

January 26, 2026

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

My name is Sibley Barnette and I live in Hilo. 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.

Though this testimony is written on behalf of myself, for the past three years, I have been working on CRB outreach on Hawai'i Island. Throughout this time, I have watched CRB arrive in Kona and continue to expand. Catch rates continue to grow. Beetles continue to breed. And potential host material is still permitted to move freely out of the affected area. I have had the privilege of speaking with communities across Hawai'i Island, from keiki to kūpuna, about this issue. Our community wants action. Regulations like those outlined today by Pōhaku Pelemaka and Hawai'i Wildlife Fund are not just necessary, they are overdue. It is time that our community is heard.

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.

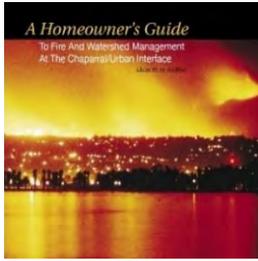
Notably, the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also exacerbate the risk of the pest being introduced and established on other islands, via the off-shipment of host material or other forms of inter island transportation.

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.

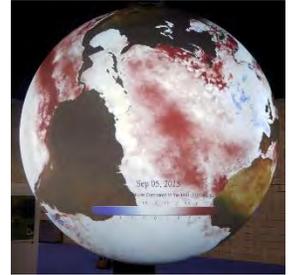
Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Sibley Barnette



From the Desk of Klaus Radtke, Ph.D. (U.C. Berkeley)
Wildland Resource Sciences
Fire-, Vegetation-, Watershed Management
Disaster Mitigation
www.firesafetyus.com <http://cmislr.org>
Klaus.wh.radtke@gmail.com (808) 230-1374



January 26, 2026

Aloha, Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

Re.: 2026 1-27 Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island.

I strongly support the petition by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka for an interim rule to stop the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) out of Kona by regulating the movement of high-risk materials within and from designated infested areas on Hawaii Island. This is a somewhat similar approach to what your Board already approved for Moloka'i in September 2025 in favor of which I had testified in person. However, I consider this just an interim approach to slow down the spread of CRBs. Visits to the Big Island and Kona convinced me that DAB/UH staff and K9 CRB-sniffing dogs, focusing on properties that they were permitted to enter, will not control the spread of CRBs as many mulch piles on private and public property remain to be inspected.

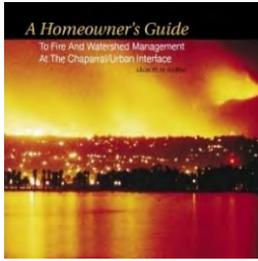
Oahu DAB field personnel had already told me last summer during our Waimanalo field trip that every mulch pile is a potential breeding ground, that it is impossible for DAB to do anything about it anymore, and that the community would have to come together to have a chance in controlling the CRBs/reducing their damage. But how?

To understand if and how much the extensive summer and fall drought could have impacted or at least slowed down the unstoppable spread of CRBs, two weeks ago we then investigated a mulch pile on one of the seven properties I had previously identified to DAB as being potentially uncontrollable breeding grounds in Waimanalo. We found it already infested with larvae in the 3rd instar stage as well as beetles taking to flight as we dug, indicating that the extended fall and winter droughts had not materially suppressed CRB development. Waimanalo as well as Oahu is now considered lost as they will remain uncontrolled breeding sites. If communities still want to save their palms, people must either inject the trunks with insecticides such as Merit or spray the crowns with One Guard or Pest Control Plus during the regular crown pruning cycles, but before CRBs are found and become established in their neighborhood.

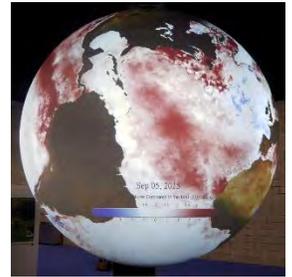
To at least slow down and hopefully contain CRB attacks on other crops such as Banana, Papaya, Breadfruit trees and Taro when palms become sparse, UV-lighted netting can be effectively used if maintained. Such netting attracts the CRBs with about half of them caught in the nets. Being active flyers in the early evening hours, perhaps another third can be readily collected as they hit the ground or other objects near the net, especially on dark nights when the UV-lit nets may be the only light source attracting beetles.

Did the CRBs not also spread so rapidly everywhere because DAB did not use/refused to use its Enforcement Compliance Agreement Powers to investigate green waste CRB infestations? In cooperation with agencies such as DLNR and DHHL, DAB must assure that the management of State of Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture leased land is not detrimental to or perhaps even endangers the livelihoods of neighborhoods and communities pertaining to invasive species such as the CRB.

Let us all work together for the common good.



From the Desk of Klaus Radtke, Ph.D. (U.C. Berkeley)
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Did the CRBs not also spread so rapidly everywhere because DAB did not use/refused to use its Enforcement Compliance Agreement Powers to investigate green waste CRB infestations? In cooperation with agencies such as DLNR and DHHL, DAB must assure that the management of State of Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture leased land is not detrimental to or perhaps even endangers the livelihoods of neighborhoods and communities pertaining to invasive species such as the CRB.

Let us all work together for the common good.

January 26, 2026

Testimony: SUPPORT Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

SUBMITTED TO:

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

SUBMITTED BY:

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

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

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

I am respectfully submitting the following testimony in **strong support** of 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.

Just as with Moloka'i, Hawai'i Island needs prompt support in protecting against the spread of CRB, this time within the island. Again, this community-driven effort marks a critical point in the state's biosecurity and fight against CRB.

Through our Community Coconut Project, Kaulunani has collaborated with Pōhaku Pelemaka to assess the uluniu at Ka'akepa (Puna) and we have been impressed with their in depth knowledge of coconuts and their dedication to protecting their grove as well as all groves throughout the state. Their leadership in this petition is notable and appreciated.

From conversations with those in our network of urban and community forestry professionals, we understand that community awareness and concern about CRB in Hawai'i is at an all-time high. Host plants threatened by CRB include coconut, loulu, banana, and kalo – cornerstones of Hawai'i's community forests and agricultural heritage. The mission of our program is to support

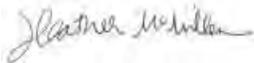
all of Hawaii's communities with a focus on equity to cultivate well-being and resilience through restorative and environmental justice, planting, caring for, and growing relationships with the trees and forests where we live, work, learn and play. As such, we are called to offer support to Hawai'i community members closely connected with coconut and other hosts of CRB.

Please do not continue to allow the movement of untreated host material. This is a critical inflection point to halt the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island. Your action now will have impacts for generations to come. Similarly, your inaction will have detrimental impacts for generations to come not just for traditional uluniu, but also food security generally, cultural practices, native species and our economy more broadly.

As your agency recognizes, the costs to prevent the spread and establishment of invasive species like CRB are drastically lower than long term CRB management and control. These costs are now shouldered by families, farmers, organizations, and agencies on O'ahu and Kaua'i. Hawai'i Island should not need to follow this trend.

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.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather McMillen
Program Coordinator
Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program



16 January 2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1423 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814

Re: Support 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,

On behalf of Hui Aloha Kiholo, 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**. Since 2007, Hui Aloha Kiholo has been an active co-steward of the 4,200+ acre Kiholo State Park, including culturally vital kūpuna coconut palm trees and groves that are over 150 years old and loulou descended from the coastal forests that dominated our shoreline before humans arrived here.

We understand that the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) population first detected in Hawai'i on the Island of O'ahu in 2013 has a genetic resistance to biocontrol measures employed on Pacific Islands that became invaded in the early 20th Century. We contend that toxic chemical methods of control are inappropriate for trees in close proximity to groundwater and sensitive aquatic ecosystems like anchialine pools and fishpond estuaries, in addition to harming native and naturalized pollinators vital for coastal vegetation health. Our Kona coast represents some of the highest densities of these globally significant and culturally vital habitats on earth. We cannot afford to scorch the water in pursuit of short term beetle remediation while ignoring the source of the infestation.

Although, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA) and its partners undertook efforts to control this invasive pest, they have not been effective at stopping the spread to our island and community. We have detected adult beetles in pheromone traps on private and Hawai'i State lands within the Kiholo State Park. At least one of these CRB detections was linked to a landscaping business transporting material from another area where beetles are present. Were it not for this introduction, the lava fields surrounding Kiholo might have prevented the beetle's arrival from other infested areas indefinitely. It is imperative that we halt the transport of beetles before larvae reach the leafy debris akin to mulch deep in the wild kiawe and hau forests that surround our roads, houses, and stewardship areas. If beetles make it to these lands, the fight to keep them from establishing a population Kiholo will be prohibitively expensive and labor intensive.

We are commenting on behalf of our Mission and the traditions of Kiholo. One of the areas we actively steward was fenced to exclude invasive animals, and we have been removing invasive plants there since 2009. Over the last 17 years, we have seen a healthy return of palms and other species prone to CRB impacts, including Hawaiian ceremonial coconut and hala trees. Our team works diligently 7 days a week to keep these areas free from invasive animals and these culturally irreplaceable plants have responded by dropping seeds that sprout into future trees.



Hui Aloha Kīholo

Our mission is to protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kīholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship.

For the past 18 months, we have begun to care for these vulnerable keiki in a makeshift nursery tent so they can be acclimated for future propagation in partnership with State Parks.

Not far from this kīpuka that is emblematic of a managed native Hawaiian coastal ecosystem is a grove of coconuts that was intentionally planted over 150 years ago to provide food and water to the caretakers of these ancient lands. These lands are now owned by The Nature Conservancy, our partners in the perpetuation of the traditional practice of coconut cultivation at Kīholo. This precious legacy is at risk.

If nothing is done, we will lose the life of these lands that so many have worked so hard to cultivate. We cannot afford to have CRB or any invasive pest destroy the hard work of thousands of hands for well over a decade. Losing these biocultural treasures will devastate not only our community, but the many volunteers, students, and hosted groups who have contributed to the health of place at Kīholo. This loss will continue to traumatize the native Hawaiian practitioners and rights holders from whom so much has already been taken. Sadly, this loss will further undermine trust in the government authorities who must be truly accountable for the lands, waters, and lifeforms upon which our island culture depends. We need decision-makers to take this as seriously as those who have kinship to the life that is at stake here, which can be difficult to understand for those who are not so closely connect to the ‘āina at risk.

While Kīholo’s rights holders carry a heavy weight of responsibility, it is our shared kuleana to ensure these plants survive to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture.

DOA must take action. We are ready, willing, and able to help, but we cannot do this alone.

We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct DOA to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to develop and implement interim rules that reduce the risk of new introductions of this pernicious pest to Kīholo.

