ROGER V. MEEKER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

P.O. Box 57
Hawaii National Park
Hawaii 96718
Email: rvm.tiki@gmail.com
Phone: (808) 557-2223

22 January 2026

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Earlier this month in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported that efforts to contain the spread of the beetle since that time have not proven very effective. As also reported, the usage of an OrNV virus which apparently has proven effective in other Pacific Island states remains unavailable for usage here in Hawaii because of concerns about its unknown impact on native beetles.

It needs to be recognized that CRB represents an ***immediate and existential threat*** to Hawaii's floral environment. Nothing is more representative and definitive of what gives Hawaii its tropical appeal than its native coconut, hala and loulu palms. What has already happened on Oahu's North Shore is tragic. To not make every imaginable effort to address this threat would be environmental malpractice. In addition, the monetary cost of losing Hawaii's palms is incalculable.

Needless to say, the regulatory relief sought with this Petition for Interim Rulemaking should be granted immediately. In addition, all other actions and methods to stop the spread and take the necessary steps for actual eradication of CRB should be implemented in order to treat this issue as the emergency it is.

Finally, regarding the usage of the OrNV virus, decision-makers should recognize that difficult choices often have to be made; having it "both ways" may not be an option. If the concern about the possible impact of OrNV on native beetles continues to delay eradication action, we may well lose all palms in Hawaii. Is that a risk we're actually willing to take?

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Meeker

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Alexis Kerver <alexis.hwf@gmail.com>
Date Mon 1/19/2026 1:40 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (95 KB)
CRB Testimony 1_19_26.pdf;

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

As a hula dancer, farmer, educator, and conservation professional, I work closely with cultural practitioners who rely on native and Polynesian-introduced plants such as niu, hala, and loulu palms as essential components of cultural identity, subsistence, and ecological health. These plants are not ornamental; they are teachers, food sources, medicine, building materials, and carriers of 'ike passed down through generations.

Niu provides nourishment, medicine, fiber, and shade, and plays a foundational role in coastal ecosystems and traditional food systems. Hala is integral to weaving, ceremony, and cultural practice, and loulu palms represent some of Hawai'i's most endangered native plant species, already under significant pressure from habitat loss and climate stress. In hula, these plants are not symbolic abstractions, they are living relatives, present in chant, movement, lei, instruments, and ceremony.

As a farmer and educator, I also understand how quickly invasive species can undermine years of careful stewardship. The unchecked spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle threatens not only individual trees, but entire agroecosystems, cultural practices, and community resilience. Once these plants are lost, the knowledge systems and cultural relationships tied to them are also at risk of erosion.

Allowing CRB to spread further on Hawai‘i Island would cause irreversible harm to cultural practitioners, farmers, educators, and future generations who depend on these plants for food sovereignty, cultural continuity, and environmental balance.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Voluntary compliance alone is insufficient when the consequences of inaction are permanent. Hawai‘i Island still has an opportunity to slow the spread of CRB and avoid repeating the devastating impacts already seen on other islands. I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to act decisively and approve this interim rule without delay.

Mahalo for your leadership and for considering the long-term cultural, ecological, and community impacts of this decision and for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island.

Aloha,

Alexis Kerver
Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund
alexis.hwf@gmail.com
Jan 19th, 2026

Outlook

[EXTERNAL]

From Alice <aliceb.hwf@gmail.com>
Date Sun 1/18/2026 12:02 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Alice Birnbaum
Member of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
Kaʻū Hoa Pili ʻĀina Steward

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawaiʻi Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawaiʻi Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawaiʻi on the Island of Oʻahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on Oʻahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kauaʻi, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawaiʻi. After the initial detection on Hawaiʻi Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I/We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

Aloha,
Alice Birnbaum, HWF

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Amanda Navine <navine@hawaii.edu>
Date Tue 1/20/2026 4:44 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

Aloha Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,
I am writing to support the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

As a conservation biologist on Hawai'i Island, the preservation of our already imperiled ecosystem is my top priority. We have recently lost many of the essential building blocks for healthy native forests, and the more we lose the closer our forests come to irreversible collapse. I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,
Amanda

--
Amanda K. Navine (she/her)
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Bioacoustic Research Specialist
262-729-0052

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

From Amber Wai Needham <amberau@hawaii.edu>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 12:01 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 Wai Needham and I work at the Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES). I live on Hawai'i island and engage closely with various organizations across each moku, or district, who are actively working in aloha 'āina, natural resource management, and conservation biology. I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as reflected in the petition put forward by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your past actions in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your help, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in north Kona, and as **mulch and other high-risk vectors of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on Hawai'i Island without any regulatory oversight.**

Pōhaku Pelemaka is one of our partner organizations who has hosted PIPES interns for the last several summers. For the past two summers, we have had two interns working on surveying the niu grove of Ka'akepa, Puna, which we have learned potentially holds the largest and most diverse collection of coconut varieties in Hawai'i. An incredible source of ancestral knowledge and practice such as this grove needs to be protected immediately from CRB along with the entire island and pae'āina. Not only is this imperative to the work of Pōhaku Pelemaka and other organizations who are actively engaging with this plant, but the stress of CRB detection and prevention on this local scale directly impacts the well-being of our people--native Hawaiians and kama'āina.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent - and inevitable, if the movement of untreated host material is allowed to continue unabated. **Your decision on this matter may be our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island, and the generations-long impacts this will have on the island's food security, cultural integrity, native species, and overall economy.**

Notably, the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai‘i Island will also exacerbate the risk of the pest being introduced and established on other islands, via the off-shipment of host material or other forms of interisland transportation.

Please support these modest but critical rules, which simply ask for compliance agreements for training, treatment, and other best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from a known infested area.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Me ka haʻahaʻa,

Wai Needham
Program Lead
(808) 932-7984

Anna Staudenmaier

Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project

71 Aipuni St, Hilo, HI 96720

arstaud@hawaii.edu

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

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As an active member of the restoration community in Hawai‘i, I am acutely aware of the threats our delicate island ecosystem faces on an ever increasing basis. Though my work focuses on the dry forests of Mauna Kea, I cannot begin to express how important protecting all of our native tree species to the our fullest potential is. This includes taking meaningful action on CRB control before it has completely overrun this island like it has so many others. Can you imagine a Hawai'i without palms? Do you want to?

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island.

Aloha,

Anna Staudenmaier

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] CRB Testimony

From Anna Staudenmaier <arstaud@hawaii.edu>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 8:01 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (9 KB)
CRB Interim Rule Testimony Hawaii Island_ARS.docx;

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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completely overrun this island like it has so many others. Can you imagine a Hawai'i without palms? Do you want to?

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,

Anna Staudenmaier, MS (she/her/hers)

Ornithological Field Technician

Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project

p: 920-472-9310

e: arstaud@gmail.com

SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAIʻI

Testimony to
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

January 27, 2026 9:00 AM PQB Conference Room

Agenda Item IV.B.1

In SUPPORT of the Petition From Megan Lamson, Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund, and Leila Kealoha, Pōkahu Pelemaka, to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Implement an Interim Rule Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §150A-9.5, to Require a Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity Permit or Compliance Agreement to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawaiʻi Island

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

The Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi strongly urges you to **APPROVE** the initiation of interim rulemaking as proposed by the Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka, to prevent the **devastating and multigenerational agricultural, cultural, environmental, and economic impacts and cultural erasure** that would result from the widespread establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawaiʻi Island.

This board is well aware of the need for timely and proactive regulatory action to address the spread and potentially irreversible establishment of CRB, as reflected in your support of the Molokaʻi rules prohibiting the importation of CRB host material to that island. Regulatory action is now urgently needed for Hawaiʻi Island, **as the continual, unregulated movement of CRB host material from known infested areas in north Kona is threatening the imminent and rapid distribution of CRB to other regions of the island.**

The Sierra Club notes that the proposed rules do not propose a complete ban on the movement of CRB host material, but instead ask for modest but common sense protections to ensure that certain businesses seeking to transport host material from an infested area take critical precautions to minimize the risk of spreading CRB. Any inconvenience to these businesses would be far, far outweighed by the long-term and devastating consequences of inaction. Moreover, the proposed rules would even the playing field for those businesses that have already voluntarily adopted best management practices to minimize the potential spread of CRB, by ensuring that all businesses act with similar levels of prudence and precaution.

Given the devastating impacts of CRB as we have already seen in predominantly Native

Hawaiian communities on Oʻahu, the Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi also emphasizes that the adoption of these rules would be consistent with, if not compelled by, the Board's constitutional obligations, including:

- The public trust doctrine under Art. XI Sec. 1, which imposes upon all agencies fiduciary obligations to "conserve and protect Hawaiʻiʻs natural beauty and all natural resources . . . [and] to promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State";
- Art. XI Sec. 3, which requires the state to "promote diversified agriculture [and] increase agricultural self-sufficiency"; and
- Art. XII Sec. 7, which requires the state to "protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes and possessed by ahupuaʻa tenants who are descendants of the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate the same" (i.e. Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights).

The failure to adopt the proposed interim protections and to stand idly by while the natural resources, diversified agriculture, agricultural self-sufficiency, and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices of Hawaiʻi Island remain under such clear and present threat of harm would fly in the face of these constitutional provisions - provisions that the Board has taken an oath to uphold.

The Sierra Club urges the Board to take advantage of the opportunity to fulfill your constitutional, statutory, and generational kuleana, by approving the proposed interim rules for rulemaking as presented in the petition now under your consideration.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HO'OLEHUA
Homesteaders Association
P O Box 21, Ho'olehua, HI. 96729

January 12, 2025

To: Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

From: Ho'olehua Homesteader's Association

Re: Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan

Ho'olehua Homesteader's Association is proud to provide this letter of support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. Members of our association participated in providing input to their recent feasibility study and appreciate the opportunity to be included with projects for our Molokai island community.

