O'ahu, Kaua'i, and specific areas on Hawai'i Island with a permit, and from anywhere else without any restrictions whatsoever. This proposal would have been wholly **unenforceable**, without a tracking system for all goods coming from designated infested areas to undesignated areas,

where they would be shippable to Moloka'i with no permit restriction; **unreliable**, given the spread of CRB to Maui, Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island, and Lāna'i under the current offshipment permitting system for O'ahu; and **unnecessarily reckless**, in light of the demonstrated ability of the CRB to rapidly spread, undetected, to new areas outside of places where they are known to occur. **Thankfully, the Advisory Committee saw the unintended consequences of the Plant Quarantine Branch's proposal and wisely chose to pursue the more comprehensive and common sense approach embodied in 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali's proposed rules.** We urge you to apply the same level of critical analysis to any proposed alternative, watered-down strategy that the Plant Quarantine Branch may attempt to suggest to you, prior to or during your decisionmaking – and to always err on the side of protection, as required by the supreme court-endorsed Precautionary Principle.

Should there be a question as to whether statutory definitions for interim rulemaking include inorganic gravel, a severability clause as suggested by one of the Advisory Committee members would ensure that any prevailing legal challenges based on such ambiguity do not end up repealing the proposed rule.

In closing, the Sierra Club again expresses its deep appreciation to the community members who have brought this petition forward, and who have endeavored to ensure that Moloka'i residents, farmers, and businesses understand the importance of this initiative. **The Sierra Club urges the Board to take advantage of the opportunity that this proposal now provides you, to fulfill your constitutional, statutory, and generational kuleana, and to ADOPT the interim rules before you today.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

[EXTERNAL] Agend IV.C.1

From Barbara Bezdicek <malikolani23@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 9:06 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Barbara Bezdicek from Haiku, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Barbara Bezdicek

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Barbara Kalipi <lhkalipi@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 7:35 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Board members,

Mahalo nunui for listening to the voices of the Molokai residents and supporters and making the referral to the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals for recommended action on the petition submitted by the Nihipalis. The CRB issue has continued to be a topic of deep concern in the community since you made your decision. I am whole-heartedly in support of the recommendation of your committee for the temporary ban of all host material of the CRB to Molokai. This will give us a strong first line of defense against this terrible threat to our environment, our culture, and our food resources. This defense, however, will only be as good as the resources necessary to put it into action. I believe our community is willing and able to organize in support of the concrete actions to enforce the ban. Please vote to support the recommendation of your committee.

Me ke aloha,
Barbara Kalipi

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Barbara Barry <begoniabarry@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 2:42 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is [your name] from [your home], and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

This is a devastating pest that must not be allowed to get hold on Moloka'i.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Barbara Barry

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Beppie Shapiro <beppie@hawaii.edu>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 5:15 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

To Board officers and members: I was born in Honolulu and lived my life in Honolulu and Hau'ula. Currently my home in Kaimuki has 4 lovely tall coconut trees - but living on Oahu I know sadly that soon their days will be numbered and they will resemble all the damaged and dead coconut trees we see around Oahu.

You have a chance to save the coconut trees on Molokai. Please respect the wishes of Molokai residents, and of all of us around the islands who value our iconic trees: adopt the interim rule to restrict transportation of material which can introduce the CRB (we all know what that stands for) to Molokai. It's vital to do this now and quickly. At any moment until the rule is implemented, Molokai's coconut trees may be fated to die.

Mahalo, Beppie Shapiro
4118 Pakolu Place, Honolulu 96816

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Bianca Lech <biancamlech@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 11:08 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

*My name is Bianca West of Molokai and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.***

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

I am a farmer and someone who lives off the land and as such I deeply value staple food plants like coconut. Its cultural significance alone warrants its protection. We live in a world where we can still act to take measures to protect plants and animals we value from outside threats-- and we must. It's an honor to be given the chance to take a bold step and I urge you to give Molokai a chance to be an example-- let us show that our values can be important enough to act upon.

*Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.*

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Bianca West

[EXTERNAL] Fwd: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Bo Breda <bobreda@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 9:00 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Subject: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Bo Breda from Pahoehoe on Hawaii Island. I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo
Bo Breda

--

Peter Wilson
13-927 Kahukai Street

Pahoa HI 96778
808-557-8108

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'

From Bobbie Foster <hawaiiobbie@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 2:34 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Bobbie from Oahu, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

I currently volunteer to help survey and eradicate the Little Fire Ants on Oahu. I have seen the struggle to control and hopefully win this battle. I have also seen the devastation of our palms by the CRB.

The key is to keep CRB off Moloka'i island. Our experience is that it is a huge struggle to win against the invasive once on island. I recently visited Moloka'i mainly to see Kamakou Preserve. So glad to see no CRB, LFA or ROD on this special island.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Bobbie Foster

Stay Calm, Safe, Healthy and Sane

Bobbie Foster
hawaiiobbie@gmail.com

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Bridget Mowat <molokaimowat@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 9:00 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha

My name is Bridget Mowat. I am in support of the Nihipali's petition. It is your kuleana to protect Molokai . Please do your job .

[EXTERNAL] PREVENT CRB ON MOLOKA'I

From Carla Ritte-Hanchett <carlaleolani@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 2:36 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

We are Michael & Carla Hanchett, Hoolehua Homesteaders on Moloka'i and pray GOD will help you to put into place the strongest protections against the introduction of the CRB to our precious island home of Moloka'i.

Mahalo and God Bless you as you do all within your power to help us in this very important endeavor to PREVENT CRB ON MOLOKA'I.

Aloha,

Michael & Carla Hanchett

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Celeste <teroger@pixi.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 4:33 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Celeste Rogers from Kapolei on O'ahu, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

It has been terrible to see how quickly the CRB has spread here on O'ahu. They have done a lot of damage.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future,

and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

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Aloha,

Celeste Rogers



Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
September 23, 2025
9 a.m. Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Testimony in Support of Adoption of an Interim Rule to Restrict the Movement of CRB Host Material to the Island of Molokai From Any Other Area of the State

Aloha Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support** of the adoption of an interim rule to **restrict the Movement of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material to the Island of Molokai From Any Other Area in the State to Prevent the Spread of CRB**, set out as agenda item IV.C.1. We are very grateful for all the work this Board, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals (P&A Committee), and the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) have done to move the Petition seeking the Proposed Interim Rule so quickly.

On September 17, 2025, the P&A Committee made a finding that the movement of flora or fauna specified in the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule, in the absence of effective rules, creates a situation dangerous to the public health and safety or to the ecological health of flora or fauna present in the State which is so immediate in nature as to constitute an emergency, as required by subsection (b) of section 150A-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The P&A Committee further voted to recommend the language of the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule, with the addition of a severability clause, to this Board. We hope the Board will approve the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule as set out in Appendix E of the Board Submittal (Submittal) with the modifications shown in Attachment 1 to this testimony.

The Deputy Attorney General (DAG) provides advice to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and the Board. We note for the DAG's and the Board's consideration that the finding made by the P&A Committee and any interim rule adopted under section 150A-9.5 HRS may be appealed through a special review mechanism. Subsection (d) of section 150A-9.5 HRS provides:

“(d) Any person may appeal the reasonableness of any interim rule or determination of the [P&A] advisory committee to the circuit court.”