Aloha,

[Your name / organization]

Respectfully Yours,

Chad Wiggins
Executive Director



27th. Jan, 2026
Agenda IV.B.1
Testimony of Support

Aloha e Chair Hurd & Members of the Board,

I am Taha'a H. Kahele a lineal descendant of Miloli'i Village one of the last fishing villages on the Island of Hawai'i (Moku O Keawe) It has come to my attention the growing threat of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) After seeing the aftermath of its spread devastating our coconut trees in Oahu. I fear that our island may be next on the beetle's devastating path. With our island still trying to recover the population of the native Lolu palms (*Prithcharida spp.*) The efforts may soon go in vain if these destructive beetles are not contained. They have also been seen eating Hala trees (*Pandanus Tectorius*) and Kalo plants (*Colocasia esculenta*) and could soon lead to devastating damage to our native crops and trees.

I come before you today **In support of this petition** for the initiation of administrative rulemaking for the prevention of the havoc this beetle is causing on our Island. These host materials pose a great threat to all of our native coconut and palm trees. While it is still fairly in North Kona. It is only a matter of a truck load of mulch or green waste making its way to the South. All it takes is just one beetle.

In my Village we have found numerous adult Lolu Palms that produce seeds for future generations of other Lolu. Thanks to the work of the Hawaii Wildlife fund native palm trees like the Lolu are given a chance to survive. In Miloli'i we also have many Coconut trees and are considered a delicacy and not only do they have historical importance to us as Wa'a (canoe) Plants that could be transported and used on voyages but they also carry a symbolic importance other than just a crop.

Many years ago Miloli'i was home to a large coconut grove, until Feb. 5th 1868 the day we call "La Elima" when a rogue tidal like wave which we call "Kaiminiki" tore through our village destroying our coconut groves. Moving our historic church inland. Today the peninsula where the grove was is now underwater, but serves as a reminder of what Miloli'i had. They say you can still see the placements of the coconut stumps underwater to this day. Thankfully no casualties were suffered that day. Now it is a longstanding tradition where we celebrate the anniversary of "La Elima." Even becoming a song written by Elizabeth Kuahaia & Kapolilaua'comakana then being made famous by the singer Auntie Diane Aki and Israel Kamakawiwoole. To this day we are reminded of those coconut groves as a testimony of the miracle in our village.

Although we have not been affected by CRB yet, it is only a matter of time before the leaves of our trees become misshapen and distorted. I urge you all with the utmost certainty to allow this petition to be approved today for the sake of our Coconut trees and Native Lolu Population. We as native Hawaiians have lost our country, our monarchy, our land, and many of our native species that once roamed and adored these islands from the Kauai O'o Bird to the Nehe plant. I plead with you all to not let another native species go extinct because of a problem that can still be stopped. I urge you all today to consider this petition and the ramifications of disregarding it. Do not submit another native species to extinction. Hawaii has lost enough and does not need another plant added to the extinction or endangered list.

"Tomorrow is too late, now is the time to act"

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony,

Taha'a H. Kahele

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

From Alesha Makuakane <ulu@recyclehawaii.org>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 8:44 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 Alesha Makuakane from Naalehu ,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.**

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

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.

Alesha Makuakane

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Me ke aloha,

Ulu Makuakane

Recycle Hawaii - EPA REO Grant Program Program Director

www.recyclehawaii.org

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

As ***Keepers of Kalāhuipuaʻa***, Piʻi Laʻeha, Danny Akaka Jr, Anna Akaka, Ethan Souza, and Kāhōkū Hurley¹, we are urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawaiʻi Island, as reflected in the petition put forward by Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka. Mahalo nui for your past actions in support of the Molokaʻi community, as they sought your help in protecting their island from the potentially devastating impacts of the CRB. Now, Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi Island without any regulatory oversight.**

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Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony,

Piʻi Laʻeha

Danny Akaka Jr

Anna Akaka

Ethan Souza

Kāhōkū Hurley

[EXTERNAL] coconut rhinoceros beetle

From Amaya Ranne <amayaranne@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:57 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.

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,

Amaya Ranne

Resident of Puna and student of Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Sciences

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

From Annabelle Le Jeune <alejeune@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:15 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 Annabelle Le Jeune from Kalihi, 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.**

We are seeing the devastation of CRB on O'ahu and now on Kaua'i, being managed by community initiatives that are under resourced and unsupported. We have an opportunity now to reconnect people with niu, to be part of the solution, and not the problem—but we have to act quickly.

"CRB is a fast-spreading invasive pest, but not the first or primary threat to coconuts. The beetle follows a long line of foreign impacts that cleared ancient groves for development and plantation farming, ornamentalized trees by castrating the coconuts for liability concerns, and separated people from their plant relatives and practices. Still, for many, Kumu Niu are more than trees; they are living ancestors holding intergenerational wisdom.

The greatest threat to coconuts is not just a beetle — it's people. CRB accelerates a pre-existing crisis. Introduced nearly 13 years ago, the beetle benefits from the extractive practices that began with colonization over two centuries ago."

Honolulu Civil Beat: [The Greatest Threat To Coconut Palms Is People](#)

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Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Annabelle Le Jeune
alejeune@hawaii.edu
(808) 369 - 6266

[EXTERNAL] Approve rules to curb spread of CRB please

From Andrea Anixt <andreapeatmoss6@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 4:11 PM

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

There are many testimonies that will explain why to approve as much curbing as possible from others;
I just want to emphasize that as a food source we need the coconut to survive on our vulnerable remote islands !

Mahalo,

Andrea Anixt

P.O. Box 646

Ka'a'awa, HI.

96730

[EXTERNAL] Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation

From Anela Hill <anelahill@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:26 PM

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

Anela Hill Haumana Of HAAS

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

From Angela Britten <angela.britten@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 4:31 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 Angela Britten from Kailua, Oahu, 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 Pöhaku 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.

I work in land conservation for a nonprofit with projects all over the state. CRB is becoming increasingly pervasive and has increased our costs of stewardship by 10% (that's over \$300,000 in 2025 alone) and has decreased our ability to properly work toward our mission goals.

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 inter island 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,
Angela Britten (808) 284-9919

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

From Anuheha Robins <crobins6@hawaii.edu>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:03 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 Anuheha Robins from Hilo, Hawai'i, 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 Pöhaku 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.

Anuheha Robins

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Anuheha Robins

Resource Management Associate

Center for Maunakea Stewardship

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Office: (808) 932-2421

[EXTERNAL] Testimony for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

From Arianie Pavao <apavao@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:54 PM

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

Arianie Pavao
Student at Hawaii academy of Arts & Sciences
Resident of Puna , Hawaii

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

From Avalon Paradea <avalonc@hawaii.edu>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 10:51 AM

To jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>; DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

My name is Avalon Paradea and 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 raised in Waikōloa and I have a master's in environmental science from UH Hilo. It is absurd to me that we do not have more serious biosecurity regulations within and throughout the islands. Curtailing the spread of CRB would set an example for stopping future pests from becoming a widespread menace. We must put our all into protecting this 'āina, and care for it just as it cares for us. 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. Please do what is right.

Mahalo,

Avalon Paradea
Waikōloa, Hawai'i

--

Avalon Paradea (they/them)

'Āina-based creative, steward, & educator

MS, Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science

www.avalonparadea.com

IG [@avalon.dawn.art](https://www.instagram.com/avalon.dawn.art)

Mālama 'Āina, Aloha 'Āina. All ways, always.

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

From Ayla Hansen <ahansen@connectionspscs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 8:58 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 ayla from mountain view, 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.

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

From Ayvah Yockeman <ayockeman@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:40 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; 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 (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 worked with Kukui and Hala trees and seeing what they can be used for like leis, medicinal practices, and bringing families together, are beautiful traditions.

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,

Ayvah Yockeman

Resident of Puna, Hawai'i, Class of 2027 at HAAS PCS



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, and Leila Kealoha, Pōhaku 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 Hawai'i Island

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

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges you to **APPROVE** the initiation of interim rulemaking as proposed by the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Moloka'i rules prohibiting the importation of CRB host material to that island. Regulatory action is now urgently needed for Hawai'i 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 O‘ahu, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i’s 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 ahupua‘a 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 Hawai‘i 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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, and Leila Kealoha, Pōhaku 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 Hawai'i Island

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

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges you to **APPROVE** the initiation of interim rulemaking as proposed by the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Moloka'i rules prohibiting the importation of CRB host material to that island. Regulatory action is now urgently needed for Hawai'i 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 O‘ahu, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i’s 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 ahupua‘a 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 Hawai‘i 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.

Jan 24, 2026

Hawaii Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819



RE: Jan 27 Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity Meeting Agenda Item IV B 1

Aloha Board members,

I am writing to express the support of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee for the proposed interim rule. This rule would introduce a compliance agreement program to the Big Island to regulate movement of potential host materials that could contain the highly destructive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB).

The Big Island had its first detection of CRB in Waikoloa in October of 2023. Through quick action on the part of multiple agencies, this population appears to have been eradicated before it could take hold. However, the detection in Kona in March of 2025 has not been so easily resolved. Unfortunately, the beetle has continued to spread since that first find at Kona airport. Within the first two weeks, it became apparent that CRB was present in the agricultural park across from the airport, where many businesses produce palm trees, potted plants, and decomposing material (mulch and soil) that is transported up and down the leeward coast to the many resorts, golf courses, and vacation communities - all of which offer well-irrigated landscapes replete with coconut palms. This is the nightmare situation for a CRB invasion: daily movement of potential host materials into areas well-stocked with their preferred food source.

In May, there was a confirmed incident in which CRB larvae were transported in mulch materials from a business in the Keahole Ag Park to a resort on the Kona Coast just north of Kua Bay. While that business voluntarily agreed to stop moving mulched material (as it was not a primary activity of their business), they and many other similar entities in the area continue to move palms and potted plants. We now know from two incidents of shipments to Lana'i this summer as well as countless anecdotes from Oahu residents that CRB larvae are colonizing the soil in potted plants.

We know they are able to utilize bagged mulch for breeding by simply tearing open the bags with their strong legs. In September, a dead CRB was found on the east side of Hawaii Island in a big box store. Subsequent investigation indicated that the beetle was most likely killed in fumigation in a shipment of bagged mulch from Oahu (showing the importance of that measure!). However, we learned from store employees that they regularly receive trucked shipments of potential host materials from their Kona store - which, as of this past summer, is now within the zone of known CRB presence.

While the voluntary order issued by the County at HDAB's request was important in the absence of any mandatory regulation, businesses cannot simply stop fulfilling orders and contracts for their clients with only a voluntary request. Large corporate chain stores will not change practices based on voluntary requests - they will, however, comply with state law and mandatory orders.