We believe that through community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders such as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, we can achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has gained nationwide recognition for the unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project. We ask that you consider engaging with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Charles Kaahanui, President — Tricia Mersberg, Vice President
Lu Ann Lankford-Faborito, Treasure — Crissy Perreira, Secretary
Directors: Justin Avelino, Wayne Kaauwai, Fred Aki

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Bret Mossman <bretnm@hawaii.edu>
Date Tue 1/20/2026 9:06 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (5 MB)
Hawaii Island CRB Petition January 12 2026 (1).pdf;

Aloha Chairperson Hurd,

I am writing in an informal capacity, and do not represent the view of my organization, but I strongly urge you to impose necessary regulations to protect agriculture and the environment on Hawaii island by passing the interim rule described in the petition attached.

Mahalo,

--
Bret Nainoa Mossman
Forest Bird Recovery Coordinator
State of Hawaii
Department of Land & Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Natural Area Reserves System
19 E. Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate Transportation of CRB Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Chelsey Bryson <chelseyb@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 10:27 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,

Chelsey Bryson

--
Chelsey Bryson (she/her)
Project Specialist | Pacific RISA
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
J.D. Candidate 2026
Email: chelseyb@hawaii.edu

Michelle M. Galimba
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Kaʻū /Volcano

Phone: (808) 323-4277
Email: Michelle.Galimba@hawaiicounty.gov
HAWAIʻI COUNTY COUNCIL

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawaiʻi Island

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

I am writing in strong support for the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawaiʻi Island.

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawaiʻi on the Island of Oʻahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on Oʻahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kauaʻi, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawaiʻi.

I strongly urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

Aloha,

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing in strong support of the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

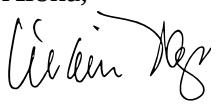
My ‘ohana are hoa‘āina (native tenants) of the ‘āina of Miloli‘i in Kapalilua district, South Kona. We are cultural practitioners of our place, where niu, hala, and loulu are staples of our natural landscape and lifeways.

Our property alone has 79 niu trees. These niu trees were planted by my kūpuna, and some were particularly for an ‘ohana member. Miloli‘i is also home to the rarest native species of loulu of South Kona. I, myself am an ulana lauhala. My grandmother was a master ulana. The village of Miloli‘i would be devastated if CRB were to make its way there. CRB has negatively impacted our traditional ways and continues to do so throughout our pae ‘āina, erasing our traditional landscape of native trees and practices. E ‘olu‘olu, kōkua mai!

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island.

Aloha,



U‘ilani Naipo

Ian Cole

PO Box 912 Volcano HI 96785

iancole33@gmail.com

1/15/2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua‘i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai‘i. After the initial detection on Hawai‘i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

The protection of palms and other affected indigenous/endemic, canoe and ornamental plants is imperative to Hawaii. These species provide a majestic image of the Islands, are of huge cultural importance, many are threatened or endangered and are a traditional food and fiber resource. The effect on the visitor industry and monetary damage alone should be cause enough to act in the strictest manner allowable. Add the cultural and ecological damage and the highest priority of protection should be given to stop this terrible spread of CRB. Resources and time should be immediately directed to tis cause.

I/We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

We've already lost so many invasive species battles we need to show that we can protect our aina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island.

Aloha,

Ian W Cole

Wai Wichimai

Hilo, HI, 96720

wai.wichimai@gmail.com

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua‘i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai‘i. After the initial detection on Hawai‘i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

Niu, loulu, hala, kalo, and mai‘a are all foundational plants for Hawai‘i practices and traditions. The threats posed to these species by the CRB is a direct threat to our culture. Our niu trees are being decimated, and when they are gone, I imagine that the impacts of CRB will become even more apparent as the beetle turns to the other plants that sustain our practices.

Niu is incredibly important to my ʻohana of hale builders. They use the husk for making rope to lash the hale, the lau niu for thatching roofs, weaving papale to protect them in the sun, and weaving baskets for meaʻai to feed the limahana.

Hala is a particularly important species to me, as I rely on ʻāhui hala (hala fruit) to make lei for hoʻolewa, or funerals. These lei symbolize transition, from one realm or time to another. Witnessing the way ʻāina has transitioned so dramatically in such a short time since the introduction of CRB is painful. We must be better at protecting our resources, ʻāina, and culture.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Protect our ʻāina, protect our culture, protect Hawaiʻi.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

Me ka haʻahʻa,

Wai Wichimai

Alexis Kerver
Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund
alexis.hwf@gmail.com
Jan 19th, 2026

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua‘i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai‘i. After the initial detection on Hawai‘i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

As a hula dancer, farmer, educator, and conservation professional, I work closely with cultural practitioners who rely on native and Polynesian-introduced plants such as niu, hala, and loulu palms as essential components of cultural identity, subsistence, and ecological health. These plants are not ornamental; they are teachers, food sources, medicine, building materials, and carriers of ‘ike passed down through generations.

Niu provides nourishment, medicine, fiber, and shade, and plays a foundational role in coastal ecosystems and traditional food systems. Hala is integral to weaving, ceremony, and cultural practice, and loulu palms represent some of Hawai‘i’s most endangered native plant species, already under significant pressure from habitat loss and climate stress. In hula, these plants are

not symbolic abstractions, they are living relatives, present in chant, movement, lei, instruments, and ceremony.

As a farmer and educator, I also understand how quickly invasive species can undermine years of careful stewardship. The unchecked spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle threatens not only individual trees, but entire agroecosystems, cultural practices, and community resilience. Once these plants are lost, the knowledge systems and cultural relationships tied to them are also at risk of erosion.

Allowing CRB to spread further on Hawai‘i Island would cause irreversible harm to cultural practitioners, farmers, educators, and future generations who depend on these plants for food sovereignty, cultural continuity, and environmental balance.

I/We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Voluntary compliance alone is insufficient when the consequences of inaction are permanent. Hawai‘i Island still has an opportunity to slow the spread of CRB and avoid repeating the devastating impacts already seen on other islands. I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to act decisively and approve this interim rule without delay.

Mahalo for your leadership and for considering the long-term cultural, ecological, and community impacts of this decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island.

Aloha,

Alexis Kerver
Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund
alexis.hwf@gmail.com
Jan 19th, 2026

Jill Wagner
Joseph Rock Arboretum
74-4930 Kealakaa St.
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
jillwagner3@icloud.com

January 14, 2026

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

RE: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawaii Island

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

I am writing to support the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawaii Island.

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawaii on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Unfortunately those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on Oahu where it is decimating endangered Hawaiian palms, coconut, Hala and other species. It is now widespread on Kauai and in October 2023 it was found in Waikoloa, Hawaii. It is now moving around and adult CRB have been detected in Kona.

I have been propagating, and planting Pritchardia maideniana, the loulu palm that is only found on Hawaii Island, since 2004. I work in close collaboration with the State of Hawaii, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to plant these palms in safe haven sites. This is a PEP (Plant Extinction Prevention) species, there are only 23 wild mother trees left on Hawaii Island. For over twenty years I have been growing hundreds of these palms from seeds of the known mother trees. It is a lot of work and the project has been successful. It would be devastating if Hawaii Island were to loose its native palms and the uniqueness of Hawaii. We owe it to these kupuna to protect them immediately, not to delay, and ensure their survival for future generations.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve it as quickly as possible.

We want to be responsive and responsible for the Aina and all life on Hawaii. We have to do this urgently.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Wagner

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Elizabeth Allen <eallen20@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 11:24 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawai'i Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I am deeply concerned about the continued spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle across Hawai'i Island because of its severe impacts on culturally, ecologically, and economically important plant species. Niu (coconut), loulu palms, and hala are foundational species in Hawai'i—integral to coastal ecosystems, traditional practices, cultural protocols, food systems, and community well-being. Loulu palms are already endangered and highly vulnerable, and further losses would represent an irreversible erosion of Hawai'i's native biodiversity. As someone involved in conservation and education, I see firsthand how the health of these species is directly tied to place-based learning, cultural continuity, and ecosystem resilience. Preventing further spread of CRB is essential to protecting these resources for present and future generations.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

The continued expansion of CRB across Hawai'i Island poses an urgent threat that requires decisive and immediate action. Strengthened biosecurity measures are critical to slowing the spread of this invasive pest and minimizing long-term damage. I strongly support the adoption of the interim rule as a necessary step toward protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural heritage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Best fishes,
<((((><

Elizabeth Allen
(She/her)

Masters of Science Student
Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
200 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Testimony Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Emma Stierhoff <estier@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 12:40 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Emma Stierhoff

411 E Lanikaula St. Hilo, HI

emmastierhoff@gmail.com

January 21, 2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

I am writing in support of the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered native palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I work at a restoration site in Hilo at which hala and loulu are key native plants, providing essential canopy cover and creating an environment where other native plants can reproduce and thrive. We have already lost so many canopy trees to pests and diseases like Queensland Longhorn Beetle and Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death. The introduction of CRB to East Hawaiʻi would be absolutely devastating to this forest and lowland wet forests like it. It would cause us to lose some of our last remaining canopy species; without the shade these trees provide, invasive plants quickly move in and smother the remaining native plants. These are also extremely culturally important trees; hala is highly celebrated in east Hawaiʻi for its many uses and the beautiful canopy it creates at the beaches. Even pre-schoolers I have worked with know and love hala. It is commonplace in Hawaiʻi to care deeply for niu, hala, or loulu, and it is critical we care for them just like we care for our people.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible. In the past decade, we have observed that mitigating harm from CRB once it is established is a herculean task. It is absolutely essential that we do whatever we can to prevent CRB from spreading any further to mitigate damage. The rule described in the Petition seeks to accomplish exactly that and must be enforced immediately to prevent further devastation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

Mahalo nui,

Emma Stierhoff

--
Emma Stierhoff (she/her)
Ecological Research & Outreach Technician
Liko Nā Pilina: Hybrid Ecosystems Project
University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Frederick Smith, Jr <fmrsmith@hawaii.edu>
Date Tue 1/20/2026 5:33 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

Please hear our local voices. I am a homeowner in the Kealakekua ahupua'a in Kona moku.

Niu trees are a very important, nutritional food source in Hawai'i that must be protected. I know many local kanaka who depend on them for subsistence. The loss of our niu trees due to CRB would be devastating for my Ohana, my neighbors, and other local communities here.