We hope the Board, with the advice of the DAG, will consider the issues raised by PQB with respect to the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule (Appendix E) to provide a record for any

person considering a challenge to the Interim Rule or any Court reviewing it under section 150A-9.5(d) HRS. We further hope that any motion considered by the Board sets out clear language, after consultation with the DAG, that the Board considered the concerns raised by PQB and the testimony in opposition to the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule (if any) and finds that adoption of the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule, as modified, is reasonable to effectively present the spread of CRB to Molokai, considering the current situation in the State and that the rules set out in chapter 72, Hawaii Administrative Rules, and the CRB interim rules in effect since October 2023, have not been fully effective in preventing the spread of CRB.

As part of that process, we offer the following for your consideration:

1. PQB notes on page 13 of the Submittal, that the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule prohibits the movement of CRB host material without an exception for movement under a DAB permit or after treatment. This is a departure from the CRB interim rules adopted by DAB on October 4, 2023, and October 11, 2024 (the 2023 and 2024 CRB Interim Rules) to prevent the spread of CRB from Oahu to other areas of the State. As noted in the Petition, these rules have not been fully effective, as CRB has continued to spread across the State and was detected moving on potted plants that are not considered typical CRB host plants during the period that the 2023 and 2024 CRB Interim Rules were in effect. Further, given the high population densities of CRB in certain parts of the State, it is very difficult to ensure that treated material will always be stored in a manner that prevents it from being re-infested prior to interisland movement. Any one re-infested shipment could be the shipment that brings CRB to Molokai. If we continue the existing approach to CRB interim rules, it is likely only a matter of time before CRB spreads to Molokai. Adopting the new approach set out in the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule for a 1-year period is reasonable given these circumstances.
2. The Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule does not contain an exception for the movement of the prohibited materials to address a future disaster situation. We believe that the lack of an exception is reasonable. If a natural disaster occurs on Molokai, the Governor could issue an Emergency Proclamation for the affected area, and any interim rule, like other administrative rules, could be waived. If the Board wishes to include an exception for the movement of material to address a disaster situation, we hope the Board will expressly state that the movement of material for ornamental landscaping is not a disaster or emergency situation.
3. PQB also notes on page 13 of the Submittal that the Petitioner's Proposed Interim Rule prohibits the movement to Molokai of the items listed in the Proposed Interim Rule from all areas of the State, not just those known to be infested with CRB. We believe this is reasonable for two reasons. The first is that CRB is continuing to spread, the CRB infested area is a moving target, and it is possible that CRB is present in areas where it has not yet been detected. Second, it would be very difficult to track materials as they move from an infested area, such as Oahu, to an uninfested area, and then on to Molokai. There is no system in place for tracking items once they arrive in an uninfested area or island. Again, any one shipment could be the shipment that brings CRB to

Molokai. For these reasons, prohibiting movement from all areas of the State is reasonable at this time.

4. PQB notes on page 11 of the Submittal that “gravel” is not appropriate as a prohibited item. We agree there could be a concern with respect to gravel as it is not “flora or fauna” and therefore not subject to regulation under section 150A-9.5 HRS(a).¹ As DAB continues to grow into its new name and biosecurity responsibilities, we hope DAB will seek to amend section 150A-9.5 HRS to allow interim rules to address all pest host material, such as gravel, tile, etc. However, that statutory change has not been made at this time. We suggest moving gravel to the list of non-prohibited items, provided that if the gravel is mixed with any decomposing plant material, it is prohibited. These changes are shown in Attachment 1.
5. PQB argues on page 12 of the Submittal that “plant cuttings” are included under the prohibition and that plant cuttings pose the same risk as cut flowers and foliage for decoration, which are exempt from the prohibition. Plants are generally intended to be planted. Cut flowers and foliage are not intended to be planted in the ground. Generally, cut flowers and foliage are brought into a workspace or home and made into or used for lei or decoration. We believe it is reasonable to stop the movement of all plants to Molokai for 1 year while new, effective treatments for plants, in addition to visual inspection, are developed.
6. We attempt to address other concerns raised by PQB on pages 11 and 12 of the Submittal², along with some other suggestions, in Attachment 1.³

CRB is a serious nuisance pest that, if it spreads to Molokai, will affect the ecological health of flora or fauna on both private and public property. On Oahu, coconut and palm growers and owners are incurring expenses related to the loss of their trees and associated agricultural products due to CRB damage.⁴ Adoption of the Petitioner’s Proposed Interim Rule, as modified, will help DAB protect natural resources on private and public property. County or other local governments cannot enact rules to protect Molokai from the introduction of CRB; that is solely

¹ Subsection (a) of section 150A-9.5 HRS provides: “(a) The department shall have the power, subject to the provisions of this section, to establish, implement, and enforce interim rules governing the transporting of flora and fauna into and within the State...” (emphasis added)

² Attachment 1 does not change the language on page 3, lines 55 and 58, (conforming the use of “person” in the penalties language) as suggested on page 12 of the Submittal, as the language in the Petitioner’s Proposed Interim Rule is identical to the 2023 and 2024 CRB Interim Rules.

³ Suggestions made by CGAPS in Attachment 1 - Modified Appendix E include: striking the word “organic” before “plant material” for clarity; conforming the list of prohibited items in paragraph (A) to conform with the list of items in paragraph 1, as suggested by PQB; setting out that each item moved in violation of the Interim Rule is a separate offense; and modifying the severability clause to address challenges to the Interim Rule’s reasonableness.

⁴ Civil Beat, “Dying Palms to Be Replaced with this New Tree – For Now” (10/8/24) <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/10/honolulu-dying-palms-to-be-replaced-with-this-new-tree-for-now/>; Civil Beat, “Ravenous Beetles Go Urban, Preying On Honolulu’s Iconic Coconut Palms (2/18/25) <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/02/ravenous-beetles-go-urban-preying-on-honolulu-iconic-coconut-palms/>

the responsibility of this Board and DAB. Adoption of the Proposed Interim Rule is reasonable to protect Molokai residents from this serious nuisance pest.

New tools are needed to keep CRB out of Molokai. If the Proposed Interim Rule is adopted, we hope that during the 1-year period that the Proposed Interim Rule is in force, effective treatments for potted plants and protecting material after it has been treated will be developed, and, hopefully, Hawaii will be closer to finding a biocontrol agent that is effective against CRB.

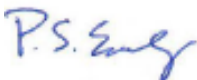
Finally, we believe CRB is a statewide emergency and hope this Board will urge DAB to work with the Office of the Governor to seek an Emergency Proclamation to address CRB across the State under chapter 127A HRS. There are actions that could be taken on each island to prevent the introduction of CRB, to eradicate CRB, or to control CRB population numbers. This emergency is affecting agriculture, natural resources, cultural resources, and quality of life. An Emergency Proclamation would authorize county and State agencies to provide emergency relief and engage in emergency management functions to enable planning and implementation of CRB management strategies across the State.

However, a motion related to a statewide CRB emergency declaration is not before this Board today. The Proposed Interim Rule to protect Molokai is. We hope the Board will adopt the Proposed Interim Rule as an effective and reasonable emergency measure to protect Molokai from the introduction of CRB. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

Attachment 1

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

PLANT QUARANTINE INTERIM RULE 25-1

To Prohibit the ~~Transportation~~ Movement of Plants, Soil, ~~Gravel~~, and other CRB Host Material Including Decomposing Plant Material Such as Compost, Wood or Tree Chips, and Mulch; Plant Propagation Media; and Other Items Comprised of Decomposing ~~Organic~~ Plant Material Such as Landscaping Material or Erosion Control Socks, to Prevent the Movement of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, to the Island of Molokai From Other Areas of the State.