The petition submitted by HWF and Pohaku Pelemaka is very reasonably requesting interventions to mitigate the risk of moving CRB by commercial operations. It does not solve the entire problem of CRB on the Big Island, and nothing can ever be 100% certain, but these are common sense actions. Measures include training for all staff working in the CRB zone, so they are educated and empowered to be able to spot and stop suspect materials, and they are required to perform a careful inspection of the materials they are moving before shipment. They include ensuring that before any mulch or compost is moved, it is heated to a temperature that kills all CRB. Bagged mulch for sale at retail outlets is to be kept in a secure, beetle-proof storage from dusk to dawn, the time when beetles are flying in search of breeding material. These practices are the recommendations of UH researchers on Oahu as well as researchers, managers, and practitioners across the Pacific, some of whom have dealt with CRB invasions on their islands for many years.

In conversations with DAB staff over the last several months, we have been assured that DAB does not have the resources in place to implement a full quarantine. The proposed measures were modified from similar compliance agreements that were put in place by DAB(DOA) in 2022 on Oahu. We have come to understand that for that implementation, the Oahu-based CTAHR CRB Response Team took on much of the work of offering the required trainings, performing the spot checks of the mulch temperatures, providing troubleshooting advice to the businesses to help them come into compliance. BIISC has offered to take on this role (with the CRB Response team's support) to alleviate the strain on DAB resources, and we are working with our County to ensure that our team can be funded if no resources can be made available from DAB for this work.

We have seen that DAB has noted some items for rebuttal in their submittal. However, none of DAB's objections substantially oppose the underlying goal of the petition: to put in place some kind of measures to mitigate the risk of moving CRB in and around the Kona area. This is a critical step and waiting any longer is not an option. Often, Hawaii invasive species responses are compared to places like New Zealand and the continental US. Just last week, there were stories in the news of responses in NZ, Texas, and CA where hundreds of acres of agricultural land were put into total quarantines within one day after a single fruit fly was found. We are nearing a year since our first Kona CRB was detected, on March 3. We should not wait much longer to take some kind of measures to slow the continued spread of this insect.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions.

Warmly,



Franny Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu
(808) 933-3340

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

We, Kunani and Ipo Nihipali
of Ho'olehua Molokai urge
you to please **approve** the
initiation of rule-making to
prevent the **further**
devastation and
establishment of the 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 our Molokaʻi community, but now we ask your help in protecting their island, Moku o Keawe from the further devastating impacts of the CRB. Hawaiʻi Island needs your kokua, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in **north Kona 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.

We, especially of Molokai, were successful in the unprecedented Interim Petition to do exactly what our Ohana statewide supported us in accomplishing and we now ask for the same kokua put forward by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka. **Niu is our tree of life, and the irreversible establishment**

of the 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 our 'ike niu, the island's food security, cultural

integrity, other native species, and generally our 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 nunui for your consideration of our testimony.

Kunani a me Ipo Nihipali
Beneficiaries
Ho'olehua Molokai

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

From Bo Breda <bobreda@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:10 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

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

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

My name is Bo Breda from Pāhoā 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.

Bo Breda

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

From Breanne Fong <bfong4@hawaii.edu>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 8:56 PM

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

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

My name is Breanne Fong from Niu and Kaimuki, O'ahu, 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.

As someone who is continuing to learn and perpetuate Hawaiian culture and practices as well as 'āina restoration, it is imperative that we protect niu, which is crucial in both Hawaiian culture and the local ecosystem, as well as our food system.

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.

Mahalo,
Breanne Fong

[EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of a petition to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

From Brenna Lonergan <brennamarielonergan@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 10:10 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 Brenna Lonergan, 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.

Brenna Lonergan

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

From Cassandra Chee <cassandralchee@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 10:23 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 Cassie from Kalauao (Aiea), 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.

We have already seen the destruction of the CRB here in Kalauao at our farm at Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao. It is so painful to see our niu dying.

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.

Cassie



Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
January 27, 2026
9 a.m. Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Testimony in Support of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawaii Island

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support** of the **Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Implement an Interim Rule to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawaii Island**, agenda item IV.B.1. (Petition).

As noted in the Petition, CRB was first detected at multiple sites on west Hawaii Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park, in March 2025. Since that time, a large multi-agency response has been ongoing. Responding entities include the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), the County of Hawaii, CRB Response, the Big Island Invasive Committee (BIISC), researchers and staff from the University of Hawaii, and others. Examples of this response include:

- As of September 15, 2025, a total of 2,634 coconut and other palm trees have been treated on west Hawaii Island through trunk injections or crown treatments using boom trucks and drones.¹
- Multiple multi-partner efforts to fumigate and remove CRB breeding sites or host material from the Keāhole Agricultural Park, including, for example, an operation to fumigate and transport 144 tons of potential CRB breeding material that included HDOT heavy equipment and staff, staff from DAB, Hawaii County, HISC, BIISC, and private contractors.²
- Canine surveys to detect CRB in breeding material.
- A helicopter survey over Kona using high-powered cameras and GPS to detect potential breeding material and CRB activity.³
- The deployment of hundreds of CRB detection traps and the monitoring of these traps.⁴
- A massive public outreach campaign by Hawaii County, BIISC, CRB Response, and others.

¹ DAB CRB Map and Dashboards <https://biosecurity.hawaii.gov/coconut-rhinoceros-beetle/coconut-rhinoceros-beetle-map-and-dashboards/>

² <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/09/11/more-invasive-beetle-treatments-conducted-hawaii-island/>

³ <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2025/10/27/battle-to-beat-coconut-rhinoceros-beetle/>

⁴ BIISC CRB Detection Map <https://uhm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/375bb1cb2cd74596b23dc4a20419f210>

The full list of response actions to the CRB detections on west Hawaii Island would go on for pages. The response is an admirable, all-hands-on-deck response to control CRB on Hawaii Island, at an enormous cost of time and money.

Despite all the partner efforts, there has been no regulatory response to limit the spread of CRB-infested material across Hawaii Island. CRB can fly up to 2 miles,⁵ but they can move long distances when assisted by humans. CRB has been documented to move in green waste, palm plants, unopened bags of commercially packaged potting mix and soil,⁶ and the growing media of potted plants other than palm species,⁷ all of which are considered CRB host material.

Only DAB has the authority to restrict the movement of CRB host material. In recognition of this, Hawaii County issued a Voluntary Compliance Order for CRB Host Material, effective July 1 through September 30, 2025. The Voluntary Order requested residents and businesses to not transport CRB host material outside the area where CRB was detected. The County intended that the “voluntary compliance order is a precursor to a mandatory compliance structure that is being prepared by the HDOA.” However, HDOA (now DAB) did not implement a mandatory compliance structure, so in November 2025, the County renewed the Voluntary Compliance Order, now to expire on January 31, 2026.⁸

To address the lack of a regulatory structure, the Petitioners have proposed a compliance agreement and permit structure for the movement of CRB host material within and from the designated CRB infested area on Hawaii Island. The Petitioners propose a balanced approach that will require the use of best management practices to slow the human-assisted spread of CRB that can be tailored to individual businesses, hopefully keeping costs down while preventing CRB spread to other areas of Hawaii Island.

After reviewing the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) submittal for the Petition, including the nine points of challenges/questions set out beginning on page 4, we are delighted by how close PQB and the Petitioners are with respect to an appropriate regulatory response to contain/slow the spread of CRB on Hawaii Island. The nine points are discrete issues, most of which could be very quickly addressed with PQB’s guidance. We suggest the Board move the Petition forward to the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals for consideration and request that PQB staff consult with the Hawaii Department of Health and meet with the Petitioners before the next Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity meeting to address PQB’s concerns and any testimony received.

CRB was detected in west Hawaii Island in March 2025. Even if the Petition is moved as quickly as possible, it will be nearly a year since that detection before the proposed interim rule could be adopted, and initial implementation will take additional time. And, we are running out of time. As we have seen on Oahu and Kauai, a program of treatment without a regulatory response to limit the spread of CRB in host material does not work. Implementation of the

⁵ <https://www.crbhawaii.org/faq>

⁶ <https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/ad4379f4-d4f8-4b88-ac00-7beb89d1b7fc/content>

⁷ <https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/nr25-18-crb-lanai/>

⁸ <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/Home/Components/News/News/4277/720>

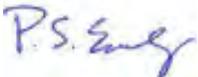
proposed interim rule, with changes to address PQB's concerns, could prevent CRB from reaching Hilo and beyond, protecting the rest of Hawaii Island from CRB impacts while researchers identify a CRB biocontrol agent and other effective treatments.

We hope the Board will initiate interim rulemaking, as requested in the Petition, and move the Petition forward to the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals for consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Martin".

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.S. Easley".

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

[EXTERNAL] Rule Making for Coconut rhinoceros beetles

From Charles Young <kealia.mauka@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 7:35 AM

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

Cc Charles Young <kealia.mauka@gmail.com>

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. My name is Charles Young and I reside in Kealia, Hawaii Island. I am writing this letter in support of initiating rule making to prevent the further establishment of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on Hawaii Island.

I am President of KUPA Friends Of Ho'okena Beach Park. Our organization has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hawaii County Dept. of Parks and Recreation to co-manage Ho'okena Beach Park. Our Park welcomes over 20K visitors and residents to camp and/or enjoy the only Park in South Kona that has a sandy beach. Our organization helps maintain the premises. The beach is lined with coconut trees which our organization planted over 15 years ago to provide shade and comfort for campers and beach goers. They are also a symbol that Ho'okena is a native village.

We ask that you please support these critical rules for compliance agreements for training, treatment and other best management practices before CRB how material be move from a known infested area.

Mahalo
Charles Young
PO Box 505
Honaunau, Hi 96726

[EXTERNAL]

From Chloe Takazawa Brigoli <ctakazawa@connectionspsc.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:44 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 Chloe from Mt. View, 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.

Chloe Takazaa-Brigoli

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

From Chris Ka'iakapu <agroforestry@eatbreadfruit.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:10 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 DAB,

I am writing in **Support** of 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.

My name is Chris Ka'iakapu, I am a kanaka maoli from Kaua'i, a coconut practitioner, and an agroforestry specialist with the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative. I am active in the fight against CRB on Kaua'i, but I have been witnessing the spread get worse very quickly since it arrived in 2023, and wishing we had implemented more stringent regulations regarding greenwaste and high-risk breeding material. The big island is a stronghold for the Ag industry and farming community in Hawai'i and plays the role of supplier for many goods and services relied upon on other islands. If this pest spreads throughout the island, it is not just coconut trees that will be impacted, but many other crops and beloved trees. It will undoubtedly affect many farming operations and add even more costs. The ripple effect will be felt throughout the islands even more if Big Island becomes widespread.

I applaud your past actions in support of the Moloka'i community. 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.**

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.

Me ka mahalo,
Chris



Chris Ka'iakapu
Agroforestry Manager,
Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative
(cell) 808-346-2762

~ *Hahai no ka ua i ka Ulula'au* ~
~ *Rain always follows the forest* ~

Expanding Agroforestry Project
ulu.coop@eatbreadfruit.com
@hawaiiulucoop
<https://eatbreadfruit.com/>

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

From Christian Moe-Wong <cmoe@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:40 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 Christian from Hilo ,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.