Please follow best practices and require testing of all imported plants, mulch, and other green products for CRB on this island. We have no cure for CRB. If we can't contain it, it can take over niu trees on the whole island.

Please think about what you will tell your Ohana if you don't regulate and test for CRB, and all of their coconut trees die.

Mahalo nui for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Frederick

--
Frederick Smith

Captain Cook, HI
415-717-6833
LinkedInProfile

Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund
P.O. Box 1801
Kealakekua, Hawai‘i 96750
(808) 217-5777 megan@wildhawaii.org

Pōkahu Pelemaka
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pāhoa, HI, 96778
(808) 937-7991 leila@pohakupelemaka.org

January 9, 2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96814

Petition for Interim Rulemaking To Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

This petition is made pursuant to section 4-1-23 Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) to request the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB) and/or the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) adopt an interim rule under section 150A-9.5 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to contain and/or slow the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros)* (CRB) on the Island of Hawai‘i.

We are seeking an interim rule that regulates the transportation of CRB host material from the CRB infested area on Hawai‘i Island to any other area of the State by requiring that any person that transports CRB host material from a CRB infested area on Hawai‘i Island to any other area of the State or that transports, receives (accepts delivery of CRB host material for any purpose), processes (meaning the conversion of solid waste into a useful product or preparing for its disposal), sells, barters, donates, or otherwise gives away CRB host material within the CRB infested area on Hawai‘i Island use best management practices as set out in a DAB permit or a compliance agreement between the person and DAB to contain and/or slow the spread of CRB on Hawai‘i Island and other areas of the State.

CRB was first detected in Hawaii on the Island of Oahu in 2013.[1] Since that time, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu.[2] For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. Unfortunately, that changed in May 2023, when

[1] https://dab.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2013/01/npa-CRB-5-1-14.pdf

[2] https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/02/ravenous-beetles-go-urban-preying-on-honolulus-iconic-coconut-palms/

CRB was detected on the Island of Kauaʻi, where it is now widespread,[3] and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawaiʻi Island.[4]

After the initial detection on Hawaiʻi Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024.[5] Beginning in March 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaiʻi Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park. These detections set off a multi-agency response that included the County of Hawaiʻi, DAB, the Hawaiʻi Department of Transportation, the Hawaiʻi Invasive Species Council, CRB Response, and the Big Island Invasive Species Committee.[6] The response included mass fumigation and removal of CRB breeding sites at the Keāhole Agricultural Park, ongoing trapping and monitoring efforts across west Hawaiʻi Island, pesticide application to coconut trees, public outreach, and a three-month voluntary Compliance Order for CRB Host Materials issued by the County of Hawaiʻi, in coordination with DAB. The Voluntary Compliance Order was in effect from July 1 through September 30, 2025, and requested that residents and businesses not transport CRB host material from the area bordered by Waikōloa Road, Māmalahoa Highway (Highway 190) from Waikōloa Road to Palani Road in Kailua-Kona, and along the coastline from Palani Road to Waikōloa Road to any location outside that area. The County's Voluntary Compliance Order was intended as "a precursor to a mandatory compliance structure that is being prepared by [DAB]."[7] Unfortunately, as CRB continues to spread in west Hawaiʻi Island, DAB has not issued a mandatory compliance structure or other interim rule to contain CRB on Hawaiʻi Island. To address this regulatory gap, in November 2025, the County renewed its Voluntary Compliance Order until January 31, 2026 (Attachment C). Despite the County's efforts, the renewed Voluntary Compliance is likely to be unsuccessful in containing CRB yet again.

We are grateful for all the efforts undertaken to detect and treat CRB breeding sites on Hawaiʻi Island. However, as we have seen on Oʻahu and Kauaʻi, treating trees and breeding sites alone will not ultimately be effective to prevent the spread of CRB across an island, and a regulatory structure is needed to prevent the movement of CRB on host material. Hawaiʻi Island has an opportunity to be that example, if such measures are put into place immediately.

Currently, CRB host material is moving out of infested areas of Hawaiʻi Island to other areas of the County and potentially the State, with no requirements to use best management practices (BMPs) to prevent CRB from moving with the host material. As we have seen on Oʻahu and Kauaʻi, this approach of not restricting movement and relying solely on chemical treatments to contain the spread of CRB is ultimately ineffective. Hawaiʻi Island still has the opportunity to contain this invasion and protect uninfested areas of the island, the ultimate goal of our petition. Generally, CRB spreads slowly without the assistance of human intervention, such as the movement of infested materials. Requiring BMPs will slow or prevent the human-assisted

[3] https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/nr23-11crbonkauai/

[4] https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2024/04/23/3-invasive-coconut-rhinoceros-beetles-captured-hawaii-island/

[5] https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/news-release-on-crb-found-in-waikoloa/

[6] https://mauinow.com/2025/08/28/discovery-of-coconut-rhinoceros-beetles-in-west-hawaiʻi-initiates-multiagency-response/; https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/nr25-21keahole-fumigation/

[7] https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/hawaii-island-crb-stop-movement/

spread of CRB and will allow business that sell material that could host CRB to continue operations, using common sense BMPs.

An additional risk of CRB moving on potted plants not typically considered CRB host palms was detected when CRB was detected in multiple shipments made to the Island of Lānaʻi.[8] Potted plants are sold within the Keāhole Agricultural Park and move from there across the island without inspection or treatment for CRB.

In light of this dire situation, we believe the threat and likelihood of the continued spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island 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. This petition respectfully requests BAB and/or DAB: convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the Proposed Interim Rule (Attachment A) and the Proposed Model Compliance Agreement to Prevent the Spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Attachment B) for business that transport, receive, process, sell, or export CRB host material within and from a CRB infested area on Hawaiʻi Island, as set out in Attachment A to contain and/or slow the spread of CRB on Hawaiʻi Island; and if the Advisory Committee determines the proposed Interim Rule is an effective rule to address an emergency situation that the Chairperson of DAB be authorized to sign the proposed interim rule so that it may take effect at the earliest possible date.

Alternatively, if the BAB and/or DAB determines that an interim rule may not be initiated by this petition, we request BAB interpret this petition to require BAB and/or DAB initiate emergency rulemaking under sections 91-3(b) HRS and 4-1-30 HAR, and find that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or morals, to livestock and poultry health, or to natural resources requires adoption of the emergency rule that includes the substance of the restrictions set out in Attachments A and B, upon less than thirty days' notice of hearing, and state in writing the reasons for such finding.

Statement of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proposed interim rule

Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund

Founded in 1996, Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Hawaiʻi's wildlife. We protect native species and habitats, and provide environmental education opportunities for our community members and visitors. Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund's (HWF) mission is to protect Hawaiʻi's native wildlife, particularly coastal and marine species, through research, education, and restoration. This is achieved by engaging communities and volunteers, habitat restoration, advocating for conservation, and supporting research programs.

HWF has been actively working to restore populations of loulu, an endemic Hawaiian fan palm, specifically the Federally-listed endangered *Pritchardia maideniana* which was once a dominate

[8] https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/08/07/changes-underway-after-coconut-rhinoceros-beetles-found-lanai/

species from Kona through Kaʻū but is now restricted to approximately only 25 individuals remaining in the wild. HWF, in partnership with the Plant Extinction and Prevention Program (PEPP), has been working to reintroduce this species across protected sites in Kaʻū.

Of the 24 species of loulu in Hawaiʻi, 11 are considered threatened or listed as endangered[9], with the other species not far behind. Many have gone extinct. Since the expansion of CRB on Oʻahu, biologists from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Forestry and Wildlife, and partners have witnessed kūpuna loulu be impacted by the beetle, some of which have been lost forever. The situation is dire. Biologists across the State have had to make difficult decisions in regards to which species' and which individuals' genetics to preserve, sending bare root seedlings overseas to mainland zoos and botanical gardens. From a species protection standpoint, this is the worst situation to be in. Feeding trials have shown that loulu are the second most-preferred consumable by CRB, after coconut palms. Without increasing protections of *P. maideniana* on Hawaiʻi Island, we will undoubtedly lose this species too.

Pōhaku Pelemaka

Pōhaku Pelemakaʻs mission is focused on the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources, native Hawaiian well-being and the transmission of intergenerational knowledge and practices in Puna makai, Hawaiʻi. The imminent threat of CRB spreading across the island and coming to Puna directly affects our cultural practices of niu, other food sources, and the native ecosystems that we currently protect.

Puna is the fastest growing district in the State and is being rapidly developed while landowners import mulch and plants from Kona, interisland and out of state. We currently steward an area that houses an ancient uluniu (coconut grove) with over 1,400 niu trees. It is vital that we ensure CRB does not reach this grove and others along Puna makai. It is imperative that DAB addresses the biosecurity measures of CRB and its spread on Hawaii Island. Now is the time, not tomorrow.

Statement of reasons in support of the proposed interim rule

In Hawaiʻi, counties and other units of local government are preempted by State law from banning or regulating the movement of material to prevent the introduction of a pest or invasive species.[10] That authority rests solely with DAB. This leaves Hawaiʻi County unable to make rules to contain and/or slow the spread of CRB on Hawaiʻi Island.

The interim rule we are seeking is based on, and similar to, the Plant Quarantine Interim Rule 22-1 that was in effect from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, on Oʻahu (Attachment D) and

[9] Listed Plants

[10] See Atay v. Cty. of Maui, 842 F.3d 688, 709 (9th Cir. 2016); Syngenta Seeds, Inc. v. Cty. of Kauai, 664 F. App'x 669, 673 (9th Cir. 2016); and Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii, No. CIV. 14-00267 BMK, 2014 WL 6685817, (D. Haw. Nov. 26, 2014), aff'd sub nom. Hawai'i Papaya Indus. Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii, 666 F. App'x 631 (9th Cir. 2016)

section 4-72-23, HAR, which regulates the movement of CRB host material within and from O'ahu. These rules require a person who transports, receives, processes, sells, or exports CRB host material to utilize protocols and best management practices set out in a permit or compliance agreement between the person and DAB.