Under authorization granted in Section 150A-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) hereby establishes this interim rule to impose a ~~quarantine~~ prohibition on the movement of plants, soil, ~~gravel~~, and other coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material, including decomposing plant material such as compost, wood or tree chips, and mulch; plant propagation media; and other items comprised of or containing decomposing ~~organic~~ plant material such as landscaping material or erosion control socks, to prevent the spread of the CRB, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, to the Island of Molokai, an island where CRB has not been detected.

The interim rule is needed to prevent the further spread of CRB to the Island of Molokai from other areas of the State. The residents of Molokai utilize the coconut tree, *Cocos nucifera*, and other palm species for subsistence, local food production, and cultural practices and the need to protect these natural resources on Molokai from the imminent peril of CRB constitutes an emergency. Further, CRB establishment on Molokai would

Attachment 1 – Modified Appendix E

impact native and endemic palm species, including the rare loulu palm, *Pritchardia hillebrandii*. CRB has been detected moving between Islands of the State on potted plants that are not typically considered hosts of adult CRB and has been detected moving interisland despite the CRB interim rules issued by the Department that took effect on October 4, 2023, and October 11, 2024, that restrict the movement of CRB host material and palm plants in the genera *Cocos*, *Livistona*, *Phoenix*, *Pritchardia*, *Roystonea*, and *Washingtonia*; decomposing plant material such as compost, wood or tree chips, and mulch; plant propagation media; and other items comprised of decomposing organic plant material such as landscaping material or erosion control socks, from the Island of Oahu to other areas of the State.

This interim rule prohibits the movement to the Island of Molokai from any other area of the State of plants, including potted or bare root plants, and other CRB host material, which:

(A) Includes ~~decaying~~ decomposing plant material, such as mulch, trimmings, fruit and vegetative scraps, wood or tree chips, stumps, compost, plant propagation media ~~in live planting~~, including commercially bagged plant propagation media; ~~or~~ and other items comprised of or containing decomposing plant material such as landscaping materials or erosion control socks that have been staged or stored in any area of the State, and soil, ~~and gravel~~; and

(B) Does not include:

- (i) Plant products intended for consumption, such as coconuts, fruits, nuts, edible leaves, leaves used for cooking, and spices;
- (ii) Plant products preserved from decay by treatment or use, such as lumber, woven hats, dried and painted coconuts, wooden posts, wood carvings, and firewood;

(iii) Seeds for planting;

(iv) Cut flowers and foliage for decoration, such as lei, floral bouquets, or arrangements; and

(v) Rock, coral, gravel, and sand, not mixed with any organic material, provided that rock, coral, gravel, or sand mixed with any material described in paragraph (A) may not be transported to the Island of Molokai from other areas of the State.

Any person who violates this rule shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than \$100. The provisions of HRS Section 706-640 notwithstanding, the maximum fine shall be \$10,000. For a second offense committed within five years of a prior conviction, the person(s), companies, or organization(s) shall be responsible for clean-up and decontamination fees to remove contaminated material and to fully eradicate any CRB that may have been caused by their violation of not following this Interim Rule. Also, they shall be fined not less than \$500 and not more than \$25,000. Each item moved in violation of this rule shall be considered a separate offense.

If any provision of this interim rule is declared unconstitutional, or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, or any part of the finding made by the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals or this interim rule is found by a court to be unreasonable, the constitutionality, ~~and~~ validity, and reasonableness of the remainder of this interim rule and applicability thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

This interim rule shall become effective on (*insert date*), and shall be effective for not more than one year from the effective date.

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Chai Blair-Stahn <chai.blairstahn@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 2:44 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Dear Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Chai Blair-Stahn and I live on O'ahu. I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Chai

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Cora Currier <coracurrier@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 11:54 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Cora Currier from Moloka'i, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Growing up on the east end of Moloka'i I have seen the devastation wrought on native and beloved canoe plants by invasive species. Our flora are already suffering with deer, competition, drought and reduced rainfall, and constantly evolving pests. Anything we can do to stop the introduction of CRB is worth it. The Moloka'i community is uniquely dependent on subsistence crops threatened by the beetle -- not just niu but also kalo and uala and banana. Many family businesses, ours included, also depend on revenue from those crops (we grow apple bananas for sale and process them as dried.) But the Moloka'i community is also unique in that it can organize to help one another offset the difficulties that a strict transportation ban would create; we know it's worth it, and we embrace the idea of generating new opportunities on-island rather than being dependent on imported materials.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB

host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Cora Currier

[EXTERNAL] Rhinoceros beetle

From Cynthia Luafalemana <cynthia_luafalemana@icloud.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 8:38 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Agenda IV.C.1

Restrictions on transporting hazardous materials that may cause harm to our agricultural environment and livelihoods.

Molokai is one of the last islands that needs government protection from hazardous materials and outbreaks.

As a Molokai resident for over 40 years, my heritage comes from Annie and Kaina Kaawa of Ho'olehua - Mo'omomi and my husband and I have raised our children and grandchildren on the eastern side of Molokai. We've lived off the grid and taught our children how to grow their own food, hunt, and fish as a way of life. There is no other way I would have done differently. I have testified so many times at countless hearings and meetings, and this one no different.

Molokai provided food for all of Hawaii and mainland, we need to continue this by protecting our resources!!

It is your duty to band any materials that will cause extinction and destruction for our future generations to come!

Mahalo, Cynthia U Luafalemana

Sent from my iPhone

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From davidsher@juno.com <davidsher@juno.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 7:09 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

I am writing to urge you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community – it is critical you follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sherry Pollack
Ahuimanu

[EXTERNAL] Testimony In support of prohibiting material that may introduce Coconut Beetle to the island of Molokai

From Debbie Misajon <debbie@thecoconuttraveler.com>
Date Mon 9/22/2025 1:40 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

I am writing from Papaikou in **strong support** of the Interim Rule prohibiting the transportation of materials that could introduce the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to Molokai. Prevention is not only the most effective strategy—it is the only affordable and realistic one. Molokai still has a chance to avoid the devastation they are already experiencing on Oahu.

In my neighborhood, where we live under the constant invasive coqui frog croaking at night, we know too well how a single load of mulch or one nursery plant can forever change the health and safety of a community. That is why I understand, deeply, the urgency Molokai residents feel today.

I am especially alarmed by CRB's rapid spread across the islands. This beetle threatens not only our cherished niu but also our irreplaceable native trees. Despite the heroic efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, the Department of Transportation, and others, the beetle's advance is relentless. We cannot allow Molokai to face the same fate.

The establishment of CRB on Molokai would be a devastating loss, not just for that island, but for all of Hawaii. With limited resources to fight an invasion once it takes hold, prevention is the best way forward.

Respectfully, I urge you to pass this Interim Rule. Please do for Molokai what we wish had been done for us on the Big Island sooner, relating to the coqui, protect Molokai from CRB while we still can.