Christian Wong

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

From Chuck Chimera <cgchimera@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:43 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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.

As described in the Petition, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai'i on O'ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), in partnership with state, federal, and community collaborators, worked diligently to prevent its spread to other islands. Despite these efforts, CRB is now established and widespread on O'ahu, where it has caused extensive damage to coconut groves, hala, and endangered native palms.

For nearly a decade, DAB successfully prevented CRB from spreading beyond O'ahu. Unfortunately, this changed in May 2023, when CRB was detected on Kaua'i, where it is now widespread, and again in October 2023, when CRB larvae were collected in the Waikōloa Village area of Hawai'i Island. Following this initial detection, adult CRB were confirmed in the Waikōloa area in 2024. Since March 2025, CRB has been detected at multiple locations outside Waikōloa on the west side of Hawai'i Island, including near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park. These detections indicate ongoing spread and underscore the urgent need for action.

As a conservation professional of over 30 years, a former botany graduate student, and a longtime resident of Maui and now Hawai'i Island, I have dedicated my life to restoring native ecosystems. I have personally propagated and planted the very loulu palms, niu, and hala trees that CRB targets. I know these plants not as statistics, but as individuals I have nurtured. To see these trees succumb to this beetle would be a profound personal and professional loss—one I believe we can still prevent on this island.

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

While I recognize that controlling CRB after establishment is extremely difficult, the consequences of inaction far outweigh any temporary inconvenience or hardship this interim rule may pose to businesses or residents of Hawai'i Island. Immediate preventative measures are our last, best chance to contain this pest, protect our remaining palm resources, and prevent the irreversible ecological and cultural loss seen on our neighbor islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and thank you for your continued efforts to protect Hawai'i Island and the State of Hawai'i from the impacts of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and other invasive pests.

Aloha,

Chuck Chimera
Honokaa, Hawaii

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

From Cindi <cgpunahaole@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:18 AM

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

My name is Cynthia Punahaole Kennedy, and I am writing to urgently request approval to initiate rulemaking to prevent the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as requested in the petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Today, Hawai'i Island is in dire need for assistance. More beetles and breeding sites are being discovered in North Kona, while mulch and other high-risk CRB host materials continue to be moved from infested areas to other parts of the island without regulatory oversight. The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent. If the movement of untreated host material continues, this invasion will become inevitable. Your decision at this moment may be our last meaningful opportunity to prevent generations-long harm to Hawai'i Island's food security, cultural practices, native species, and local economy. Just as concerning, the widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island will dramatically increase the risk of the pest spreading to other islands through interisland transport of host material—placing all of Hawai'i at greater risk.

The requested rules are modest, practical, and preventative. They require compliance agreements, training, treatment, and best management practices before CRB host material is moved from known infested areas. These are reasonable safeguards that reflect responsible stewardship.

Time is of the essence. I respectfully urge you to act now and approve this rulemaking before this window of prevention closes.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's people, places, and future.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Punahaole Kennedy
Kalaoa Kona, Hawaii Island

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

From claire muskopf <claire.muskopf@gmail.com>
Date Sun 1/25/2026 4:10 PM
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, HI 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 in West Hawai'i, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

Protection of the sacred plants of Hawai'i should be taken as the significant kuleana that it is. As a hula practitioner I work with this plants throughout the year and the potential loss of them is a devastating thought. We have so many destructive parts of our ecosystem that are deeply entrenched. We need to take clear action BEFORE it's too late. The outer islands will never have the resources to manage CRB as Oahu will. Prevention, mitigation of spread and management of infestation are worth putting every ounce of energy into NOW.

What are we waiting for?

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.

Please avoid delaying any further in the confirmation of this rule and any further action possible to keep out plants available for our population.

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

Mahalo,

~Clairez Muskopf

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

From Clovis Perrin <cperrin@connectionspsc.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:39 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 Clovis from Puna Big Island HI, 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

clovis

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

From Cory <333cory@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 10:22 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 Cory Harden from Hilo.

Please **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.

Thank you for protecting Moloka'i in the past from CRB. Now please help my island, Hawai'i Island. Beetle and breeding sites are popping up in Kona, but material that could harbor CRB is being moved around our island with no precautions.

Coquis keep us up at night, fire ants sting us, strawberry guava is taking over our forests—have we not yet learned to do an ounce of prevention?

Mahalo,

Cory

Joseph Kern
PO Box 156
Honolulu, HI 96728
(808)756-7910
23 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. 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.

We know that voluntary restrictions on business activities don't work, from past failed efforts to keep incipient invasive species from becoming established or spreading in Hawai'i. 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,

Joseph Kern

Taylor Warner
PO BOX 927
MT. VIEW HI 96771
808-769-1078
1/22/26

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

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CRB needs to be managed. Niu, hala, and loulu are important to our culture and make Hawai'i Hawai'i.

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,

Taylor Warner, Hawai'i Island resident

Lehua Todero
Terraformation
PO Box 2869
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745
lehua@terraformation.com
01/16/26

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.**

I work for Terraformation, an organization that has been actively engaged in early detection and response efforts related to CRB. Detection traps were established at our baseyard, located within what is now designated as an "infested area" at HOST Park, approximately one mile south of Kona International Airport, prior to any CRB detections being reported in this area. Terraformation traps captured some of the earliest CRB individuals, occurring only days after initial detections were confirmed nearby.

Since that time, we have continued to regularly monitor detection traps and submit reports as required. Multiple CRB individuals have been captured in our traps to date, reinforcing the importance of early detection, consistent monitoring, and rapid reporting. In addition, Terraformation has implemented a range of preventative best management practices to reduce the risk of CRB infestation at our facilities. These measures include sanitation protocols, staff training, careful material handling, and multiple site visits by CRB detection dogs.

Based on our experience, BMPs are both effective and achievable. Many of the actions that reduce CRB risk are straightforward, low-cost, and easily integrated into routine operations when clear guidance and expectations are in place. Establishing standardized BMPs would provide landowners, organizations, and operators with the tools needed to meaningfully reduce the likelihood of CRB spread across islands and landscapes.

Without proactive and coordinated measures, CRB poses a serious threat to Hawai'i's native and cultural plant resources, including loulu palms and coconut palms, as well as broader agricultural and ecological systems. BMPs offer a practical and immediate pathway to slow the spread of this invasive pest while longer-term management strategies continue to be developed.

For these reasons, I strongly support the adoption of formal Best Management Practices to help control the spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and encourage

I am in full support of the proposed interim rule.

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,

Lehua Todero

Michael W Kyser Jr
Board President for Kahu Aina O Puna
15-2161 KAHOKUMAKA LOOP, PAHOA HI 96778
mikeypu1980@gmail.com
January 23rd 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 Native Hawaiian and an NHO along the southeast coastline of Hawaii Island in the ahupua'a of Pohoiki, we malama uluniu[Coconut Groves] among other sensitive bio and ecosystems. These uluniu and the practices of malama uluniu are an integral part of our culture, traditions and identity as Kanaka Maoli. Also I am a practitioner of niu hana noe'au specifically Ulana lau niu[coconut leaf weaving].

Since the introduction of CRB[Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle] on the Island of Oahu and witnessing the devastation and degradation of these old coconut groves as been disheartening to say the least, as niu is called the tree of life within not just our Hawaiian culture but other indigenous cultures around the world.

Through the practice of Kilo[observing one's surroundings] we have noticed other plant species being affected by CRB. CRB's diet consists of soft woods like Niu, Hala amongst other native and non-native species in Hawaii. CRB found in vegetables like cucumber were reported by farmers in Oahu which is the epicenter for the infestation running rapid in Hawaii today.

It is integral to the biosecurity of our ecosystems which are documented to be one of the world's sites for rare and endemic species.

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.

Aloha,

Michael W Kyser Jr

Testimony of Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i
Before the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3100

Re: Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai‘i Island- **PLEASE APPROVE**

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

We are the alaka‘i of ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i (“the Hui”), an organization of law student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For over 50 years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, especially those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, resource management, and environmental protection.

We are 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 effects of CRB infestation are detrimental to any hope for food sovereignty and to the traditional and customary practices of Kānaka Maoli.

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. The entire island of O‘ahu is considered infested and is an example of what happens to other islands if we don’t act with urgency. 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 inter-island 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.

Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

William S. Richardson School of Law | University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa



**‘AHAHUI
O HAWAI‘I**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha ‘Āina!

Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Nā Alaka‘i:

Kyle K. Moriguchi (‘26)

Bronson Gonzales (‘26)

Lenei Sousa Naipo (‘27)

Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong (‘27)

Ka‘ohi Gomera (‘27)

Kyson Kainalu James-Foree (‘27)

Justice Kaeo Castroverde-Moniz (‘27)

Kukui Akana (‘28)

Kalāmanamana Harman (‘28)

Sonny Dryden Kuehuikapono Seto Myers (‘28)

Kiana Kekoa (‘28)

Ellen LaPenna
92-1329 Prince Kuhio Blvd.
P.M.B. 469
Captain Cook, HI 96704

January 22, 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 (DAB) 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 time to take stronger measures to prevent further spread is now.

My personal concern as a citizen is heightened by my recent participation in a local stewardship program, Ka'ū Hoa Pili 'Āina. As I learned more about Hawai'i's ecological and cultural systems, I became more deeply concerned about CRB and how it will impact our ability to increase food security and maintain cultural bonds.

Coconut palms (niu), so emblematic of Hawai'i, sustain us through their nourishing water, oil and meat. They provide soil stabilization, shade and shelter. Traditionally the cornerstone of food security and cultural identity, these important trees are now frequently viewed as landscaping liabilities. Counties and resorts often remove fronds and flowers before they can fruit, weakening their immune system. This devaluing severs our connection to Hawai'ian culture and the abundance niu can provide.

Last year, the state Legislature rejected a bill to recognize niu as a traditional staple crop. Such recognition would require us to honor niu's cultural importance, not dismiss it as a troublesome

ornamental. Providing both food and clean water, niu's gifts can offer emergency sustenance on our remote islands, which are vulnerable to both climate shocks and shipping disruptions. The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle also attacks other palms, trees and crops, further undermining the health of our ecosystems. To deprive our children and grandchildren of niu's potential lifeline is to further deny them food security and a foundational link to their culture. I believe it's vital to take all reasonable steps to care for and protect this living ancestor, our tree of life.

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 all your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,

Ellen LaPenna
Na'alehu, HI

Joe Pryzdia (Garden Manager)
Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden
Email: JoePryzdia@amygreenwell.garden
Date: 1/22/2026

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

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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.