We respectfully request that BAB consider this petition at its January 27, 2026 meeting and that BAB inform the petitioners of its decision on whether it will initiate the rulemaking requested by this petition within 30 days, as required by section 4-1-23(c) HAR.

Thank you for your consideration of this petition and for all your efforts to protect Hawai'i from the spread of CRB. Please contact us if we may provide any further information regarding this petition.

Sincerely,

Megan Lamson
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Leila Kealoha
Pōhaku Pelemaka

Attachment A - Proposed Interim Rule

HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

PLANT QUARANTINE INTERIM RULE 26-___

To Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawaii Island

I. Under the authority of section 150A-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) hereby establishes this interim rule to regulate the transportation of coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros)* (CRB) host material within and from the designated CRB infested area on Hawaii Island. The CRB infested area is established to prevent the spread of CRB on, and from, Hawaii Island, a situation found, in the absence of effective rules, to be so dangerous to the ecological health of flora or fauna present in the State and which is so immediate in nature as to constitute an emergency.

II. As used in this interim rule:

(1) "Compliance agreement" means a written agreement between the Department and a person who carries out commercial activities that includes any terms or conditions the Department determines will slow or prevent the spread of CRB. A compliance agreement between the Department and a person is a permit issued by the Department to that person for the purposes of section 150A-8, HRS.

(2) "CRB host material" means the host material of the coconut rhinoceros beetle; and

(A) Includes bare root CRB host palms, potted plants of any size; and decomposing plant material, such as mulch, trimmings, wood or tree chips, stumps, compost, plant propagation media, including commercially bagged plant propagation media, and other items comprised of or containing decomposing plant material such as landscaping material or erosion control socks, 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, sand, and gravel not mixed with any material described in paragraph (A).

(3) "CRB host palms" means live palm plants in any palm genera and does not include unsprouted seeds.

(4) "Person" means an individual, corporation, firm, association, society, community, assembly, or inhabitant of a district or neighborhood, known or unknown, and the public generally. "Person" includes a government and any of its agencies, instrumentalities, or subdivisions.

(5) "Transport" and "Transportation" mean movement of CRB host material out of a single Tax Map Key (TMK) parcel.

III. In this Interim Rule, the "infested area" is the voluntary compliance order area on Hawai'i Island set out in the Voluntary Compliance Order for CRB Host Materials renewed by the County of Hawaii in November 2025, as shown below, with the opportunity to expand the infested area if CRB are detected beyond the confines on the map pursuant to section 4-72-10, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

IV. No person may transport CRB host material from a CRB infested area on Hawaii Island to any other area within the State, or transport, receive (accept delivery of CRB host material for any purpose), process (meaning the conversion of solid waste into a useful product or preparing for its disposal), sell, barter, donate or otherwise give away CRB host material within a CRB infested area on Hawaii Island, except:

(1) By the Department, CRB Response, or the Big Island Invasive Species Committee for monitoring, control, eradication, scientific, or educational purposes;

(2) Pursuant to a permit issued by the Department for purposes of coconut rhinoceros beetle monitoring, control, eradication, scientific, or educational purposes at a site inspected and approved by the Department prior to transportation;

(3) Pursuant to a permit issued by the Department for noncommercial activities, subject to an appropriate treatment or mitigation, as required by the Department;

(4) Pursuant to a compliance agreement issued by the Department for commercial activities;

(5) A person may transport CRB host material, on a noncommercial basis, within a CRB infested area of Hawaii Island, directly to a CRB host material processing center within that infested area that is operating under a compliance agreement described in paragraph (4), without a permit or compliance agreement;

(6) A person that purchases CRB host material originating from, or within, a CRB infested area on Hawaii Island that is sold by a person operating under a compliance agreement or permit issued under this Interim Rule, and in full compliance with the requirements thereof, may transport that CRB host material without a permit or compliance agreement issued by the Department; and

(7) In addition to any other requirements, any transportation of CRB host material from or within a CRB infested area is subject to inspection and approved mitigation and decontamination measures by the Department.

V. Any person who violates this Interim 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 subsequent offense committed within five years of a prior conviction, the person 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 and shall be fined not less than $500 and not more than $25,000. Each item moved in violation of this rule and each day of violation shall be considered a separate offense.

The Department may revoke or otherwise terminate a permit or compliance agreement issued under this Interim Rule if the person issued the permit or compliance agreement is not in material compliance with the terms and conditions thereof.

VI 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 for this interim rule is found by a court to be unreasonable, the constitutionality, validity, and reasonableness of the remainder of this interim rule and applicability thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

VII. This interim rule shall become effective on _____, 2026, and is valid for no longer than one year from its inception.

_____
SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

Proposed Model Compliance Agreement to Prevent the Spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

Authority: This Compliance Agreement is made pursuant to the authority of Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB) Plant Quarantine Interim Rule 26-___ and sections 141-1 and 150A-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Purpose: The purpose of this Compliance Agreement is to provide direction and protocols for the proper Transportation, movement, Processing, and disposal of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host material and CRB host palms in the Quarantine Area to prevent the spread of the CRB to other areas in the State that are not known to be infested with CRB.

Parties: This Compliance Agreement is made between the HDAB and the Participant, as set out below:

Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Industry Division
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
Contact: *Administrator of the Plant Industry Division*

Participant Information (the "Participant"):

Participant Name (Company or Individual):

Participant Representative:

Mailing Address:

City: Zip:

Physical Address (If different from above):

City: Zip:

Phone: E-Mail:

Contact (If different from Participant Representative):

Type of activity conducted with CRB Host Material or CRB Host Palms (check all that apply):

- □ Transport
- □ Processing
- □ Import/Export
- □ Sale or wholesale purchase
- □ Nursery activities
- □ Mulching or composting
- □ Other (please explain):_____

Program:

The HDAB and CRB Response with Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) cooperating as the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Host Material Quarantine Program, hereafter referred to as the "Program".

Background:

Oryctes rhinoceros, the CRB, is a large scarab that is a major pest to palms outside of its natural range of Southeast Asia. Adult beetles bore into the crowns of coconut and other palms to feed on sap. This adult feeding is the primary source of damage and impact of CRB. Larval stages typically feed on decaying plant matter with a strong preference for dead coconut palms or any decaying vegetation. Occasionally, under high CRB densities, larval stages will be found in the crowns of unmanicured living palm trees that have accumulated a large mass of decaying leaf material in the crown of the palm. Unrestricted movement of CRB Host Material is recognized as an important pathway for the spread of CRB from infested areas to new locations. The Program is a cooperative effort between public entities responsible for mitigating the spread of CRB from infested areas on Hawaii Island to new locations within Hawaii Island and other islands within the State.

Definitions: As used in this document:

- **"Canine Survey"** means a survey conducted by a trained CRB detection canine team that includes a pre-survey to mark search areas, the survey where the canines are escorted through the marked search areas, and a post-survey where the field crew follows up on responses the canines expressed during the survey to determine the presence or absence of CRB.
- **"Chipping"** means using a woodchipper to process plant matter to achieve a reduced particle size material.
- **"Completely Processed"** means CRB Host Material that has been subjected to a Heat Treatment that elevates the core temperature to at least 131◦ Fahrenheit (55◦ Celsius) for at least 72 hours.
- **"Compliance Agreement"** means this Compliance Agreement.
- **"Compliant"** means having a valid Compliance Agreement with HDAB and actively following the procedures and protocols outlined in the Compliance Agreement.
- **"Compost"** means a relatively stable, decomposed, organic, humus-like material that is suitable for landscaping or soil amendment purposes.
- **"CRB Host Material"** means the host material of the coconut rhinoceros beetle; and

(A) Includes bare root CRB host palms, potted plants of any size; and decomposing plant material, such as mulch, trimmings, wood or tree chips, stumps, compost, plant propagation media, including commercially bagged plant propagation media, and other items comprised of or containing decomposing plant material such as landscaping material or erosion control socks, 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, sand, and gravel not mixed with any material described in paragraph (A).

- The term CRB Host Material applies regardless of whether the material has CRB in any life stages or is devoid.
- **"CRB Host Palms"** means live palm plants in any palm genera. This does not include unsprouted seeds.
- **"Facility"** means all contiguous land including buffer zones and structures, and improvements on the land used for the handling of solid waste. *
- **"Full Turn Over"** means a survey method in which the entire pile is thoroughly searched for the presence of CRB at any life stage.
- **"Grinding"** means using a tub grinder or horizontal grinder to process plant matter to achieve a reduced particle size material.

● **"Heat Treatment"** means a method, including but not limited to hot composting, in which microbial activity brings the average temperature at the core of the material to at least 131◦ Fahrenheit (55◦ Celsius) for at least 72 hours.
● **"Mulch"** means plant matter that has been chipped, ground, or shredded and is intended to be used as a protective covering for establishing a vegetative landscape that is spread or left on the ground to reduce evaporation, maintain even soil temperature, reduce erosion, control weeds, or enrich the soil.
● **"Processing"** means an operation to convert solid waste into a useful product or to prepare it for disposal.
● **"Processing Center"** means a Compliant waste-handling facility performing Processing of CRB host material.
● **"Program Officer"** means an employee of HDAB or their designated representative who is authorized to enter into a Compliance Agreement with a Participant.
● **"Provisional Compliance Agreement"** means a Compliance Agreement with additional requirements as approved by the Program Officer. Participants shall be placed on Provisional Compliance Agreements if they violate any terms of the Compliance Agreement. The additional requirements may vary based on the circumstances and scope of the violation.
● **"Quarantine Area"** means the infested area of Hawaii Island as set out in the interim rule
● **"Receiver"** means an entity that knowingly accepts deliveries of CRB Host Material, to include CRB Host Material activities of a "Transfer station" as defined below.
● **"Spill"** means any unexpected, unintended, or uncontrolled movement, loss, or other discharge of CRB Host Material or CRB Host Palms during Transport (eg., materials are not able to be delivered to the intended location but are redirected to an alternate location).
● **"Spot Check"** means a Program-approved survey method where piles of CRB Host Material are surveyed for CRB breeding site suitability and the presence of CRB at any life stage.
● **"Stockpiling"** means the act of staging CRB Host Material, such as in a pile, accessible to CRB.
● **"Transfer station"** means a permanent, fixed supplemental collection and transportation facility, used by persons and route collection vehicles to deposit collected solid waste from off-site into a larger transfer vehicle for Transport to a solid waste handling Facility. Transfer stations may also include recycling activities. *
● **"Transport"** means the movement of CRB Host Material out of a single Tax Map Key (TMK) parcel.