Warm regards and aloha,
Debbie

DEBBIE MISAJON

FOUNDER OF THE COCONUT TRAVELER

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[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 9:44 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha no Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Diane Ware from the Moku o Ka'u and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

Our islands are overwhelmed and suffering the consequences of invasive species. I have fought coqui frogs, rats pigs and faya for years. This government must address the problem of entry and spread of invaders.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

[optional: provide your own stories, experiences, concerns, or other mana'o here]

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Diane Ware
808-967-8642
P. O. Box 698
99-7815 Kapoha
Volcano HI 96785

[EXTERNAL] CRB protections needed

From Earl Kim <mothra246@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 2:50 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Earl Kim from downtown Honolulu, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Earl J. Kim

[EXTERNAL] Agenda item IV.C.1

From Glenn Choy <choyhawaii@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 1:26 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

I strongly support restricting the transport of materials to Molokai that could encourage the spread of CRBs. Act now. Be proactive. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Harriet Witt <harriet@passengerplanet.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 6:58 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Please adopt this rule. Without it the food supply could be seriously compromised.
Mahalo, Harriet Witt

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Harvey Arkin <harveyarkin9@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 2:27 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Harvey Arkin from Manoa, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Harvey Arkin

Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From McMillen, Heather L <heather.l.mcmillen@hawaii.gov>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 1:06 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Cc Atcheson, Koki B <koki.b.atcheson.researcher@hawaii.gov>; Gunasekara, Indrajit S <indrajit.s.gunasekara.researcher@hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (108 KB)

2025 Moloka'i Interim rule CRB_Testimony_McMillen.pdf;

Aloha e Chair Hurd,

Please find attached testimony in strong support of Agenda item IV.C.1

Thank you,

Heather L. McMillen, Ph.D.

Urban & Community Forester (ISA Certified Arborist WE-12583A)

Hawai'i Division of Forestry & Wildlife

[Kaulunani Urban & Community Forestry Program](#)

808.286.7218 (cell)

Celebrate [Year of Our Community Forests](#) with us!



[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C1

From Hikiola <hikiola@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 1:29 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Cc Denise Kawano <denikawano@gmail.com>

Aloha Chair Sharon Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Denise Kawano and I am writing on behalf of Hikiola Cooperative on Molokai. We are an Agricultural Farm Store that services the farmers and public on Molokai with animal feed, fertilizer, media, erosion control and irrigation supply.

I am in disagreement and do not support some of the wording of the petition and the proposed interim rules that were presented by Kunani and Ipo Nihipali. I humbly ask before adopting and making a decision on their proposed interim rule, please consider the business that truly will be affected. HDOA and BAB already have rules in place and if businesses are in compliance with said rules what is the issue?

I thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Denise Kawano

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Ho'oipo Pa Nakea Kumu Pa Nakea <panakealaw@me.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 11:40 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

To: DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

From: Elizabeth Pa Nakea

Re: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

Date: 9/18/2025

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Elizabeth Pa Nakea. I am an attorney and a former Castle High School teacher with deep roots and many family and dear friends on Moloka'i. It is at their request for kōkua (help) that I am writing to you today with a deep sense of urgency to strongly urge you to adopt the interim rule proposed by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali to protect Moloka'i from the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB).

Having spent my career in both the legal field and the classroom, I am uniquely positioned to see this issue from multiple angles. As an attorney, I understand the critical importance of a clear, enforceable rule. The "watered-down" alternative rule, which the Plant Quarantine Branch previously suggested, is riddled with loopholes and would be both overcomplicated and ineffective. It would create a legal and logistical mess, failing to provide the robust protection Moloka'i needs.

From an educational perspective, I've seen firsthand how a healthy environment is fundamental to a community's well-being. Our culture, our traditions, and our future are intrinsically tied to the land and the resources it provides. The **niu**, or coconut tree, is more than just a plant—it is a cornerstone of our cultural identity and a vital part of our local ecosystem. The CRB poses an existential threat to this heritage, and if it becomes established, we will lose a part of our island and a part of ourselves that can never be replaced.

The unanimous vote by the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to support the Moloka'i community's petition is a clear and powerful signal. It is an acknowledgment that this is an emergency and that the community's solution is the best one. Please follow their expertise-driven lead. Your decision on September 23 will not just be a procedural vote; it will be a historic choice that will define how our government protects its people and its 'āina.

Please choose to stand with the Moloka‘i community and its future. The strongest protections are the only acceptable solution.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this critical testimony.

Elizabeth Pa Nakea

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Indrajit Samarasingha Gunasekara <indrajit@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 11:39 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

September 22, 2025

Testimony: SUPPORT Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

SUBMITTED TO:

Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814

SUBMITTED BY:

Indrajit Gunasekara
Niu Now,
Po Box 235481
Honolulu, HI 96823

Dear Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Indrajit Gunasekara and I am the Co-Founder of Niu Now. I am again respectfully submitting the following testimony in strong support of the "Interim Rule to Prohibit the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i" as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali. This community-driven effort marks a critical point in the state's biosecurity and fight against CRB. From conversations with a number of community forestry professionals, we understand that community awareness and concern about CRB in Hawai'i is at an all-time high. Host plants threatened by CRB include coconut, loulou, banana, and kalo – cornerstones of Hawai'i's community forests and agricultural heritage. The mission of our program is to support all of Hawaii's communities with a focus on equity to cultivate well-being and resilience through restorative and environmental justice, planting, caring for, and growing relationships with the trees and forests where we live, work, learn and play. As such, we are called to offer support to Moloka'i community members closely connected with coconut and other hosts of CRB.

Please do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same. As your agency recognizes, the costs to prevent the spread and establishment of invasive species like CRB are drastically lower than long term CRB management and control. These costs are now shouldered by families, farmers, organizations, and agencies on O'ahu and Kaua'i. Maui and Hawai'i Island may follow. Further, the chemical treatments for CRB applied in maintained landscape and port settings are inappropriate for coconut and other host plants cultivated for food. Moloka'i's self-

sufficiency and agricultural vitality must be led by Moloka‘i farmers and family members, who call for stronger protection against CRB through this interim rule.

Respectfully submitted

Indrajit Gunsekara
Co-Founder, Niu Now

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Jane Goodsill <janegoodsill@icloud.com>

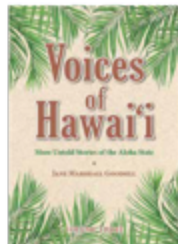
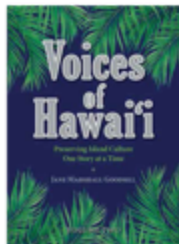
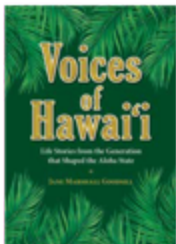
Date Fri 9/19/2025 8:36 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

This is Jane Marshall Goodsill writing in support of adopting the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles on Moloka'i.

Mahalo for consideration of this testimony,

Jane Marshall Goodsill



[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1-Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material That May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Jennifer Kau'i Young <losalioj@hawaii.edu>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 10:30 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha kākou:

I, Jennifer Young, am providing testimony in favor of restricting transportation of material that may introduce the CRB to Moloka'i.

The CRB crisis is a threat to healthy biodiversity and food security in Hawai'i nei. Protecting the food systems of Moloka'i from the CRB is to protect the food security of all who reside in the pae 'āina.

I urge you all to act in favor of our people, of our 'ohana. Protect Moloka'i!

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Jennifer Young
Ho'okena, Hawai'i

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Jesse Rubendall <jrubes216@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 9:18 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Jesse Rubendall from Kapaau in North Kohala on the Big Island, and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

As a farmer, I have heard terrible stories, and witnessed, the true destruction and devastation invasive species like this can cause on some of our most precious and integral staple crops of Hawai'i. This not only affects the livelihood of individual farmers and families, but also our community at large.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony. Have a wonderful Friday,

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of interim rule to restrict the transportation of material that may introduce the CRB to the island of Molokai

From Kaehukai Keala <kealakaehukai@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 6:04 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of interim rule to restrict the transportation of material that may introduce the CRB to the island of Molokai

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board,

My name is Kaehukaiihaamainae Keala, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of Agenda Item IV.C.1 – the adoption of an interim rule to restrict the transportation of materials that may introduce the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to the island of Molokai.