At the Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden (AGEG) located in Captain Cook, HI, the potential impacts of CRB are of pressing concern to our organization. Arrival of CRB to South Kona would devastate much of the Garden's conservation collection of critically endangered loulou palms (*Pritchardia* spp.), many of which are designated PEPP (Plant Extinction Prevention Program) species that have less than 50 individuals remaining in the wild. CRB would also impact a host of other plant species and indigenous Hawaiian crop varieties conserved in our living collections (e.g. niu, hala, kalo, kō, etc...). AGEG is the only repository in Hawai'i for many of these indigenous Hawaiian heirloom varieties and ensures they are conserved for future generations. Although the Garden has taken preventative measures in anticipation of CRB's arrival to South Kona, we are certain that these measures are potentially not sufficient to withstand these impacts. Also, as a non-profit organization with limited financial and personnel resources, we would expect these impacts to significantly strain and disrupt our organization's operations and service to our community. Therefore, the staff and board members of AGEG 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. It is imperative that comprehensive measures be taken in preventing further spread of CRB across Hawai'i and we at AGEg support adoption of this interim rule as a necessary biosecurity measure. With its adoption, we can protect the most vulnerable plant species in the Hawaiian flora from threat of extinction and prevent the widescale deterioration of Hawai'i's natural resources.

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,

Joe Pryzdia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Pryzdia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden

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

My name is Kumu Pieper, and I serve the Wai‘anae community through Hānai Kaiāulu, a youth-led nonprofit rooted in environmental stewardship, food security, and cultural restoration across Hawai‘i. I respectfully urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on Hawai‘i Island, as reflected in the petition submitted by Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your past leadership in supporting the Moloka‘i community as they sought protection from the potentially irreversible impacts of CRB. Today, Hawai‘i Island urgently needs that same protection. We are seeing more beetles and breeding sites emerging in North Kona, while mulch and other high-risk vectors continue to move freely from infested areas to other regions of the island without regulatory oversight. This gap places our ‘āina, food systems, and communities at extreme risk.

Through our Niu Restoration Project and community planting initiatives, our students and families work directly with coconut trees as living classrooms — learning about resilience, food sovereignty, cultural practice, and mālama ‘āina. Niu is not simply a tree; it is a foundation of Hawaiian culture, nutrition, medicine, coastal protection, and intergenerational knowledge. Allowing CRB to establish on Hawai‘i Island would undo decades of restoration work and threaten the ecological and cultural systems our youth are being raised to protect.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai‘i Island may be imminent — and inevitable — if the movement of untreated host material continues unchecked. Your decision may truly be our last opportunity to prevent long-term damage to food security, cultural integrity, native ecosystems, and the island’s economy for generations to come.

Further, widespread establishment on Hawai‘i Island significantly increases the risk of CRB spreading to other islands through interisland transport of host materials and goods, compounding the statewide threat.

I strongly support these modest but critical rules, which simply require compliance agreements for training, treatment, and best management practices before CRB host material is moved from known infested areas. These are reasonable safeguards that protect the public good while supporting responsible industry practices.

Time is of the essence. Mahalo nui for your leadership and your commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s future.

Me ke aloha

Mikala Pieper
Founder, Hānai Kaiāulu
Nānākuli, O‘ahu



Re: Agenda IV.B.1 – Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain / Slow the Spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on Hawai‘i Island

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

My name is Edwin “Ekolu” Lindsey, and I submit this testimony in strong support of the petition by Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka to initiate administrative rulemaking to contain and slow the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on Hawai‘i Island.

I offer this testimony as a Native Hawaiian and community conservation practitioner who works at the intersection of cultural stewardship, natural resource management, and nonprofit governance. I write with a deep sense of kuleana to protect the ‘āina, the people who depend upon it, and the generations who will inherit the outcomes of our decisions today.

The plants threatened by CRB are not simply landscape features or agricultural commodities. In Hawaiian culture, they are living relatives — providers of food, materials, ceremony, and identity. Species such as niu, hala, and loulou anchor coastal systems, support traditional practices, and define the character of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would represent not only ecological harm, but cultural and intergenerational loss.

The economic risks are equally significant. Palms and associated species support agriculture, nurseries, landscaping, tourism, and cultural landscapes across Hawai‘i. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai‘i Island would impose permanent costs on businesses, land managers, and public agencies, far exceeding the modest preventative measures proposed in this petition. Prevention at this stage is not only responsible stewardship — it is sound fiscal policy.

Of particular concern is the human-assisted spread of CRB through the movement of untreated host and breeding material. The continued transport of mulch, compost, soil, green waste, and palms from infested areas without consistent oversight creates an unacceptable risk, not only to Hawai‘i Island, but to every island connected through interisland commerce.

The proposed interim rules are reasonable, practical, and appropriately targeted. They do not prohibit business activity. They simply establish training, treatment, inspection, and best management practices before high-risk materials are moved from known infested areas. This approach reflects balance, science, and common sense.



Once CRB becomes fully established, eradication will no longer be realistic. The cultural, ecological, and economic losses will be permanent. This Board has a critical opportunity to act before those outcomes occur.

I respectfully urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking and move swiftly toward implementing these interim protections. In doing so, you will help safeguard food security, cultural practice, interisland biosecurity, and the long-term resilience of Hawai‘i’s communities and landscapes.

Mahalo nui for your service and your commitment to mālama ‘āina.

Me ke aloha,

Edwin “Ekolu” Lindsey

Lahaina, Maui



M. Johannes Seidel
Director,
Hawaii Forestry Operations
+1 808.333.4735

Terraformation Inc.
73-4485 Kahilihili St., Kailua-Kona,
HI 96740 (physical address)
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HI, 96740-1624 (mailing)

1/23/2026

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.

In my role as Director of the Hawaii Forestry Operation for Terraformation, I am concerned about the further spread of this pest. Since parts of our operation are located within the proposed quarantine area/past infection area, we have been in close collaboration with BIISC over the past several months (i.e. hosting and monitoring traps). As an organization utilizing compost (as a local source of growing media compared to bagged imports) and growing container plants (native and canoe crop) we are in support of the petition and requirements outlined in the Best Management Practices (BMPs). While we are already implementing most of the described BMPs we are looking forward to working on obtaining the proposed compliance documents to formalize our efforts and lead by example should this measure get into place.



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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 are working on the restoration of Hawaii's forests and landscapes for the next generations and are eager to do our part in minimizing threats from pests that undermine our efforts.

In my capacity as Director of the Hawaii Forestry Operation for Terraformation, I express my concern regarding the further dissemination of this pest. Given that portions of our operation are situated within the proposed quarantine area/past infection area, we have engaged in close collaboration with BIISC over the past several months, which includes hosting and monitoring traps. As an organization utilizing compost (as a local source of growing media compared to bagged imports) and cultivating container plants (native and canoe crops), we formally support the petition and the requirements delineated in the Best Management Practices (BMPs). While we are already implementing the majority of the described BMPs, we anticipate working toward obtaining the proposed compliance documents to formalize our efforts and demonstrate leadership should this measure be enacted.

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

We are dedicated to the restoration of Hawaii's forests and landscapes for future generations and are committed to fulfilling our part in minimizing threats from pests that undermine these critical efforts.

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

Mahalo piha,

M. Johannes Seidel

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

From Danielle Frohlich <dsfrohlich@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:23 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 Danielle Frohlich, and I live and work in Hawai'i as a botanist and invasive species specialist. I am writing to strongly urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as reflected in the petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

In my professional work, I spend a lot of time in the field documenting how invasive species spread, how quickly small problems become large ones, and how difficult (usually impossible) true eradication becomes once a species is established. I regularly encounter landscapes where early warning signs were missed, or action came too late: native species and agriculture impacted, management costs escalating, and communities left with permanent ecological and economic damage. Even with strong science and dedicated crews, containment and control are far more expensive and less effective than prevention.

I also see firsthand how invasive species move through everyday human activities: via soil on equipment, plant material, mulch, and other unregulated transport. These pathways are exactly what allow pests like CRB to expand quietly until the window for meaningful prevention has closed.

Mahalo nui for your past actions supporting the Moloka'i community as they worked to protect their island from CRB. Now Hawai'i Island needs that same decisive leadership. More beetles and breeding sites continue to be discovered in North Kona, while high-risk materials are still being moved from infested areas without adequate oversight. From an invasive species management perspective, this is precisely the moment when intervention can still change the outcome.

If CRB becomes irreversibly established on Hawai'i Island, the impacts will extend far beyond palms. Food security, cultural practices, native ecosystems, and the broader economy will all be affected for generations. Widespread establishment would also increase the risk of interisland spread through off-shipment and other transport pathways.

The proposed rules are modest, practical, and focused on prevention: requiring compliance agreements for training, treatment, and best management practices before host material moves from known infested areas. These proactive measures are exactly what successful biosecurity looks like.

Time is truly of the essence- once this threshold is crossed, there is no realistic path back.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and for your continued commitment to protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

Aloha,

Danielle Frohlich

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

From Boisvert-Jorgensen <infofordenise@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:48 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of the petition.

The time to stop rolling out the red carpet to invasive species is long overdue. They don't need your aloha!

For decades, and even centuries, it's been like a Wild West/Anything Goes mentality when it comes to the introduction of non-native species (intentional or not). These invasives, usually with no predators of their own, have been devastatingly destructive to Hawai'i's endemic flora and fauna.

Why does it take years and years of pleading to all the government decision-makers, despite being armed with an abundance of proof of the widespread damage caused by the invasives, to finally get the government's attention to put a critical issue on an agenda? And even then, time and again, decisions are deferred to the point when an invasive species is so established that it is often too late; or the decision made is in favor of corporate greed over the welfare of the environment.

Despite many pleas and volumes of testimony from hundreds of people and organizations since the CRB's arrival was first discovered, a statewide moratorium on transporting high-risk materials from a known infested area was never granted; so please, at the very least, for Hawai'i Island, require expert training for those who will be dealing with the materials being transported.

I'm optimistic that you will see the merit in the petition and will vote to initiate critical rules to help contain and slow the spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo,
Denise Boisvert
Honolulu

Please be kind enough to confirm receipt of this testimony.



SIERRA CLUB

HAWAI'I ISLAND GROUP

January 26, 2026

Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Quarantine
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

Re: Strong support for Agenda IV.B.1

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

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Island Group (HIG) urges the Department of Agriculture 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.

HIG supports educational, legislative, regulatory, and other means to restrict entry or to effect eradication or long term control of CRB in order to reduce their impact on the Hawai'i ecosystem.

CRB cause problems in Hawai'i in the following ways:

1. They invade, degrade, and destroy the native ecosystems of Hawai'i;
2. They reduce the profitability of agricultural endeavors;
3. They reduce the success of our botanical endeavors;
4. They attack and destroy native and cultivated plants alike;
5. They cause a heavy burden to a society slow to recognize the need for eradication or control;

Prevention or reduction of these problems involves:

1. An extremely high level of professionalism and dedication within the involved regulatory agency;
2. An enlightened community actively encouraging and supporting efforts of the regulatory agency;
3. An aggressive quarantine program;
4. Early introduction of control measures to alleviate damage from infestations beyond eradication;
5. An effective publication program to maintain support for needed action.