[*definition from Department of Health (DOH)]

<u>Compliant Participants:</u>

● A list of Compliant participants including, but not limited to: landscapers, Transporter/haulers, contractors, contracting entities, Processing facilities, and nurseries is maintained by the Program.

Points of Contacts:

- BIISC Response general line – (808) 933-3340 or CRB hotline (808) 731-9232 (text receptive) or email biisc@hawaii.edu
- CRB Response Team Oahu (808) 679-5244 or info@crbhawaii.org
- Hawaii Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch general line– (808) 832-0566 or Hilo branch (808) 974-4140

Section 1: General Requirements for All Participants

The Participant shall comply with all requirements of this section.

Training:

1. Prior to execution of a Compliance Agreement, all Participant staff who transport; prepare, plan or direct Transport; or facilitate receipt or Processing of CRB Host Material, must be trained by the Program to ensure understanding of Compliance Agreement requirements, risks posed by CRB, identification of all life stages of CRB, and identification of CRB damage to plants.
2. Participants must contact the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) to schedule the training for all staff listed above.
3. The training will consist of a presentation outlining the current status of the CRB infestation in Hawaii, compliance procedures and requirements, and identification of CRB. It will take approximately one hour, excluding questions from trainees. Training can be arranged by contacting the Big Island Invasive Species Committee at (808) 933-3340 or biisc@hawaii.edu.
4. Once the Participant has a valid Compliance Agreement, for the addition of any new staff who fall into the categories listed in paragraph 1 above, the Participant should contact BIISC within 30 days of the start date to arrange for training.
5. A list of trained staff will be collected during the training and maintained by the Program.

Reporting: The Participant must immediately report any detection of suspected CRB specimens or suspected signs of CRB damage to the Program at (808) 731-9232 or biisc@hawaii.edu. Include photos in text/email if possible.

1. In the event a suspected CRB specimen is found, it must be collected and held for retrieval and identification by the Program. Live specimens must be placed in a sealed container with a lid (no plastic bags). If a plastic container is used, it must be 2 mm or thicker gauge plastic. Specimens can be placed in a freezer if available.
2. Spill Notification: Notify the Program Officer of a CRB Host Material Spill as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after a Spill.

Access, Inspection and Monitoring: The Participant shall provide the Program access to locations, facilities, and vehicles associated with the Transport, Processing, maintenance or storage of CRB Host Materials, including locations and facilities where CRB Host Material is sold.

1. Access to conduct inspections of: CRB Host Materials; areas where CRB Host Material is grown, staged, stored, loaded, unloaded, or otherwise processed; vehicles used to Transport CRB Host Material, including the areas where they are stored; and any Processing machinery for CRB Host Material including the areas where the machinery is used or stored. The Program will schedule routine inspections and monitoring with the Participant at least every six (6) months, but reserves the right to conduct random, unannounced inspections on a periodic basis.
2. Access during the Participant's normal working hours for installation, maintenance, and checks of CRB traps (panel or barrel). Once CRB traps are installed, they shall not be accessed, disturbed, or moved without prior notification and approval from the Program except in case of emergency.
3. The Participant shall inspect all Mulch and Compost at least every four (4) months for signs of CRB infestation. Inspection shall include a Full Turn Over or Spot Check and may include a Canine Survey provided by the Program, subject to availability and pre-arrangement.

CRB Detections: If CRB are detected within CRB Host Materials:

1. If the Program Officer determines a treatment program and corrective action are appropriate, the Participant shall fully cooperate with the Program to develop and implement a treatment program and take corrective action to eliminate all CRB.
2. If the Participant is unable or unwilling to implement a treatment program and corrective action the participant will be considered non-compliant. See Section 7 for details of noncompliance.

Compliance with other laws: The Participant shall maintain current required permits and certificates for business, including those issued by the Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Department of Transportation, Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and HDAB.

Section 2: Transport of CRB Host Palms from or within the Quarantine Area

The Participant shall comply with all requirements of this section when transporting or preparing, including through sale, to Transport CRB Host Palms from or within the Quarantine Area.

CRB Host Palms may harbor CRB, and their Transport may spread CRB to new areas within and outside of the Quarantine Area. To minimize the risk of CRB being transported with CRB Host Palms:

1. Within 48 hours prior to transportation from or within the Quarantine Area, a CRB Host Palm shall be inspected by Program trained Participant staff and a written record of inspections shall be maintained.
2. Program-trained Participant staff shall ensure that the following requirements are met:
    a. No CRB Host Palm shall be transported if any life stage of CRB is detected on or in the palm or material moving with the palm (e.g., soil or containers). This includes eggs, larvae (grubs), pupae, adult beetles, and incomplete CRB specimen(s) of any stage.
    b. Based on the inspection of Participant staff, no CRB Host Palm shall be transported if it bears any sign of damage by CRB. Damaged spear, heart, or meristem tissue shall not be removed, and palms damaged in this way shall not be transported.
    c. Transport of Infested CRB Host Palms or CRB Host Palms showing signs of CRB damage shall not occur unless:
        i. Subjected to a treatment approved by the Program Officer in writing that would eliminate all life stages of CRB; or
        ii. Under safeguards for destruction of infested materials, as approved by the Program Officer in writing.
3. The inspection required above prior to transportation shall include the following parts of the CRB Host Palm:
    a. Root Zone:
        i. If the CRB host palm was dug from the ground or placed in a container within the last 30 days, all external surfaces of the root ball and associated soil or potting medium shall be visually examined for the presence of any life stage of CRB.
        ii. If the CRB host palm has been growing in a pot or other container for more than 30 days and will be transported in that container, the palm shall either:
            I. Be removed from the pot and examined as in paragraph 1 above; or
            II. The container and root ball shall be completely submerged in water for at least 1 hour then the upper surface of the potting medium shall be inspected for the presence of any life stage of CRB.
    b. Trunk: The trunk of the CRB host palm will be visually examined for holes and rot, including:
        i. The entirety of each hole in the trunk will be inspected for any presence of CRB; and
        ii. All rotting parts of the trunk will be removed and inspected for CRB
    c. Crown: The crown of the CRB host palm shall be visually inspected for any presence of CRB or CRB damage, including:
        i. Each frond will be visually inspected for the presence of CRB damage, including V-cuts and boreholes; and

ii. The entire length of the spear (the youngest, unopened frond) will be inspected for CRB boring damage.

4. CRB Host Palms shall be transported from the origin to the destination within 48 hours of inspection.

Section 3: Transport of CRB Host Material, other than CRB Host Palms and Potted Plants, from or within the Quarantine Area

The Participant shall comply with all requirements of this section when Transporting, or preparing to Transport including through sale, CRB Host Material from or within the Quarantine Area.

CRB Host Material may be breeding material for CRB, and its Transport may spread CRB to new areas within and outside of the Quarantine Area. To minimize the risk of CRB being transported with CRB Host Material:

1. Participant shall ensure that CRB Host Material shall not be Transported unless it meets one of the criteria below.
    a. The material was removed from a living plant within the last 30 days. Removal date will be determined by surveying the composition of insects in the material and their life stages.
    b. The CRB Host Material has been subjected to a treatment that eradicates all life stages of CRB within 48 hours prior to Transport. If the material is intended for storage in c. below, the treatment must be completed immediately before storage. Suitable treatments are one of the following:
        i. The CRB Host Material has been subject to Heat Treatment.
        ii. The CRB Host Material has been processed by Chipping or Grinding.
        iii. The CRB Host Material has been treated with sulfuryl fluoride fumigant pursuant to methods recommended by the UH-CTAHR CRB research team and applied in accordance with the product label. A certificate of treatment issued by a licensed pesticides applicator shall be maintained and be made available upon request.
    c. The CRB Host Material has been continuously stored within a container that:
        i. Has no gaps or holes larger than ½ inch when sealed;
        ii. Is composed of material that is impenetrable by CRB adults. Fabric, tarps, and erosion socks are examples of materials/containers NOT approved for storage;
        iii. Has been sealed from sunset to sunrise (overnight) while any CRB Host Material has been stored within it and;
        iv. Either 1a. or 1b. above was met immediately prior to adding the CRB Host Material to the container.

d. Commercially bagged plant propagation media and commercially bagged mulch that does not meet the requirements of a., b., or c. above may be Transported, or prepared for Transport including through sale, if it is:
    i. Inspected by Program trained Participant staff and a written record of inspections shall be maintained on an on-going basis; and
    ii. Stored from sunset to sunrise indoors or in a container described in c. above.
e. The CRB Host Material is being directly delivered to a Compliant Processing Center.

2. Special rule for Compost: Compost that is not completely processed shall not be moved from the Quarantine Area.

Trailer and Vehicle Cleaning: After unloading of all CRB Host Material, the container and/or vehicle used to contain transported CRB Host Material shall have all remaining debris removed by sweeping or blowing. The container and/or vehicle shall be visually inspected for CRB prior to departure from the compliant receiving Facility.

Section 4: Movement of Potted Plants

The Participant shall comply with all requirements of this section when transporting or selling potted plants within the Quarantine Area or that will be transported from the Quarantine Area.