As you are well aware, the CRB poses a severe threat to Hawaii's native ecosystems, agricultural economy, and cultural practices, particularly those that rely on coconut and other palm species. The invasive spread of CRB across parts of O'ahu and other islands has demonstrated how quickly and destructively this pest can impact both natural and cultivated landscapes.

Molokai is uniquely vulnerable. Its rich agricultural heritage, ecological sensitivity, and limited resources for invasive species management mean that **prevention is not only preferred—it is essential**. Once CRB becomes established, eradication is nearly impossible and long-term management is extremely costly, both economically and environmentally.

This interim rule is a **necessary and proactive measure**. By restricting the movement of high-risk materials such as green waste, mulch, compost, and other organic matter known to harbor CRB larvae or adults, we are taking a scientifically sound and precautionary approach to protect Molokai's communities, farms, and forests.

I commend the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for recognizing the urgency of this issue and moving forward with this rule. It reflects a commitment to safeguarding our islands through science-based biosecurity and community-focused action.

Mahalo for your leadership and your continued efforts to protect our islands from invasive threats.

Respectfully,
Kaehukaiihaamainae Keala

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Kiara Bacasen <kiarabacasen@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 10:45 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Kiara Bacasen and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

I join the many voices that stand firm against any neglectful policy that paves the way for invasive species to harm Molokai's rich ecosystem and the cultural heritage and wisdom that comes with it. It was told to me many years ago by Community Leader and Marine Scientist Pelika Andrade that one can survive off a single coconut tree if only they understood how to live and work with it- as water, food, shelter, and tools can all be crafted from the gifts of the coconut tree. One must recognize that she was speaking not just of survival but of self determination, self-reliance, and a preservation of the ability to innovate sustainably that has allowed entire communities to thrive for centuries.

And that is just one of the profound truths that stands to be forgotten should we allow for short sighted policies that lead to irreparable loss of these living treasures still with us today.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to

protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Kiara Bacasen

[EXTERNAL] Testimony - Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material

From Klaus Radtke <klaus.wh.radtke@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 4:05 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

 3 attachments (3 MB)

#1-CRB Response Team.pdf; #2-CRB Breeding-Photo Report.pdf; K.R-DAB-Testimony..pdf;

Testimony in Support of Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to the Island of Moloka'i (9-23-2025 public hearing).

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

The Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity's (DAB) stated goals are to support, enhance, promote, and protect Hawai'i's agriculture and aquaculture industries (for the public good?). However, these goals must also ensure that the management of State of Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture leased land is not detrimental to or perhaps even endangers the livelihoods of neighborhoods and communities throughout Hawaii, as is happening with many of the sites having become DAB-recognized CRB breeding grounds. If this cannot be done even with the help of cooperating agencies as indicated by the uncontrolled spread of CRBs, the laws must be changed.

As related to us, conflicting and confining rules and regulations are key factors in not controlling the spread of CRBs throughout Hawaii. Many of the older leases apparently do not list conditions that could safeguard the public in relation to management of the leased land. Confining the acceptance and use of green waste could perhaps greatly limit for example, root crop and flower operations, which would affect the income from leased land and could lead to costly and time-consuming legal tangles. Little can be done at this point in many of these cases until the legislature takes decisive steps to also protect the public interest regarding invasive pests.

Official CRB websites state ***"Green waste management is the most effective way to reduce beetle populations."***

Since DAB apparently ignores its own recommendations or does not have the legal authority to effectively manage agricultural leases for the public good, DAB cannot consider sending any material to Molokai that could introduce CRBs. DAB must first demonstrate that it can shut down the still-massive CRB breeding grounds on largely agricultural lease land that have already targeted surrounding communities and nurseries unchecked for years and have spread CRBs throughout the islands. What about the continued support and use of mulch socks for erosion control even though it is acknowledged that these can quickly become unstoppable CRB breeding sites and have already killed thousands of palm trees throughout Hawaii and will continue to do so?

Official CRB websites also state:

- 1. Most properties must manage CRB to have regional improvement. If one property treats its trees and manages breeding material but nearby properties are unmanaged, the local populations could still be high and all the trees in that zone will be affected (even treated trees).*
- 2. Pesticides should be applied to all palms in an area to be the most effective because they kill beetles during feeding and are only effective when the regional population is suppressed. While these treatments are great tools, they are not a 100% protection against CRB. For trees to have the best chance of recovery, community-wide treatment and green waste management are important to have a significant impact on the beetle population in your area.*

-
A case in point of unmanaged CRB properties is Waimanalo on Oahu where massive CRB breeding grounds in the heart of the plant nursery district have been known to DAB for years. They bombard surrounding plant nurseries with thousands of CRBs every month with not only great financial losses to the nurseries but also to the community, as people still depend on coconuts for income and livelihood.

One plant nursery took it on its own already for several years to document the unrelenting CRB bombardment with UV light net traps that catch more than 600 CRBs per month, with an even larger number landing within the nursery itself as the traps can catch only a limited number of beetles as determined by the number of traps installed and maintained. Thus, the CRBs released from the surrounding breeding grounds on agriculture lease land greatly exceed CRBs caught in Oahu in official CRB traps every month (Attachment 1 - CRB Response). Over the seven-year period since CRB breeding grounds were first documented by DAB in Waimanalo on July 19, 2018, did the CRB breeding grounds on agricultural lease lands not produce more CRBs than documented by DAB for all of Hawaii for the same period?

Another example is the palm destruction at Waimanalo's Olomana Golf Course. Here, we must remember that palms are the symbol of Hawaii, and their loss could greatly affect the tourist industry. While no CRB breeding sites are found on site, even any observing lay person looking at the palms already dying along its easterly boundary would know where the beetles are coming from. Also known by DAB, a large CRB breeding site exists on the adjacent agricultural property owned by the State of Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture (and leased). While official UH-maintained traps could only mark the location of the beetle infestation perhaps as the Golf Course, a CRB UV light and net trap installed on the Golf Course would readily document where the CRB's are coming from and, based on the many beetles quickly trapped, that there is a large breeding site that must at least be controlled, if not eliminated.

How did all this come about? Waimanalo had already been a green waste dumping ground by tree trimming companies for some time, but few of us were aware that State agricultural lease lands were becoming unstoppable CRB breeding grounds apparently with the full knowledge of DAB. Conveniently dumping green waste at no cost or just a small tipping fee compared to sites that treated the green waste and charged tipping fees as high as \$500 per load was a great economic dumping incentive.

While official CRB sites state that CRBs can radiate 1-2 miles from known breeding areas, even a more conservative one-mile distance would cover most of Waimanalo. This is why every mulch and green waste pile is already considered an active CRB breeding ground. The quickly decomposing dead trunks or cut logs of coconut trees and fan palms can also become additional, massive CRB breeding grounds already within six months under moist conditions (Attachment 2 - CRB). While the community is being asked to come together to control the CRBs, how can it be done if DAB does not or cannot eliminate CRB breeding grounds on agricultural land?

On the Big Island thousands of cubic yards of potential host material have already been inspected (selectively?), as CRBs are quickly expanding in Kona with only three breeding sites detected by official CRB traps to date. We must acknowledge that these traps are primarily for detection surveys. Once they

catch a beetle or two, it often already marks a larger breeding site nearby but does not give a measure of its size or extent. A UV net trap mounted on a pickup truck and parked in the early night hours near suspected breeding sites or a larger, portable fold-out battery-operated UV net trap system could catch CRBs more quickly and provide a much better picture of local and area-wide CRB expansion. As we witnessed, the nets are so effective because CRBs immediately dig into anything they land on and therefore hopelessly entangle themselves in the nets. Landing on the ground, they can bury themselves within less than five seconds in dry, loose soil. Landing on one's hair or one's clothing, they will dig in and hold on with their lives.