CRB control and eradication will require continuous effort and input to attain a cost effective level of success.

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.

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.

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 loa,
HIG Executive Committee

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

From Devon Aguiar <daguiar4@hawaii.edu>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 8:29 PM

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

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

My name is Devon Aguiar from Kea'au ,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 inter island 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.

Devon Aguiar

[EXTERNAL] Agenda item IV. B.1 CRB controls

From Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 7:41 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 Diane Ware from the Big Island. 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.**

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

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.

Diane Ware
Moku o Ka'u
P. O. Box 698

Volcano HI 96785

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

January 26, 2026

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

TO: Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

FROM: David Smith, Administrator 
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Testimony regarding BAB January 27, 2026, Agenda Item IV, B, 1, *Request for Review and Approval of the Petition from Megan Lamson, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, and Leila Kealoha, Pōhaku 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 for Measures to Contain or Slow the Spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island.*

The Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB) in beginning rulemaking to enact an Interim Rule aimed at containing or slowing the spread of CRB on Hawaii Island.

The County of Hawaii and DAB implemented a 90-day voluntary stop movement (VSM) order to reduce the transportation of materials likely infested with CRB eggs, larvae, and adults. However, the VSM was not entirely effective in preventing its spread from the primary breeding area in Kona, and CRB continues to be found farther from the main infestation. A mandatory order with penalties for non-compliance should be enacted to help slow the spread of CRB.

Loulu, the native Hawaiian palm tree (genus *Pritchardia*), is found nowhere else in the world. They are vital to ecosystems, culture, and identity in Hawai'i, and are being killed by the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on O'ahu and Kaua'i. They are also now under threat on Hawai'i Island. Endangered species such as *Pritchardia maideniana* and *Pritchardia schattaueri* are found only in West Hawai'i, where the ongoing CRB infestation is spreading. If this is not stopped, these loulu will be lost, leading to a catastrophic and preventable extinction of a native species that will impact the health of our ecosystems and culture.

DLNR urges the BAB to adopt an interim rule or declare a biosecurity emergency and enforce best management practices to prevent the spread of CRB before materials that may contain CRB are moved from infested areas to non-infested areas.

Without a required compliance agreement to control the movement of CRB-related materials, all palm trees on Hawaii Island are at risk of being affected like the palm trees on Oahu and Guam.

For these reasons, DLNR supports the petition outlined in Item IV, B, 1.

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

My name is Moana Ching. I am from Keauhou, Kona and currently live in Kaumana, Hilo. Please consider this testimony as demonstration of my firm support of the community group Pōhaku Pelemaka and numerous non-governmental organizations working desperately to stop any further ecological and economical damage caused by the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of 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.**

Hawai'i is widely known to be highly vulnerable to invasive species and has already suffered extreme loss of native and endemic plant and animal species due to unintentional, and sadly sometimes intentional, introductions. Time is not on our side, and the rapid spread of CRB on Hawai'i island is heartbreaking.

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.**

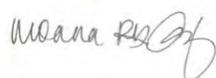
Notably, the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also exacerbate the risk of the pest being introduced and established on other islands, via the off-shipment of host material or other forms of interisland transportation.

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.

Aloha,



Moana P.K. Ching
uluching@gmail.com

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

From eduardo gandolfo <gandolfsea@hotmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:27 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 Eduardo Gandolfo from Kihei, 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.

mahalo nui loa,

Eduardo A. Gandolfo

Principal Broker
Maui Houses and Condos Realty
"excellence with aloha"
Certified Short sale and Foreclosure Resource Specialist
Green Realtor
GRI
Cell: 1.808.264.4733
gandolfsea@hotmail.com
2824 Ohina St., Kihei, HI 96753, USA

"IF WE WAIT FOR THE MOMENT THAT EVERYTHING IS READY, WE SHALL NEVER BEGIN" Ivan Turgenev

My clients deserve my undivided loyalty and priority scheduling. Therefore, I exclusively serve buyers and sellers with whom I have signed representation agreements.

Referrals are greatly appreciated. Please call me if a friend, family member or a neighbor is in need of my help.

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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

From Ethan Chang <change3@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 8:07 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 Ethan Chang from Mānoa, 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.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Aloha,

Ethan

--

Ethan Chang, Ph.D.

he/him/his

Associate Professor, Educational Administration

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

From Elijah Nota <enota@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:12 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 Elijah from Hilo, 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.

Elijah

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

From Elizabeth Lough <lougher@hawaii.edu>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 9:53 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Aloha,

I'm Elizabeth Lough from Big Island, 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.**

CRB is a huge threat to our native loulu palm trees as well as coconut palms. Both of which have great cultural importance. Coconuts are also a valuable food crop.

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.

Elizabeth Lough

[EXTERNAL] For an Overview of CRB Issue, Click here Aloha e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, My name is [your name] from [your home],and I am urging you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastati...

From Finley Waugh <fwaugh@connectionspsc.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:35 AM

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

[For an Overview of CRB Issue, Click here](#)

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

My name is [your name] from [your home],and I am urging you to **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.**

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

CRB will get rid of coconuts and i like coconuts

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.

[your name]

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

From Gabe Katz <gkatz627@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 8:01 AM

To jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>; DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

This is Gabriel Katz writing from Kailua-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.**

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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.

- Gabriel

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

From Gabriela Schneider <stereogab@gmail.com>
Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:48 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

Gabriela Schneider
PO Box 1239 Kappau, HI 96755
202-746-0439; stereogab@gmail.com
1/26/2026

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 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 in West Hawai'i, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

Preventing the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island is critical to avoiding long-term environmental and economic harm to our island's ecosystems, agricultural industries, and cultural resources. The devastating impacts already witnessed on O'ahu and Kaua'i demonstrate the urgent need for decisive action to protect the Big Island from similar destruction.

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 appreciate you responding to public input and the work of you and your staff on behalf of our community.

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

Mahalo,

Gabriela Schneider, North Kohala

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

From Hannah Rozendo <hrozendo@hawaii.edu>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 11:04 PM

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

Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Hannah Rozendo
Pāpa'ikou, HI 96781
22 Jan 2026

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 strongly support the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*)

Host Material on Hawai'i Island. Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in the on O'ahu in 2013. Since then, I trust that the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in the petition) and its partners worked diligently to prevent the spread of CRB. Unfortunately those efforts were insufficient and CRB is established and widespread on O'ahu, still destroying historic and subsistence ulu niu (coconut groves), hala, endangered palms, and other food crops. Until 2023, CRB was prevented from spreading to other islands of our archipelago, but in May of 2023 CRB was detected on Kaua'i. In the past 3 years, CRB is now widespread on Kaua'i with no promising treatment or mitigation options that don't compromise the nutritional value of coconut and other fruits.

October 2023 brought the horror of CRB to my home island of Hawai'i, when larvae were collected from Waikōloa. After that first detection on Hawai'i Island, adult CRB were found again in Waikōloa in 2024. Since March 2025, CRB adults and larvae have been detected and collected in increasing numbers at multiple sites on Hawai'i Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park. The most recent report I saw was over 100 grubs found in a single mulch pile earlier this month. Considering that an average number of larvae developing from a single mother is 7 (conservatively), and a mature male and female beetle are required to produce fertile eggs, quick math tells us that there are (again, conservatively) at least 28 adult beetles nearby this single mulch pile to create a "nest" of 100 developing larvae.

Niu (coconut) are the tree of life in the tropics and are a multipurpose resource that sustain people's livelihoods. Professionally I am an ecologist, with experience researching both beetles and niu. I have read, heard, and seen successful CRB management strategies employed on other Pacific Islands and believe that we can manage CRB effectively in Hawai'i. The Hawaiian archipelago is uniquely vulnerable to invasive pests and yet has remarkable research institutions and records of successful management, such as the wiliwili gall wasp, eradicating pampas grass, strawberry guava scale, and Queensland longhorn beetle nematode all on Hawai'i island.

I passionately 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 relentless efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and our archipelago.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Hannah Rozendo

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i 96740

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCILMEMBER

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

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

January 22, 2026

Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity:

Thank you for the opportunity 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 Waikoloa Village area of Hawai‘i. After the initial detection on Hawai‘i Island, adult CRB were detected in the Waikoloa area in 2024, and since March of 2025, CRB was detected outside the Waikoloa area at multiple sites on West Hawai‘i Island, near the Kona International Airport and within the Keahole Agriculture Park.

By preventing CRB from spreading further across Hawai‘i Island stakeholders aim to preserve culturally and ecologically important plant species, protect agricultural and landscaping resources, safeguard traditional practices, and reduce long-term economic and environmental costs.

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.

Preventing the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle across Hawai'i Island is not solely a matter of pest management; it is an act of stewardship. *Niu, loulu, and hala* are more than plants—they are living foundations of Hawai'i's cultural identity, ecological integrity, and community resilience. Once CRB becomes widely established, the loss is irreversible, and the cost—culturally, environmentally, and economically—is borne for generations.

Containment efforts require shared responsibility among residents, cultural practitioners, landowners, visitors, and agencies. By limiting the movement of palms and organic material, reporting suspected beetle activity, and supporting coordinated response efforts, communities can help protect native ecosystems and culturally significant landscapes.

Ultimately, stopping the spread of CRB is about safeguarding Hawai'i's future by honoring its past ensuring that these plants, and the knowledge and practices tied to them, remain healthy and present for generations to come.

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Villegas', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rebecca Villegas

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

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

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:43 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

1 attachment (97 KB)

2026 Hawaii Island Interim rule CRB_Testimony_McMillen.pdf;

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

Please find attached testimony in strong support of agenda IV.B.1.

Thank you,
Dr. Heather McMillen

Heather L. McMillen, Ph.D.
Urban & Community Forester (ISA Certified Arborist WE-12583A)
Hawai'i Division of Forestry & Wildlife
[Kaulunani Urban & Community Forestry Program](#)

808.286.7218 (cell)



[EXTERNAL]

From Heaven Leigh Publico Lee <hepublico@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:49 AM

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

AgendaIV.B.1-

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

My name is Heaven Leigh Mele Darolyn Publico-Lee from Waiakea Uka, 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.
Heaven Leigh Mele Darolyn Publico-Lee



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
PO Box 180 1
Kealahou, HI 96750



**PŌHAKU
PELEMAKA**

Pōhaku Pelema
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pāhoā, HI, 96778

January 24, 2026

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board,

The petitioners have reviewed the Submittal provided to the Board, and would like to address the bullet points in this testimony. As stated in the Submittal, "The PQB generally does not dispute the information provided by the Petitioners in support of the Petition and agrees with the premise of using a compliance agreement or permit as a potential means of slowing the spread of CRB." We feel very strongly that there is no justifiable reason to prevent the Petition from initiating rulemaking on the interim rule or to delay the start of progress on this matter any longer, and that the details can further be clarified by the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals or by the Board at final consideration.