Potted plants of all species may harbor CRB, and the sale (including donation, barter, or give aways to the public) could spread CRB. Different types of sales and their associated transport present different risks of spreading CRB to new areas. To minimize the risk of CRB being transported with/in potted plants:

1. Participants that sells potted plants on a retail basis to the final consumer shall:
    a. Have all potted plants inspected by Program trained Participant staff and a written record of inspections shall be maintained on an on-going basis.
    b. Post educational signage on the detection and risks of CRB; and
    c. Provide purchasers of their potted plants with educational materials related to CRB detection, inspection, and risks.
2. Participants that sell wholesale or otherwise provide potted plants to a person who is not the final consumer shall
    a. Have all potted plants inspected by Program trained Participant staff and a written record of inspections shall be maintained on an on-going basis.
    b. For potted plants that will be transported outside the Quarantine Area, work with the Program Officer or designee to develop protocols include Canine Surveys, submersion treatments, or other appropriate actions to prevent the movement of CRB along with the potted plants.
3. Program-trained Participant staff shall ensure that the following requirements are met:

a. No potted plants shall be transported from or within the Quarantine Area if any life stage of CRB is detected on or in the plant or material moving with the plant (e.g., soil or containers). This includes eggs, larvae (grubs), pupae, adult beetles, and incomplete CRB specimen(s) of any stage.
b. Based on the inspection of Participant staff, no potted plant shall be transported within or from the Quarantine Area if it bears any sign of damage by CRB.
c. Potted plants shall be transported from the origin to the destination within 48 hours of inspection.

Section 5: CRB Host Material Receiver or Processing Center

The Participant shall comply with all requirements of this section when operating a Receiver or Processing Site for CRB Host Material within the Quarantine Area.

CRB Host Material may be breeding material for CRB. Receivers or Processing Centers, that contain CRB Host Material may facilitate the spread of CRB to new areas within the Quarantine Area. To minimize the risk of CRB being transported to a Receiver or Processing Center, each Participant that is a Receiver or operating a Processing Center that receives or processes CRB Host Material from within the Quarantine Area shall comply with the following:

1. Transporter/Hauler Verification:
    a. The Processing Center shall only accept CRB Host Material from a transporter or hauler operating under a valid Compliance Agreement;
    b. Before acceptance of CRB Host Material, the Processing Center must verify that the transporter/hauler has a valid Compliance Agreement using information provided by HDAB. Failure to do so cancels this agreement; and
    c. Noncommercial loads that are smaller than 3 cubic yards are exempted from transporter/hauler verification.

2. Processing:
    a. All received CRB Host Material must be subjected to Chipping or Grinding within 72 hours of delivery to the Receiver or Processing Center.
    b. CRB Host Material must be subjected to Heat Treatment. Once CRB Host Material has reached this temperature and duration requirement for Heat Treatment, it is considered Completely Processed. Temperature logs may be verified to ensure compliance.
    c. CRB Host Material is prohibited from leaving the Processing Center until it is Completely Processed.
    d. Stockpiling:
        i. Once considered Completely Processed, CRB Host Material may be stockpiled for up to four (4) months; and

ii. Any CRB Host Material stockpiled for more than four (4) months shall be subjected to inspection, including, but not limited to: Canine Survey, Full Turn Over, or Spot Check.

Section 6: Contracting Entities for Work with CRB Host Material

Under HDAB Plant Quarantine Interim Rule 26-__ and similar rules and section 141-1, HRS, businesses, municipalities, organizations, agencies, departments, or authorities who hire contractors for work with CRB Host Material are required to hire contractors with active Compliance Agreements. Contracting entities who knowingly finance, allow, or enable the unlawful movement of CRB Host Material may be subject to any or all penalties set out in Section 7, "Fee Schedule and Non-Compliance."

Examples of contracted work with CRB Host Material that requires a compliant contractor:

- Removal of a dead tree. Both the tree trimmer and Processing Site shall be compliant.
- Groundskeeping, landscape maintenance, and tree trimming contractors and Processing Sites shall be compliant.
- Paid or unpaid Transport of unprocessed CRB Host Material.

CRB Host Material (excluding CRB Host Palms and potted plants) within the Quarantine Area shall be removed and transported to a compliant Processing Site within 30 days in accordance with the regulations outlined in Section 1, General Requirements. The duration of Stockpiling shall be verified by the Program Officer or designee and based on surveying the composition of insects in the material and their life stages.

1. Contractors shall abide by all requirements of the Compliance Agreement relating to the proper disposal of all CRB Host Material generated through tree trimming, removal, mulching, composting, and sanitation pick-up.
2. All contracts led by the contracting entity involving CRB Host Material in the Quarantine Area shall include a clause requiring the contractor or subcontractor to have a valid Compliance Agreement with the Program. Documentation of the valid Compliance Agreement by the contractor or subcontractor must be provided and retained prior to any work being awarded. Violators may be subject to any or all penalties set out in Section 7, "Fee Schedule and Non-Compliance."
3. A list of compliant contractors will be provided by HDAB.
4. If you plan to use a contractor who does not have a valid Compliance Agreement, direct them to contact a Program officer to establish an agreement before the initiation of work.

Section 7: Fee Schedule and Non-Compliance

Inspection Fees: Fees for inspections carried out by HDAB staff under this Compliance Agreement (to be defined by HDAB)

Non-Compliance: A Participant who fails to comply with any part of this Compliance Agreement may be subject to any or all of the following:

1. Participation in Program-led retraining of all Participant staff directly and indirectly involved with CRB Host Materials;
2. Change to Provisional Compliance Agreement status;
3. Cancellation of the Compliance Agreement; and
4. Civil and/or criminal penalties pursuant to section 150A-14, HRS and/or interim rule 26-__..

Depending on the circumstances (i.e. self-reported, type, frequency, egregiousness/negligence, etc.) of the infraction(s), the Program Officer shall determine the appropriate corrective action. In certain limited circumstances, the Program Officer has the authority to waive penalties on a case-by-case basis.

Retraining: The Participant shall complete the retraining for all pertinent staff within two weeks of a written notification. The timeframe may be extended if approved by the Program Officer in writing.

Provisional Compliance Agreement: The Participant shall:

1. Complete retraining for all pertinent staff within two weeks unless otherwise approved by the Program Officer in writing;
2. Work with the Program to develop and implement appropriate corrective actions for all violations, including written policies and procedures to prevent recurrence; and
3. Have the appropriate locations, facilities, and vehicles re-inspected.

The corrective actions and reinspection shall be completed within a timeframe approved by the Program Officer in writing. During the provisional period, the Participant is allowed to Transport and/or receive CRB Host Materials and CRB Host Palms, unless otherwise notified by the Program Officer in writing. Failure to complete retraining, develop and/or implement corrective action(s) or allow reinspection(s) within the Program-approved timeframe will result in an immediate cancellation of the Compliance Agreement.

Cancelation: A Compliance Agreement shall be cancelled and considered invalid upon written notification from the Program Officer to the Participant. In the event of Compliance Agreement cancellation, all CRB Host Material and/or CRB Host Palms shall not be transported by or accepted from the Participant. Additionally, all CRB host Material and/or CRB host palms may be moved, seized, treated, quarantined and/or destroyed at the discretion of the Program Officer. Any expense or loss in connection therewith shall be borne by the Participant. Destruction or treatment of noncompliant material must happen and may include the Administrative warrant process to enforce.

If the Compliance Agreement is canceled under this section, the Participant may reapply for a new Compliance Agreement after providing the Program Officer with evidence that all prior incidents of non-compliance have been corrected and documenting policies and procedures to ensure future adherence to the Compliance Agreement. In addition to the reapplication, the Participant must also retrain all pertinent staff and have the appropriate locations, facilities, and vehicles, as appropriate, reinspected. In this instance, the Program Officer has the discretion to require additional terms and conditions to ensure compliance. The HDOA may then approve the issuance of a new Compliance Agreement if the Participant is able to demonstrate the ability to comply with requirements of the Compliance Agreement, including the terms and conditions set by the Program Officer, if applicable, to maintain compliance with the Compliance Agreement.

Civil and Criminal Penalties: All violations that involve civil and or criminal sanctions, including, but not limited to knowingly moving/transporting CRB infested materials without Program authorization; or collecting, intentionally harboring, or breeding CRB, may be referred to the Department of the Attorney General for further investigation, in accordance with HRS 150A-14.

Prohibition on Transfer of Compliance Agreement: The Participant is prohibited from transferring this Compliance Agreement, including any duties, authorities or responsibilities held under the Compliance Agreement, to any other person, party, or entity.

Compliance Agreement:

By signing this Compliance Agreement, the Participant understands and agrees to comply with all requirements herein. The Participant shall self-execute all applicable requirements within this Compliance Agreement and may be subject to any or all of the penalties listed above for failure to comply with any of the requirements listed in this Compliance Agreement.

This Compliance Agreement becomes effective upon completion of Participant staff training, completion of an initial site inspection, and assignment of a Compliance Agreement number. The Compliance Agreement shall remain in effect until the Compliance Agreement Expiration Date below unless canceled by either party in writing on 30 days' notice to the other at the address of the other party appearing above, or unless unilaterally suspended or canceled by the Program Officer as provided in this Compliance Agreement.

The Participant assumes all liability, if any, arising from, or associated with, the manner in which the Participant sells, handles, and/or distributes any CRB Host Material.

_____

Authorized Participant Signature Date

_____ _____

Typed or Printed Name Title

_____

For Program Use Only:

_____

Compliance Agreement Expiration Date

_____ _____

Program Officer Signature Date

_____ _____

Typed or Printed Name Title

Compliance Agreement Number:_____

+ Mayor
Youth Commission
+ Legislative
+ Boards and Commissions
+ County Calendar
County News
Online Services
Job Opportunities
Kilauea Recovery
Public Documents
Council Meetings
Council Records
+ Public Documents & Council Records User Instructions

County of Hawai'i News

Hawai'i County Renews Voluntary Compliance Order for CRB Host Materials

Post Date: 11/18/2025 11:02 AM

The County of Hawai'i is renewing a voluntary compliance order for parts of West Hawai'i to stop the movement of host materials for the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

This voluntary order, in effect through Jan. 31, 2026, is put in place while the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB) drafts interim rules for Hawai'i Island. (See updated map for voluntary compliance order area boundaries.)

"Stopping the coconut rhinoceros beetle requires all of us working together," said Mayor Kimo Alameda. "By preventing the movement of host materials, we can contain this invasive species and ensure its eradication before it gets out of hand on our island."