Yes, DAB employs CRB-sniffing dogs in nursery plant shipment from Oahu to other islands. However, as we witnessed during the early night hours, CRBs bombarding from adjacent agricultural breeding sites are not only caught in UV net traps. Many hit the ground while also landing directly on the nursery stock. With such CRB pressure, the chances are therefore great that CRB-sniffing dogs occasionally miss a beetle or larvae. This would also be true for a clutch of, say just 10-20 eggs, as female CRBs lay eggs in clutches with their size depending on the breeding and environmental conditions. The same can also be said for initially-treated green waste or mulch.

Waimanalo plant nursery staff we talked to are siding with the people of Molokai. Requested to ship plant material to the island before the expected ban, it was refused because of many of the reasons stated above.

Klaus Radtke, Ph.D.
Wildland Resource Scientist
Waimanalo (Klaus.wh.radtke@gmail.com)



Testimony Before The
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB)

IN SUPPORT OF Agenda Item IV.C.1

Interim Rule to Restrict Transportation of Material that May Introduce CRB to Molokai

September 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m., Plant Quarantine Branch, Honolulu

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) over 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMOMA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA strongly supports Agenda Item IV.C.1 as a necessary, proactive defense against CRB as called for by Molokai community leaders, and an essential safeguard to ensure 'āina momona on Molokai for present and future generations.

We acknowledge and mahalo you all for your swift responses to the cries of community members to address better protections for Molokai, the last main Hawaiian island without detection of CRB to date. With the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals (Advisory Committee) unanimously agreeing to the emergency nature of this request, we urge you to adopt the strongest interim protections possible against these invasive pests, as put forward in the original petition by Kunani and Ipo Nihipali. Please do not water down or make any alternative versions of the rule, but follow the expert lead of the Advisory Committee to support the temporary, total ban on all CRB host material from transportation to Molokai.

Communities we work with are intimately familiar with the impacts that invasive species can have on every aspect of life in Hawai'i — jeopardizing native ecosystems, food security, cultural practices, public health, fire safety, climate resiliency, economy, and overall quality of

life. Devastation caused by the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on five of the main Hawaiian Islands is hard to ignore, and the impacts may also be irreversible once CRB are established. **Loss of a significant cultural and food resources like niu (coconut), ulu (breadfruit), mai'a (banana), kalo (taro), hala (pandanus), and others would erode cultural practices and resources that Native Hawaiian and local communities cherish, perpetuate, and regenerate in furtherance of cultural integrity, food self-sufficiency, and connections to 'āina and each other.** We all know that Molokai is especially vulnerable with little on-island resources to detect and eradicate CRB.

Organizations and initiatives in our networks have long dedicated considerable energy and resources to educate the public to act in defense of our islands from invasive species. Several leading Molokai voices among them. **We implore you to listen to the people of Molokai and take *real action* to support our biosecurity systems by supporting this interim rule *before it is too late*.** 'Āina Momona is not achievable without prioritizing the urgent protection from these invasive pests to protect our precious biocultural resources and those that intimately love and care for them.

Please **SUPPORT** the interim rule in its strongest original form as supported by the Advisory Committee, and supported by numerous other concerned community members both on Molokai and across the islands. Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony in strong support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

[EXTERNAL] DAB Mtg 9.23.2025 - Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Kupuna Moopuna <kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com>
Date Thu 9/18/2025 12:10 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Kupuna Moopuna <kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com>

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna

committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come

kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com

Board of Agriculture
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, 9/23/2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Videoconference Meeting - ZOOM Webinar & In-person Dept. of Agriculture and Biosecurity/Plant Quarantine, 1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

TESTIMONY: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

PROTECT MOLOKA'I from the COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE!

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, urge you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali. Please continue to protect beloved Moloka'i Nui A Hina!**

Born and raised in Hawai'i, we have first-hand experience of the devastation the CRB has had – and continues to have – on our home and our people. Our precious pū niu is being ravaged by the CRB! This devastation to our 'āina must stop now!

Please continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

Please make a difference in the health and wellbeing of Moloka'i. Please Save Moloka'i from the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle! Mahalo.

~Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
Pana'ewa, Hawai'i

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i - Testimony

From Lindsay Schoenecke <lschoenecke@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 4:04 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Lindsay Schoenecke, and I am a resident of Moloka'i. I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

I believe that bold action must be taken now to prevent the CRB from spreading to Molokai. This island holds one of Hawaii's last royal coconut groves, which is an important part of our history. Additionally, there are many farmers and organizations working toward food independence and food security for our small island, and the possible introduction of the CRB could demolish those efforts and would cause irreparable damage. Adopting strong protections while a path forward is determined to fight the CRB makes the most sense not just for Moloka'i, but for all of Hawai'i. Protecting what we have here can enable us to preserve vital agriculture while a solution to fight the CRB is worked out.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Lindsay Schoenecke

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From whoru@hawaiiintel.net <whoru@hawaiiintel.net>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 5:19 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

I strongly support this rule. I have seen what can happen with Dutch Elm Disease on the mainland.
DF Lokmer

[EXTERNAL] Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

From Louella Albino <louella@hawaii.edu>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 9:57 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

I am Louella O W Albino a born resident of Moloka'i. i am urging you to take the strongest steps possible with strongest interim protections against the introduction and or import of the devastating establishment of the CRB on Moloka'i. I am grateful for your continued support of our community's efforts to stop unintended or accidental occurrences of the dangerous pest on our island. As a kupuna of my community, I am counting on the expertise and preventive measures in your capacity to do this important move to make significant decisions to protect Moloka'i as all other islands have become infected already. I support the petition put forth by 'AnakalaKunani and "Anake 'Ipo Nihipali!

Sincerely,
Louella O W Albino

[EXTERNAL] Testimony for Plant Quarantine Agenda Item IV.C.1

From Wayne Tanaka <wayne.tanaka@sierraclub.org>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 5:36 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (169 KB)

BAB Testimony CRB petition 092325.pdf;

Aloha,

Please find attached the Sierra Club of Hawai'i's testimony on item IV.C.1 on the Board's 9/23 meeting agenda.

Mahalo nui,

Wayne

--

Wayne Chung Tanaka, Director (he/him/'oia)



sierraclubhawaii.org | 808-538-6616

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i only exists because of the support of people like you! Make a [donation today](#) and 100% of your contributions will go to the Hawai'i Chapter. Mahalo nui!

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Molokai

From Heart of Hawaii <maileorme@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 1:51 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Maile Orme of Kaunakakai, Molokai, and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Along with many others both young and old on our beloved Island of Molokai, we have done my best to compile information that supports the eradication of the coconut rhinoceros beetles, using tried and proven, harmless agricultural practices and methods, which include a combination of proper mulching, and clearing areas where infestation has occurred. Our efforts in the past were met with a stonewall of bureaucratic silence, or refusal to comply with any reasonable suggestion, where any threat to the existing status quo was in place. It is heartening to know that there is finally enough leadership, and willingness to listen to the voice of our people, AND the aina herself at a time, when the natural balance of our ecosystems are threatened at every turn. It is only in our collective kokua that any meaningful and lasting action can take place.