Please see our responses below in *italics*. Mahalo for your attention to this very important matter.

Submittal Comment, page 4: The PQB generally does not dispute the information provided by the Petitioners in support of the Petition and agrees with the premise of using a compliance agreement or permit as a potential means of slowing the spread of CRB. It should be noted that a similar agreement was previously implemented on O'ahu that unfortunately did not appear to have a significant impact on CRB's spread throughout the island. Additionally, a majority of the provisions in the proposed compliance agreement originate from the original compliance agreement used on O'ahu and some provisions are not current/applicable to West Hawai'i Island. Some of the challenges/questions with the proposed interim rule and compliance agreement are listed below:

Petitioners' Response: The original compliance agreement program under Interim Rule 22-1 was implemented on O'ahu for one year, from July 2022 through June 2023, beginning nine years after CRB was first detected on the island. Our understanding is the roll out and training under the program during that year were successful and well-received by industry and the public. We are unaware of any data collected or analyzed about the effectiveness of that interim rule. We strongly believe if the compliance agreement program had been implemented earlier, before CRB had spread across the island, it would have contained/slowed the spread of CRB on O'ahu. Further, we believe if the compliance agreement program had been implemented for longer than one year on O'ahu, it could have suppressed CRB populations on O'ahu, which in turn would have better protected other islands of the State.

- Submittal Comment, page 4: The lack of comprehensive surveying to determine the actual areas that should be deemed infested or not. While the Petitioners have identified a specific area that was previously utilized, quarantine restrictions optimally should be limited to known infestations to minimize the impacts to both stakeholders and regulators.

Petitioners' Response: BIISC currently tracks nearly 500 pheromone detection traps on the Big Island, 360+ of which are in and around the infested area. The numbers of trapped beetles in various areas are the best indicators available with current methodology to determine the presence/absence of CRB in an area. Each month, the delimited area grows larger as beetles are found in new locations (where traps previously indicated no beetles just a few short months ago). The longer we wait on implementing meaningful efforts to stop the movement of CRB, the more potential there is for additional spread. At some point, we have to decide to act on the data that is available, not delay action simply to gather more data.

- Submittal Comment, page 4: The proposed interim rule seeks to impose restrictions from and within an infested area. Historically, when a quarantine is enacted, restrictions are placed on commodities leaving the infested area, not within it.

Petitioners' Response: This compliance agreement proposal is similar to and modeled after the interim rule 22-1 in effect from July 2022 to June 2023 on O'ahu, which designated the entire island as an infested area, and required many of these same BMPs from businesses throughout that infested zone. It is also

modeled on current section 4-72-23, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), which requires DAB to regulate the movement of CRB host material from and within O'ahu. The proposal is not asking for a quarantine, which the Department has many times stated is not possible.

For reference, section 4-72-23(d) HAR provide the following language which is very similar as the restriction proposed in section IV. of the Proposed Interim Rule:

“(d) Except as provided in subsection (e), no person may transport coconut rhinoceros beetle host material from a coconut rhinoceros beetle infested area to a coconut rhinoceros beetle restricted 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, or export CRB host material within a coconut rhinoceros beetle infested area except [list of similar but not the same exceptions as the Petitioner's proposed interim rule.]”.

The intent of the Petition is to suppress populations of CRB within the infested area and limit the human-assisted spread of CRB to outside the current infested area. Further, CRB host material moves from within the infested area to outside the infested area, so it is a sensible approach to regulate both within the infested area and transpiration from the infested area.

- Submittal Comment, page 4: Conflicts in requirements, such as in Section 2 of the compliance agreement that disallows the transport of CRB host palms if any CRB life stage is found or have signs of feeding damage, but movement is allowed if subjected to a treatment that eliminates all CRB life stages.

Petitioners' Response: Subparagraphs a., b., and c. of Section 2. paragraph 2. are intended to be read as alternatives. A participant may not move a CRB host palm if it: a.) is infested with CRB, or b.) shows damages of CRB infestation, unless it is c.) subject to an approved treatment or moved under appropriate safeguards. For extra clarity, “or” could be added at the end of each subparagraph.

- Submittal Comment, page 4: The requirement to issue a permit for every noncommercial movement of CRB Host Material subject to appropriate treatment or mitigation. This is extremely burdensome from a regulatory standpoint. For example, the language in the proposed interim rule appears to require a permit for anyone to conduct composting at their residence.

Petitioners' Response: This is not the intent of the proposed interim rule. The intent is to prevent the human-assisted spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island. Again, the proposed interim rule is modeled closely on the existing section 4-72-23 HAR which includes this same language. One approach to address this concern is to modify the proposed interim rule to add a general exception under section IV from the permit requirements for small amounts of CRB host material transported, received, or processed by an individual, on a noncommercial basis, as follows:

“(8) Small amounts of CRB host material transported, received, or processed by an individual, on a noncommercial basis, as exempted by the Department.”

- Submittal Comment, page 4: Inconsistencies in requirements for transportation, such as allowing visual inspection of potted CRB host palm root balls but not explicitly allowing the same for all other potted plants, which are lower risk.

Petitioners' Response: Section 4: Movement of Potted Plants of the proposed compliance agreement allows for visual inspection of potted plants by Program trained participant staff. There is additional flexibility for wholesale sellers that ship potted plants outside the restricted area.

- Submittal Comment, page 4: Allowing the movement of CRB Host Material that was removed from a living plant within 30 days. Fresh cut coconut stumps have been found to be highly attractive to CRB. This is likely the same for other coconut plant parts.

Petitioners' Response: This requirement was taken directly from the compliance agreements previously issued and implemented by the Department in 2022 on O'ahu. If the Department has since developed a different approach that would resolve this issue, or would like to add additional restrictions for coconut stumps, we welcome that addition.

- Submittal Comment, beginning page 4: Inconsistencies in the application of preventing the reinfestation of CRB Host Materials. For example, completely processed compost can be stockpiled for up to four months, but there is no requirement to ensure it is not reinfested or retreated. Another example is in Section 3, where there is a requirement to treat green waste immediately if it is to be stored and the storage needs to be in a CRB-proof container which must be continually sealed, but if it is going to not be stored

and just transported, so long as it is subjected to a valid treatment 48 hours prior to transportation, there are no other requirements.

Petitioners' Response: The requirements in the proposed compliance agreement for stockpiling at processing/receiving sites are similar to those in -the compliance agreements previously issued and implemented by the Department in 2022 on O'ahu . Further, to clarify, if stockpiled CRB host material processed under section 5 of the proposed compliance agreement will be moved from the processing site, then the best management practices for transporting CRB host material in section 3 of the proposed compliance agreement would apply to that material. We welcome additional suggestions from the Department on best management practices to ensure any processed CRB host material that is moved out of the CRB infested area is free of CRB.

- Submittal Comment, page 5: Section six requires all green waste to go to certified composters within 30 days. PQB is unsure if the composting facilities within the proposed infested area are able to actually meet that requirement as they are likely limited by Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) Solid Waste requirements limiting volumes.

Petitioners' Response: Since July of 2025, PQB has advised the County of Hawai'i to include this recommendation in the Voluntary Stop Movement order. We believe a similar requirement is appropriate for the mandatory compliance structure proposed by the Petitioners.

- Submittal Comment, page 5: PQB is concerned that the proposed requirements regarding the definitions of "processing" green waste, including the definitions "Facility" and "Transfer Station" which are found in HAR §11-58.1, Solid Waste Management Control, may have different interpretations and/or regulatory requirements from a DOH standpoint and PQB needs clarification from DOH to ensure that the proposed requirements of this interim rule do not conflict or otherwise impede DO H's existing regulatory authority for "Solid waste management" which is defined as "the systematic administration of activities which provide for the collection, source separation, storage, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste." Also, HAR §11-58.1-04 appears to require permits for a solid waste management facility with limited exceptions, and HAR §11-58.1-41 is regarding composting facilities and details the requirements for construction and an operation, including design requirements such as "Nuisance, health, and safety control. Design methods to control litter, insects, odors,

and vectors. Develop a fire plan to prevent and minimize fire hazards. The transfer station shall maintain a neat and orderly appearance and must be screened and buffered to minimize nuisances to neighboring properties.

Petitioners' Response: The proposed interim rule is intended to authorize DAB to regulate CRB host material to contain/prevent the spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island, not to regulate solid waste management. The terms mentioned above in the proposed compliance agreement are taken from the Compliance Agreement to carry out Interim Rule 22-1 in effect for O'ahu from July 2022 to June 2023. We are unaware of any concerns raised by HDOH during that 1-year period. The Petitioners would welcome input from HDOH to improve the compliance agreement or clarify terminology.

Again, we appreciate your attention to these responses, and do not feel that the submittal comments are substantial enough to postpone this process. We urge the Board to move forward.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Post Office Box 1801, Kealahou, Hawai'i, HI 96750

Celebrating 30 years of protecting Hawai'i's native wildlife through research, education and conservation.

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 Hawai'i Island

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

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) would like to provide additional facts and testimony in addition to the information which you have received in the petition.

First and foremost, HWF would like to acknowledge the nine points addressed in the Submittal. We appreciate that PQB did such a thorough read of the petition, however, as is evident in the testimony which you received from HWF and Pōhaku Pelemaka addressing these points, we encourage you to recognize that none of these points are substantive, and all can be addressed during a Board meeting or through the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals. We were encouraged to read that the proposed interim rule is very closely aligned with the reviews provided by PQB, and are confident we can all work together to make a successful rule that will be implemented immediately.

While we did consult with experts when coming up with the compliance agreements, the petitioners acknowledge that there may be some areas where our proposed measures appear amateur or demonstrate a lack of awareness of conflicts. This is because we are amateurs - it is not within the practice of our organizations to regulate businesses. Our organizations work to protect natural resources actively in the field, not implement legal requirements for commercial enterprise! We have stepped into this space because of the lack of action from the state agency for which this is a mandated role. We hope that beyond simply pointing out small errors in our suggestions, the PQB - which does have this kuleana - is actively working on proposed rewrites that will resolve those issues.