To stop the spread of CRB, residents and business operators in this area are asked not to transport CRB host materials that include:

- Decomposing plant material such as compost, wood or tree chips, and mulch.
- Plant propagation material.
- Other items, such as landscaping material, that are comprised of decomposing organic plant material.
- All live palm plants in the genera Cocos (Coconut palm), Livistona (Fountain palm or Chinese fan palm), Phoenix (Date palm, Canary Island date palm), Pritchardia (Loulu), Roystonea (Royal palm), and Washingtonia (California fan palm, Mexican fan palm) — except unsprouted seeds of these palms.

Residents and business operators within the compliance area who need to get rid of green waste should take the material to proper disposal sites located at the West Hawai'i Organics Facility at 71-1111 Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and Kealakehe Transfer Station at 74-598 Hale Makai Place. These facilities, located within the compliance area, heat compost piles to at least 131 degrees to kill CRB larvae.

Host materials, such as decomposing plant material, can contain CRB eggs, larvae, and adults. Moving such infested materials outside the compliance area could unintentionally spread CRB far beyond its current range, complicating eradication efforts and hindering control measures.

CRB primarily targets coconut and other palm species. However, it will feed on other important crops such as 'ulu, banana and kalo when the palm food sources are eliminated.

Best Management Practices for CRB Host Materials

Residents can take the following steps to minimize the risk of spreading CRB:

Inspect and Report

- Inspect CRB host materials at least every 4 months, especially finished compost and nearby host palms, for signs of CRB or damage.
- Examine incoming CRB host materials before accepting them to ensure they are not infested with CRB.
- Collect any suspected CRB and report findings or visible CRB damage to HDAB at 808-643-PEST (7378) or the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) at 808-933-3340. Reports can also be made online at 643pest.org.
- If you cannot inspect CRB host materials yourself, contact BIISC, CRB Response (808-679-5244), or HDAB for assistance.

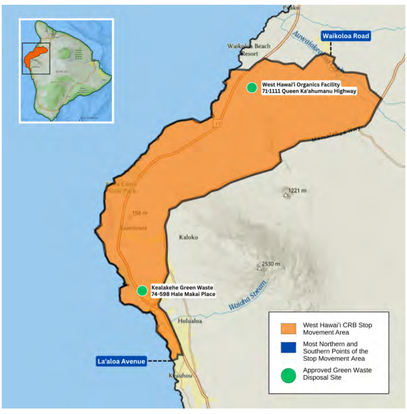
Properly Manage Materials

- Chip incoming CRB host materials within 48 hours.
- Properly compost CRB host materials by heating piles to at least 131 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Monitor finished materials at least every 4 months (visual during turnover). Once compost cools to around 110 degrees Fahrenheit, it can be infested and is a good breeding material for CRB.
- Do not stockpile or keep a mound of CRB host material. Routinely distribute around plants or thinly spread up to 4 inches in depth to enable it to dry completely.

Prevent the Spread

- Utilize or process CRB host materials that are already on-site for end use, eliminating the need to move potentially infested materials.
- Safeguard CRB host materials that have been properly composted or treated in completely sealed containers that prevent CRB entry. Containers made of metal, concrete or glass are acceptable. CRB can chew through many plastics.
- Ensure CRB host materials are still at acceptable temperatures or are subjected to effective treatment before being transported off site.
- Profume, a restricted use pesticide, is one option for treating certain CRB host materials, such as compost. Call HDAB for additional information about the use of this chemical.
- If you receive CRB host materials, ensure it comes from a reputable source that follows CRB Best Management Practices. Ask suppliers to provide documentation of their CRB prevention efforts.

For questions about moving CRB host materials, please contact Glenn Sako, County Economic Development Specialist, at 808-961-8811.



Return to full list >>

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor

ATTACHMENT D

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PLANT QUARANTINE INTERIM RULE 22-1

Prohibits The Intra- And Inter-Island Movement Of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material, Including But Not Limited To Entire Trees, Green Waste, Compost, Mulch, Trimmings, Fruit And Vegetative Scraps And Decaying Stumps Of Palmeceous Plants And Trees, Within And From The Island Of Oahu Except By Permit Issued By The Hawaii Department Of Agriculture

Under authorization granted in Section 150A-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) hereby establishes this interim rule to impose a quarantine on the movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle host material, including but not limited to entire trees, green waste, compost, mulch, trimmings, fruit and vegetative scraps and decaying stumps of Palmeceous plants and trees, within and from the Island of Oahu except by permit issued by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. These quarantine areas are established to address the emergency and prevent the spread of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) (CRB), from areas infested by CRB to un-infested areas within the State.

Movement or transportation of CRB host material, including but not limited to entire trees, green waste, compost, mulch, trimmings, fruit and vegetative scraps and decaying stumps of Palmeceous plants and trees, within and from the Island of Oahu is prohibited except by permit issued by the Department:

1) Movement of any host material for the CRB, including Palmeceous palms and trees, compost, and green waste under state compliance agreement or with a state phytosanitary certificate; 2) All host material being moved within the quarantine area must be completely enclosed or covered with a secure lid to prevent the spread of CRB during transport to the approved green waste disposal site. Subcontractors must transport chipped green waste to an approved offsite disposal/processing center in approved containers. These containers must be completely enclosed or covered with a lid during the transport to the offsite disposal/processing center; 3) Processing of any host material for the coconut rhinoceros beetle in approved facilities is allowed under HDOA state compliance agreements; 4) Inter-island movement of any CRB host material is allowed only under HDOA state compliance agreements or permit; 5) Sale and trade of any CRB host material is allowed under HDOA state compliance agreements; and 6) Nursery stock material considered CRB host material is allowed to leave the quarantine areas only under HDOA state compliance agreements.

All movement is subject to inspection and approved mitigation and decontamination measures. This interim rule does not affect the movement of approved nursery stock material, provided it is shipped directly from an infested area to a destination outside 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 or organization shall be fined not less than $500 and not more

than $25,000.

This interim rule shall become effective on Friday, July 1st, 2022, and is valid for no longer than one year from its inception.

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] support for regulation of CRB host material

From Helen Sofaer <hsofaer@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 9:57 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

I am writing to support the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

I request that DAB adopt regulations to require biosecurity practices to contain CRB within Hawai'i Island. As a resident of Hilo, I do not want to CRB to impact the plants in my own yard, including palms and hala, and in my neighborhood. As a supporter of local agriculture, I do not want coconut production to be affected. As an admirer of loulu, I want to live on a biodiverse island where native species can survive in the wild. CRB thrives under wet conditions, and its population is likely to grow explosively once it reaches East Hawai'i.

I work as an ecologist, and although I write to you as a community member, my assessment is that eradication is highly unlikely to be successful on Hawai'i Island. This is not news to those who are following the invasion closely. The BIISC CRB dashboard shows a wide and growing spatial area with CRB, and breeding sites are dispersed and difficult to find. I believe that all available tools should continue to be directed to the invasion, because the more successful management is in the invaded area, the fewer individuals will disperse away and the lower the impacts will be. Human-mediated dispersal is much more of a threat than natural dispersal, because people can easily bring infested plants or other material across the island. These long distance movements are the greatest drivers of spread. Slowing the spread is economically, ecologically, and socially valuable even if perfect containment is difficult to achieve. The fact that researchers are working on viral biocontrol and other treatment methods heightens the value of slowing the spread - it could be the difference between living loulu and decimated populations.

Members of the public do not want to be purchasing plants, compost, or other materials that are infested with CRB. I believe it benefits the horticultural industry when we can make purchases with confidence that they are not infested with pests like CRB and LFA. Requiring compliance with best management practices is a common sense measure and I urge you to implement a regulation that gives containment a chance.

Thank you for working to advance biosecurity and respond effectively to CRB.

Helen Sofaer

710 Ainako Ave

Hilo, HI 96720

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Community Testimony on the need for CRB Best Management Practices Policy

From Hoolulahui Akaka <hoolulahui@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 11:31 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

I am testifying today as a concerned community member who cares deeply about mālama ʻāina and the responsibility we all share to protect Hawaiʻi for future generations. The rapid spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on Hawaiʻi Island, especially around Keahōle Ag Park, is alarming and calls for immediate action.

Right now, the response relies largely on a Voluntary Compliance Order to limit the movement of CRB host material. While many people and businesses want to do the right thing, voluntary measures are not enough. Without clear, mandatory requirements, there is no consistent standard to ensure that CRB is not being unintentionally spread.

I support the joint petition submitted by Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka requesting a one-year interim rule that would require Best Management Practices for the commercial movement of CRB host material in the infested area. This is a reasonable and practical step that aligns with our kuleana to care for the land and prevent greater harm in the future.

Taking action now is an investment in protecting our ʻāina, our communities, and the generations that will come after us. I respectfully urge the Board to adopt this interim rule without delay.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to protecting Hawaiʻi.

Hoʻoululāhui

Ho'oululāhui Erika Akaka
hoolulahui@gmail.com

If you plan for a year plant kalo, if you plan for 10 years plant koa,
if you plan for 100 years teach ʻāina aloha.

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of CRB

From lbrewing@hawaii.edu <lbrewing@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 10:29 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Laura Brewington, Co-Director

Pacific Research on Island Solutions for Adaptation

lbrewing@hawaii.edu

January 21, 2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For

the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kauaʻi, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawaiʻi. After the initial detection on Hawaiʻi Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

As a climate scientist and watershed restoration partner, I have watched for almost 13 years as CRB has devastated coconut palms on Oʻahu. I spent much of my youth on Guam and when I returned to work in the Pacific Islands in 2013, I was utterly gutted to see that Guam's coconut palms were all but destroyed, erasing memories and from my childhood. When combined with the accelerated damages to coastal ecosystems during extreme storms and cyclones, CRB only exacerbates the loss of resilience that communities across our entire region now face. There is no one solution for CRB now that it is established, but it is everyone's problem and we all have the responsibility to act!