Mahalo Nui Loa for all who hear this and are supporting new legislation.
Sincerely, Maile Orme

Molokai resident

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Malia Nolan <malianolan@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 10:16 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Malia, and I am from Moloka'i.

I urge you to adopt the strongest interim protections to prevent coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) from establishing on our island, as recommended in the petition from 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has unanimously recognized this as an emergency, calling for the strictest protections while long-term solutions are developed.

Please stand with the Moloka'i community by supporting a temporary, total ban on all CRB host material. **Do not allow short-term industry concerns or fears of "unintended consequences" to weaken this rule. The Advisory Committee's expert recommendation aligns with the community's urgent need to protect our niu, local agriculture, native species, economy, and cultural heritage.**

We have a coconut grove and would lose our livelihood. CRB also doesn't only affect coconuts ~ once they have decimated coconut populations, they go after banana, papaya and other fruits. Our community lives on a subsistence lifestyle more than any other island and if we lose this we will lose our food security. My family and I have seen what's become of the North Shore on Oahu. It is terrifying!

We have the amazing opportunity to create a real, viable and economically impactful industry on Molokai! One where Molokai produces Hawaii's soils, mulch, nursery plants such as trees and speciality plants for export to all the other islands! We have amazing farmers, grafters, and lots of Ag land where this can happen. My husband is a farmer and he teaches farming on-island.

Let's use this as an OPPORTUNITY rather than having loose laws that WILL CAUSE HARM.

Your vote will be historic. It can either mark a moment when government and community unite to defend Moloka'i's 'āina and way of life—or a moment when we fail to protect our island from a devastating pest, with consequences that could last generations.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and for standing with the Moloka'i community.

Sincerely,

Malia

[EXTERNAL] Testimony: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Melissa Tomlinson <mel_tomlinson@ymail.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 8:52 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Kakahiaka,

To those making decisions regarding the Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i, this is a no brainer right!? Protect Moloka'i and vote in favor of this interim rule. The islands are being devastated by this invasive CRB pest and then poisoned by an improper response in attempts to mitigate their harm. The wise thing to do would be to stop them from being imported in the first place. Protecting your ecosystem is definitely more important than protecting shareholder profits, business sales of imports, and "development" via continental agencies. Plenty on the island could be uplifted instead and plenty will be protected when you make the best decision for Moloka'i and adopt this rule. I look forward to hearing the knowledgeable testimony rooted in Aloha 'Āina and for the vote to reflect such testimony is heard by your leadership roles.

Mahalo,

Melissa Tomlinson
Lafayette, CA

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Mercy Ritte <mercyritte@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 10:38 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Mercy Ritte from Molokai, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony!

Me ke aloha,
Mercy

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2

[EXTERNAL] CRB on Molokai

From Mina Elison <minaelison@hotmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 6:45 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Mina Elison from Kona Hema and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Mina Elison

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i - Strong support

From Nancy Redfeather <nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com>

Date Sat 9/20/2025 10:59 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Cc Nancy Redfeather <nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Nancy Redfeather from Kawanui, Hawai'i Island, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali. I think you could look at this ruling as an experiment that is worth the challenges of passing it./

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

I have been farming and gardening on Hawai'i Island for 50 years, and I have seen many invasive species come and become impossible to eliminate from the growing environments. We are losing out food supply one crop at a time, and with stronger and more aggressive limitations to imports and inter island shipping of products known to contain the invasive species we could at least slow down this assault on our community food, that we will surely need in the future.

Mahalo for your support,

Aloha,

Nancy Redfeather and Gerry Herbert
Kawanui Farm
Honalo, Hawai'i

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From North Shore Chapter <northshore@hfuu.org>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 6:28 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

*My name is India Clark from Waialua, O'ahu and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.***

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

I watched how quickly CRB spread from Wahiawa to Sunset Beach in our own community. Although we were aware of CRB in the mulch in Wahiawa, farmers didn't take it. It stayed isolated. But once someone took mulch and brought it down to Sunset, it spread within months. Most of our tall coconut palms are dead. Our chapter is currently trying to propagate dwarf varieties and grow them inside a netted grove, but this is a lot of work and still not a guarantee that we can safely grow this valuable crop.

*Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.*

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

India Clark

North Shore of O'ahu Hawai'i Farmers Union Chapter President

[EXTERNAL] KUA Support for Agenda Item IV.C.1 Interim Rule CRB Molokai

From Olan Leimomi Fisher <olan@kuahawaii.org>
Date Mon 9/22/2025 12:06 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc KUAHAWAII-Kevin <kevin@kuahawaii.org>

 1 attachment (148 KB)
KUA Support Item IV.C.1 Rule CRB Molokai 09.22.2025.pdf;

Aloha mai,

Please find Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA's) strong support testimony for Agenda Item IV.C.1, and let us know any questions.

Mahalo nui,

Olan

Olan Leimomi Fisher (she/her/'oia), Esq.
Kua'āina Advocate
olan@kuahawaii.org
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
grassroots growing through shared responsibility
www.kuahawaii.org



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] I support the strongest protection against the coconut rhinoceros beetles on Molokai. Please support, too. Mahalo.

From Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 2:53 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Patriciablair, Kailua, Hi. 8088886394

Sent from my iPad

[EXTERNAL] Testimony: Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Pauline Sato <pauline@malamalearningcenter.org>
Date Fri 9/19/2025 3:38 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (123 KB)

Testimony DAB Petition Niu Molokai for 09-23-25 meeting.pdf;

Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony for the September 23, 2025 Meeting. Please see the testimony that is attached to this message.

Aloha, Pauline Sato

--

Pauline Sato

Co-founder/Executive Director

Mālama Learning Center

pauline@malamalearningcenter.org

Ph: 808-497-5323 (mobile)

www.malamalearningcenter.org



‘O Hawai‘i Ku‘u ‘Āina Kilohana

Hawai‘i is my prized place

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Pedro Mq <pedromq88@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 3:56 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

I've experienced and seen the horrifying and sad results of the CRB... Molokai has the viability to do things without the need of importing risky materials. In Oahu I no longer bring mushroom compost from the east side or use mulch unless it is from our area, I avoid plants from the East side because of the small fire ants, but here it seems to be just a matter of time, of when. Don't allow it to become what has become over here, I'm cutting down 2 coconut trees this week at my house, my worm bin had over 50 CRB larvae... its devastating

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 - Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i

From Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 6:21 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Peter Wilson from Paho on the Big Island, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your vote will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves, from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Peter Wilson

--

Peter Wilson

13-927 Kahukai Street

Pahoa HI 96778

808-557-8108

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Rachel Anna McClintick <rachelannamcclintick@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 7:40 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

*My name is Rachel McClintick and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.***

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

*Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.*

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Rachel McClintick
808-365-3385 cell

Remember that you are loved, now and always, here and everywhere!

Testimony for 8/23/25 BOAB Meeting

From Rep. Mahina Poepoe <reppoepoe@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Date Mon 9/22/2025 7:36 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc C Farmer <c.farmer@capitol.hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (160 KB)

9.23.25.DAB.ItemIV.C1.Testimony.RepPoepoe.pdf;

Aloha, Please accept the attached document as **testimony for the 9/23/25 meeting of the Board of Agriculture** meeting relating to agenda item IV.C.1, Request for Review and Adoption of an Interim Rule Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §150A-9.5, to Restrict the Transportation of Plants, Soil, Gravel, and Other Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material Including Decomposing Plant Material Such as Compost, Wood or Tree Chips, and Mulch, Plant Propagation Media and Other Items Comprised of Decomposing Organic Plant Material Such as Landscaping Material or Erosion Control Socks, to the Island of Molokai From Any Other Area in the State to Prevent the Spread of CRB

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Mahalo, Mahina

Rep. Mahina Poepoe

House District 13

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Rob Benc <robert@hawaiiisustainable.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 4:16 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

*My name is Robert Bence and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.***

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

*Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.*

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Robert Lawrence Bence II

Hawai'i Sustainable Farms

Kula, HI 96790

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Ryan Poe <ryanpoe@hanabuild.org>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 10:54 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

*My name is Ryan Poe, of Hana and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.***

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

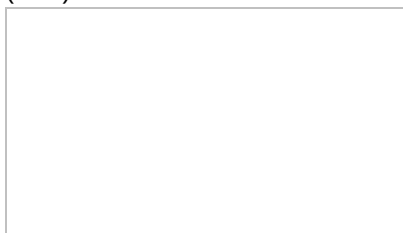
*Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.*

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Warmest Aloha,

Ryan J. Poe
School Garden Coordinator
Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike
(808) 875-8941



[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda IV.C.1 -Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to the Island of Moloka'i.

From Sheala Karratti-Humphries <shealakh@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 11:48 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

To the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB),

I support agenda IV.C.1 in order to stop the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to Moloka'i. Beautiful canopies of niu on O'ahu are now lifeless stumps, serving as a grim reminder of the mistakes made when CRB was overlooked in the past. Let's not sentence the niu of Moloka'i to that fate.

Protecting Moloka'i from CRB preserves Hawai'i's niu biodiversity and ensures Hawai'i's food secure future. CRB will not stop at niu, and are already attacking our native loulu, and may also attack hala, mai'a, kalo, and ko if they run out of their preferred source of food.

If we can stop CRB from reaching Moloka'i, we can protect a part of Hawai'i's history as Moloka'i is home to a royal niu grove planted by Kamehameha V. This grove is a testament to how our ali'i chose to perpetuate not only their legacy, but also the legacy of Hawaii and the values we believe in. Safeguarding Moloka'i and niu from CRB ensures we perpetuate our culture and preserve our identity as k̄anaka maoli and people of the pacific islands as a whole.

Given our isolation, I believe the battle against CRB can be won, but it will be slow and steady and through organized cooperative partnerships between DAB and other agencies, and the local communities and local businesses, and non-profits dedicated to protect Moloka'i from CRB. I implore the DAB they approve the interim rule to restrict the transportation of any material that may be a vector of CRB (eggs, larvae, beetle) into Moloka'i.

Mahalo,
Sheala Karratti-Humphries
Honolulu, HI

[EXTERNAL] BAB Testimony

From Stephanie Easley <pseasley@hawaii.edu>

Date Sun 9/21/2025 10:26 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Cc christym <christym@rocketmail.com>

 1 attachment (293 KB)

CGAPS Testimony 09.23.25 Combined Submitted.pdf;

Aloha,

Attached please find CGAPS testimony for consideration by the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity for its meeting on September 23, 2025.

Thank you,

Stephanie Easley

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Ted <discoted01@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 1:09 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Ted Elson from Hawaiian Acres on the BI, and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Ted Elson

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)



P.O. Box 1662
Honolulu, HI 96806

Mālama Learning Center is a non-profit organization based in West Oahu. Our mission is to inspire communities to care for Hawai'i by perpetuating conservation, culture, and sustainability through education.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Adoption of an Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material to the Island of Moloka'i to Prevent the Spread of CRB

Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, HI

Meeting Date: September 23, 2025 at 9 am

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity:

My name is Pauline Sato and on behalf of the Mālama Learning Center (MLC), I am testifying in Support of the Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material to the Island of Moloka'i to Prevent the Spread of CRB as submitted by Kunani and Ipo Nihipali (Agenda item IV.C.1).

We stand on our testimony presented to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity on August 26, 2025 and would like to emphasize the broad and overwhelming support of the Moloka'i community as well as the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals, which met on September 17, 2025. During that meeting, the esteemed members, including conservation scientists, of the committee agreed that the current and proposed new rules by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's Plant Quarantine Branch were not effective and, therefore, the situation constitutes an emergency for the island of Moloka'i.

We commend those who have made significant efforts to educate the local community and businesses of Moloka'i of this proposed emergency interim rule and the immediate recognition that there is no time to waste to get the interim rule proposed by Kunani and Ipo Nihipali passed.

We recognize and agree that terminology may need to be refined to use consistent language. We also urge the Board to consider raising the penalty for violations to be taken seriously by individuals and businesses intent on importing prohibited materials. A \$100 fine is easy to incorporate as a "cost of business" if it pertains to an entire shipment or incident. It should be a fine per item or by weight of materials if they cannot reasonably be counted as a single item (e.g. mulch, compost, or soil). Violations should be punishable by both fines and imprisonment.

We respectfully and strongly urge you to support the passage of the interim rule proposal. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this vitally important matter.

Aloha,

Executive Director

[EXTERNAL] Help Keep Moloka'i CRB-Free

From Thayne <thayne@kauaiseafarm.com>

Date Fri 9/19/2025 11:25 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is Thayne Taylor from Kalaheo, Kauai, HI, and I am urging you to adopt the **strongest interim protections** against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, **as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.**

Mahalo nui for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

I am co-founder of Kauai Sea Farms, LLC, lease holder of Nomilu fishpond and surrounding parcel. We use wood chips and either sphagnum peat moss or potting soil in our permitted composting toilet and have been getting those supplies from local hardware stores. Recently we noticed a CRB in our composting supply bin. We quickly eradicated the CRB and scoured the area for any other signs of the CRB. We have switched to using our own composting material, wood chips and freshly cut grass. Hopefully that will mitigate bring in more CRBs. The real fix is to have the agriculture department do a much better eradication program.

Please, continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. **Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting.** The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

One way or another, your decision will be historic. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the nui, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to

protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Aloha,

Thayne Taylor
thayne@kauaiseafarm.com
808-645-0527



[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.C.1 – Adoption of Interim Rule to Restrict the Transportation of Material that May Introduce the CRB to Moloka'i

From Zach Mermel <zach.mermel@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/22/2025 5:26 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

My name is [your name] from [your home], and I am urging you to adopt the strongest interim protections against the introduction and potentially devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Moloka'i, as reflected in the petition put forward by 'Anakala Kunani and 'Anakē Ipo Nihipali.

Mahalo nui loa for your past vote in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Like you, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has now unanimously agreed that this situation is an emergency, requiring the strongest possible interim protections against the introduction of CRB on Moloka'i, while a longer-term solution is developed and implemented.

I urge you to do everything in your power to continue to support the Moloka'i community by voting in support of the strongest protections against the import of CRB host material to the island. Do not let short-term industry interests or speculation about "unintended consequences" lead to a watered down, overcomplicated, and unenforceable alternative version of the rule, as was put forward by the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Advisory Committee's meeting. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals wisely chose to support the temporary, total ban of all CRB host material as originally submitted and supported by the Moloka'i community - please follow their expertise-driven lead, and do the same.

The decision you will render will be historic, one way or another. Your decision may mark a moment where the government and community finally came together, to draw a bold but necessary line in the sand against the destruction of the niu, cultural practices, native species, local agriculture, and local economy of Moloka'i, and the cultural heritage of Hawai'i as a whole. Or, your decision may be a moment where the government once again lets down a community that is doing all that it can to protect its future, and the 'āina that it loves from this terrible pest - with catastrophic, generations-long consequences. Please make the right choice, in support of the Moloka'i community.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this testimony.

Zachary Mermel