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

I continue to raise awareness of the existential crisis to our island ecosystems and way of life that CRB poses, and I support and inform research on invasive species under a changing climate to help slow the rising tide of this problem. Please help us and act within your responsibilities to protect our landscapes and livelihoods now and for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

With gratitude,

Laura Brewington, Pacific RISA

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island Sample testimony

From Indrajit Samarasingha Gunasekara <indrajit@hawaii.edu>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 5:20 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 Indrajit Gunasekara, Co-Founder of Niu Now and I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as reflected in the petition put forward by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your past actions in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your help, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in north Kona, and as **mulch and other high-risk vectors of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on Hawai'i Island without any regulatory oversight.**

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent - and inevitable, if the movement of untreated host material is allowed to continue unabated. **Your decision on this matter may be our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island, and the generations-long impacts this will have on the island's food security, cultural integrity, native species, and overall economy.**

Notably, the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also exacerbate the risk of the pest being introduced and established on other islands, via the off-shipment of host material or other forms of interisland transportation.

Please support these modest but critical rules, which simply ask for compliance agreements for training, treatment, and other best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from a known infested area.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Indrajit Gunasekara

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] LIVE NOTE: Regarding the Coconut Rhino Beetle

From John Shockley <shockleyjr@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 8:30 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Rita Shockley <eartoeargrin@gmail.com>; Wayne (O'ahu Sierra Club) Tanaka <hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org>

Aloha Board and All!

More concerted effort needs to be made to at least control the invasion of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. We think what needs to be done to control the infestation is to give the beetle an "enemy". Entomologists need to find out what controls the beetle in the wild. Of course a study also needs to be made about side issues that could arise by bringing in another bug into the Hawaii ecosystem.

We have seen the limited effect of chemical spraying. Maybe something like getting a genetically immune species of palm tree might be worthwhile studying. We know that the banana industry continues to change the make-up of banana plants to survive bug and disease attacks while keeping the fruit edible.

Bottom line: We need an expansion of thinking regarding this issue.

Mahalo for your time.

John & Rita Shockley Coordinators Free Access Coalition.
www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Kodie Solis-Kalani <kodiesk@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 12:36 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Kodie Solis-Kalani

PO Box 153 Paauilo HI 96776

kodiesk@hawaii.edu

1/21/26

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This

unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kauaʻi, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawaiʻi. After the initial detection on Hawaiʻi Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

As someone who has grown up with on Hawaiʻi Island with easy access to niu and hala, plants that we have almost taken for granted, the detriments of CRB can not only be catastrophic but unimaginable. We have seen what CRB does wide scale on a smaller islands like Oʻahu and Kauaʻi, we DO NOT need to see how they can do on Hawaiʻi island.

I/We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

Aloha,

[Your name / organization]

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] CRB

From M Reynolds <drdukmhr@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 1:12 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Please consider the urgent need to prevent the spread of this pest and implement quarantine of green waste, soil and potted plant materials from being transported from Kona to South Kona, Hilo, or Kau. The success in stopping CRB breeding in Waikoloa show us that the pest can be stopped but the habitat continuity in Kona requires stricter and more urgent action, including quarantine and rapid response to treat risky breeding materials reported. Thank you!

Michelle Reynolds

Sent from my iPhone

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Noa Lincoln <nlincoln@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 9:00 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected on Hawai'i Island on October 2023 in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I have dedicated my like to perpetuating our natural and cultural heritage in Hawai'i, and in particular the diversity and traditions surrounding our plants. I have worked tirelessly to help document, plant, and preserve multiple of out traditional crops, including kō, niu, hala, and 'ulu - all of which are threatened by CRB. I have furthermore aided in developing new industries around these crops in partnership with entrepreneurial businesses such as the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative and Kuleana Rum Works. The spread of CRB will have tremendous effects on our natural landscapes and native species, on our cultural traditions and kupuna crops, and on our agricultural enterprises. I urge DAB to adopt more stringent and potentially enforceable rules to help limit the spread of the beetles and maintain a chance of eradication on Hawai'i Island.

I/We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island. I offer this testimony as an individual and do not speak for the University of Hawai'i.

Aloha,

Noa Lincoln

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I MĀNOA
Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i ma Mānoa

Noa Lincoln | Principal Investigator

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR)

Indigenous Cropping Systems Laboratory

875 Komohana St., Hilo, HI 96720

t: 808-969-8221 | **e:** nlincoln@hawaii.edu

https://sites.google.com/hawaii.edu/ics-lab/home

https://hawaii.edu/keomaucenter/

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] SUPPORT for the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Pua'ala Pascua <puaalaikahoni@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 10:58 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

I am writing to SUPPORT the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

As you may know and as is noted in the petition, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I STRONGLY urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,
Pua'ala Pascua
MS, Natural Resource and Environmental Management
Kea'au, Hawai'i Island

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] To Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawaii Island

From Ryan Perroy <rperroy@hawaii.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 3:48 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Ryan Perroy

10 Oliana St.

Hilo, HI 96720

ryanperroy@gmail.com

1/21/2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua‘i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai‘i. After the initial detection on Hawai‘i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa

area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

I have personally helped detect and map CRB-damaged palms, and I know how damaging this pest can be. The amount of available greenwaste and potential breeding sites on eastern Hawaii Island dwarfs anything on any of our neighboring islands, and it will be devastating if it reaches this side of the island. There is still a chance to contain and eradicate CRB from our island, and this interim rule is a straightforward and reasonable step to take.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island.

Aloha,

Ryan Perroy, PhD

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Ryan L Perroy
Professor, Geography and Environmental Science
Director, Spatial Data Analysis & Visualization (SDAV) Research Lab
UH Hilo
808.932.7259 office

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Skyler Chong <skyhzchong@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 8:18 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

Our niu, hala, and other palms are essential parts of Native lifeways and ecosystems in Hawai'i. Losing these resources will be culturally, ecologically, and economically detrimental and preventative measures to stop the spread of CRB will save everyone involved from the work, stress, and harm that will arise if CRB becomes widespread on Hawai'i island.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

We have the opportunity to be proactive in this endeavor, please do not let it go to waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,

Skyler Chong

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

From Stephen Munkelt <gvsteve2@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 8:54 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

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

My name is Stephen Munkelt, living in North Kona, and I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as reflected in the petition put forward by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your past actions in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your help, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in north Kona, and as **mulch and other high-risk vectors of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on Hawai'i Island without any regulatory oversight.**

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent - and inevitable, if the movement of untreated host material is allowed to continue unabated. **Your decision on this matter may be our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island, and the generations-long impacts this will have on the island's food security, cultural integrity, native species, and overall economy.**

Please support these modest but critical rules, which simply ask for compliance agreements for training, treatment, and other best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from a known infested area.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Stephen Munkelt

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

From Sydney Chung <schung27@punahou.edu>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 10:18 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

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

My name is Sydney Chung, and I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as reflected in the petition put forward by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your past actions in support of the Moloka'i community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your help, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in north Kona, and as **mulch and other high-risk vectors of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on Hawai'i Island without any regulatory oversight.**

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent - and inevitable, if the movement of untreated host material is allowed to continue unabated. **Your decision on this matter may be our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island, and the generations-long impacts this will have on the island's food security, cultural integrity, native species, and overall economy.**

Notably, the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also exacerbate the risk of the pest being introduced and established on other islands, via the off-shipment of host material or other forms of interisland transportation.

Please support these modest but critical rules, which simply ask for compliance agreements for training, treatment, and other best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from a known infested area.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Sydney Chung

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] SUPPORT: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

From Sylvia Dolena <sylviadolena@gmail.com>
Date Tue 1/13/2026 11:12 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Sylvia Dolena
Pele Lani Farm LLC
PO Box 986, Pahoa, HI 96778
Contact info: sylviadolena@gmail.com
Jan 13, 2026

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

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O‘ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua‘i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai‘i. After the initial detection on Hawai‘i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

As a farmer, knowing this invasive species will damage other types of crops, I plead with you to support this petition.
Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena
Owner, Pele Lani Farm LLC
Owner, Winning Edge Women's Leadership

Director, Puna Rising Entrepreneur Hub
Co-founder, Aloha Animal Advocates, HI Domestic non-profit
Director, Malama O'Puna. 501c3
President, Aloha Lokahi Association, 501c3
President, Kulia I Ka Nu'u Outreach Services
Vice President, Love Those Dog Paws, 501c3
Executive Coach, Hewlett-Packard Enterprises

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Tuki Drake <niumanafarm@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/21/2026 10:08 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Motuki Drake, owner

Niu Mana Farm, LLC

16-1099 Koloa Maoli Rd.

Kurtistown, HI 96760

Ph: (808) 212-3753

Email: niumanafarm@gmail.com

1/21/2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

I, Motuki Drake, am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is

decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kauaʻi, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawaiʻi. After the initial detection on Hawaiʻi Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

Niu Mana Farm is a syntropic agroforestry farm based in Puna that is stewarding over 400 dwarf and tall coconut palms focusing on diversified coconut and canoe plant production (kalo, ʻulu, maiʻa, hala, ʻawa, etc.) and living seed banking of local niu varieties to distribute to the community for out planting. CRB represents an existential threat to our farm and, more importantly, Hawaiʻi's fragile food system.

I respectfully urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

Coconut palms, niu, are a quintessential Hawaiʻi and Pacific living cultural treasure and food source that deserves our protection. What we do today, the decisions we make, will have generational impact here on Hawaiʻi Island. Please protect our niu.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawaiʻi Island.

Aloha,

Motuki Drake/ Niu Mana Farm, LLC

NIU
MANA
FARM

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Usha Kilpatrick <ushakilpatrick@gmail.com>
Date Tue 1/20/2026 11:27 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

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

I am writing to support the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful and CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu where it is decimating coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms. For the first 10 years, DAB was able to prevent the movement of CRB to other islands of the State. This unfortunately changed in May of 2023 when CRB was detected on the Island of Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i. After the initial detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikōloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikōloa area at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

It is critical our our ecosystems and the ways of life of our communities that this extremely destructive species not take hold on Hawai`i Island.

I/We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DAB to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the interim rule described in the Petition and approve the interim rule as quickly as possible.

This is our opportunity to act now, before it is too late and the infestation becomes unmanageable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,

Usha Kilpatrick
South Kona resident and community supporter