As you are likely aware from all of the information you have received from over a decade of CRB invasion on O'ahu and over a year of this biosecurity threat on Hawai'i Island, the ecological stakes of the invasion of CRB on this island are exceptionally high. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund is extremely concerned about the fate of endangered loulou on Hawai'i Island. Because loulou are the second most-preferred food source after coconut palms, Hawai'i Island's loulou species are being immediately threatened by damage caused by CRB. Unfortunately, CRB has already been found damaging planted loulou in the infested area, and adult beetles have been caught in areas that are outplanting sites for endangered loulou species. We have watched our colleagues and friends on O'ahu face devastating decisions. They have witnessed founder loulou palms succumb to CRB damage, and have had to face the unthinkable: making difficult triage decisions about which species' genetics to preserve, and sending bare root seedlings overseas to

mainland zoos and botanical gardens. This means some individual palm's genetics will continue to live on in the future, while others will not. This is essentially the equivalent of deciding who in the family is able to continue to pass on their genes to future generations, and who will ultimately face their demise. It is heartbreaking, but worse still is the fact that **there are measures that could have been taken, and we should not wait to take steps to prevent Hawai'i Island from being in the same position as O'ahu.**

Voluntary compliance agreements can only go so far, and are limited in their ability to enact meaningful restrictions. Moreover, they were presented as only a short-term measure to allow DAB to come up with longer-term mandatory restrictions. However, eight months into Kona's invasion and with no mandatory regulation yet proposed by DAB, these voluntary compliance agreements seem to have been a wasteful "buying time" scenario with no apparent solution in sight. Replacing one voluntary compliance agreement with another is not a proactive method to contain the spread of CRB, it is in fact the opposite: sitting idly and complacently, watching the spread continue to expand. Why was no mandatory compliance rule ever issued? Private citizens should not have to do the work of DAB. Instead, they should be proud of how the State steps up to stop a biosecurity hazard quickly and effectively. As it currently stands with no enforced regulatory practices, CRB will spread across Hawai'i Island. When that happens, DAB will have to recognize that because of their lack of response on this matter, the wildlife and people that call this island home will be forced to live with their poor (or lack of) decision making.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund has worked diligently to protect Hawai'i's native wildlife for 30 years through research, education, and conservation. And we understand that to be successful in doing so, there are countless challenges that make this work some of the most difficult to do. We also understand that DAB is faced with similar difficulties. However, our island community needs your help as we face this imminent threat together. We will be supportive of DAB's efforts to stop the spread of CRB. But such action needs to happen immediately before we lose key species that are integral to our community, our culture, and our ecosystems. We are confident that taking immediate action is the only pathway forward to prevent this preventable crisis.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund urges 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 proposed rule simply requires that businesses operating within the infested zone enter into compliance agreements with DAB to implement Best Management Practices, including staff training, heat treatment of materials, regular inspections, and proper storage protocols. This rule does not call for a full quarantine or for business to cease operations. These are common-sense measures that will allow businesses to continue operations while preventing the catastrophic spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island. Every day without enforceable regulations increases the risk of losing irreplaceable native species and culturally important palms forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island. We look forward to working together on this very important biosecurity matter.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannah Bernard".

Hannah Bernard
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Lamson".

Megan Lamson
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodie Rosam".

Jodie Rosam
Plant Program Manager

'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina
P.O. Box 1074
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772
iewehanau@gmail.com



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

Re: Agenda Item IV-B-1: 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,

Please consider this testimony in 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.

'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina is a small, Ka'ū-based non-profit that focuses on preserving and protecting Ka'ū's natural and cultural resources including, but not limited to, iwi kūpuna, honu, nēnē, open space, water quality, native/endemic species, and cultural traditions. Our mission is threefold: to *protect the cultural practices, natural resources, and beauty of Punalu'u and other wahi pana of Ka'ū*; to *minimize the impact caused by overuse of the natural resources of Ka'ū*; and to *perpetuate traditional and customary practices of Ka'ū*. We achieve our mission through education, research, advocacy, and litigation.

*‘Iewe Hānau O Ka ‘Āina
P.O. Box 1074
Nā‘ālehu, HI 96772
iewehanau@gmail.com*



Being a Ka‘ū-based non-profit, we strongly support the adoption of an interim rule to mitigate the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island, and especially to Ka‘ū. Ka‘ū is home to historic coconut groves, remaining loulu founders, and many kānaka who utilize species that are negatively impacted by CRB. DAB has an opportunity to slow the spread and contain this highly invasive species on Hawai‘i Island. Not adopting this interim rule will directly affect native species and traditional Ka‘ū lifeways. It is an immediate threat to the livelihood of the people of all forms that are from this ‘āina.

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.

Mahalo for the work that you do, and for taking action before it is too late.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nohealani Ka'awa'. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nohealani Ka‘awa, President

[EXTERNAL] Student Testimony

From Isaiah <jackx2kai11@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 10:22 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 Isaiah Kai Strboya. I am from **the town of Waimea on Hawai'i Island**, and I urge 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 the 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.

I personally hate (CBR) because they aren't helpful to us or the environment. They eat important crops such as Pineapple, Coconut, Sugarcane, and Taro while destroying many others. We also can't afford to let this happen, given that we are isolated from the mainland and that our crops are even more valuable to our residents.

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 inter-island 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.

Isaiah Kai Strboya

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

From J. B. Friday <james.b.friday@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 10:10 PM

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 Host Material on Hawai'i Island. I am a professional forester who has worked across the Pacific. I have seen the devastation CRB has caused on Guam. I have more recently seen the conditions of coconut palms on windward Oahu. We can still control them here on the big island, but we need your support. The beetles can't fly very far, but they move in mulch and other organic matter. Limiting transport of CRB breeding material will limit their spread across the island.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

J. B. Friday, PhD

--

J. B. Friday
1416 Kilikina St
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Life is like riding a bicycle - in order to keep your balance, you must keep moving.

- Albert Einstein

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

From Jana Ireijo <janaireijo@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:41 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

My name is Jana Ireijo, and I urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles on Hawai'i Island, as requested by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo for your past support of Moloka'i as they worked to protect their island from CRB. Now Hawai'i Island needs that same protection. Beetles and breeding sites are being found in North Kona, and high-risk materials like mulch are still being moved from infested areas without oversight.

If untreated host material continues to move freely, the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island feels imminent. This would have long-term impacts on food security, cultural practices, native species, and the economy. It would also increase the risk of CRB spreading to other islands.

These proposed rules are modest and practical. They ask for training, treatment, and best practices before host material is moved from known infested areas. Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for considering this testimony.

Jana Ireijo

Artist & Environmental Storyteller

Creator of Vanishing Murals with Wildfire Charcoal, Earth & Ocean

Bridging Art, Ecology & Emerging Tech

 www.vanishingmurals.com | IG: @janaireijo

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

From Janice Glennie <palmtree7@earthlink.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:18 PM

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

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

I'm a 40-year Kona resident. I'm a wholesale plant nursery owner and landscape designer. The invasion of pests into our island ecosystems has changed *everything* about our industry and only for the worse. That's why I implore you to support rulemaking to prevent coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) from making inroads into our Hawai'i Island as per the petition initiated by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo for your support of the Moloka'i community in stopping CRB establishment there. We look forward to saying the same to you after you help insure that rules are made to stop this invasion NOW.

Mahalo in advance for using your power and integrity to do the pono thing. Help rid our islands of CRB.

Best regards,

Janice Palma-Glennie

Keauhou Gardens and Irrigation

P.O. Box 4849

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96745

Tel#808-324-0093

Cell#808-989-3549

www.keauhougardens.net

Jennifer Tamaariki
151 Kole St, Hilo HI
(808)765-5584
January 22, 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 detrimental effects to our loulou populations and other native species will be devastating to our native ecosystems throughout the island of Hawai'i. Conservation efforts that have taken place for decades in a state with the highest extinction rate of native species in the nation would be devastated by the serious threat this beetle poses.

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.

Aloha,

Jennifer Tamaariki

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1

From Jessica Kakelaka <jkakelaka@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 4:48 AM

To jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>; DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

My name is Jessica Kakelaka from 'Āhuimānu ,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.**

Do the right thing for our community and future communities.

Mahalo piha.

Sent from my iPhone

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

From Jim Albertini <ja@malu-aina.org>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:12 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 Jim Albertini from Ola'a (Kurtistown) on Hawaii Island. I have been a farmer here for 46 years. I planted 100 coconut trees on our farm in 1981. I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rule making 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.**

Over nearly 5 decades of farming here on Hawaii Island, I've seen invasive species -- one after another getting established and causing great damage to agriculture. The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) now poses a major threat.

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.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu Aina Farm

1/22/26

Our farm has served as an emergency food pantry since 1981, long before a Food Bank was established. Puna is the poorest district in the State. Our farm has served as an emergency food pantry with the Hawaii Island Food Bank/Basket since 1989.

--

Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760
Phone 808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org Visit us on the web at www.malu-aina.org

[EXTERNAL] Testimony_HWF and PP_Agenda IV.B.1

From Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 5:56 AM

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

Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>; Megan Lamson <meg.hwf@gmail.com>; Leila Kealoha <leila@pohakupelemaka.org>

 1 attachment (329 KB)

HWF_PP_Submittal Responses.pdf,

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board,

Please see the attached testimony which addresses the points raised for clarification in the Submittal. We are confident all of these points can be addressed and the rule making process can continue in a timely manner.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this very important information.

Aloha,

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka

Jodie Rosam

Plant Program Manager

HAWAII WILDLIFE FUND

PO Box 1801, Kealahou HI 96750

<http://www.wildhawaii.org/>

debris hotline 808/769-7629

cell 808/987-8681

[EXTERNAL] Testimony_HWF_Agenda IV.B.1

From Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>
Date Mon 1/26/2026 5:50 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Megan Lamson <meg.hwf@gmail.com>; Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (285 KB)
HWF_Testimony_CRB.pdf;

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board,

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) would like to submit the attached testimony in **support** of the Petition put forth by HWF and Pōhaku Pelemaka. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this very important biosecurity matter.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,
Jodie Rosam & Megan Lamson

Jodie Rosam
Plant Program Manager
HAWAII WILDLIFE FUND
PO Box 1801, Kealahou HI 96750
<http://www.wildhawaii.org/>
debris hotline 808/769-7629
cell 808/987-8681

[EXTERNAL] CRB Petition TESTIMONY

From Joe Roderick <jrhlinc@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 12:30 PM

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

Aloha to whom it may concern.

I am a landscape contractor, nurseryman and farmer located in the Keahole Ag Park, Lease S-4684. My entire livelihood is solely dependent on my business operations on and from this land.

I would like to provide testimony in opposition to the proposed petition to restrict the transportation of CRB host material and offer alternative ideas for CRB eradication.

- This petition is far too broad and will have major negative economic impacts to the Agriculture/ Horticulture industry and the Hawaii Island Community as a whole. The ag businesses located in the proposed restricted area will immediately shut down and the employees of these businesses will lose their jobs. These employees won't simply be able to find new jobs. Hundreds of families will be severely disrupted, they will likely lose their homes and have to move away.
- This petition would also affect several resorts along the Kona and Kohala Coast. These resorts are major contributors to our community. They provide a customer base that supports the Ag/ landscape industry. These resorts and residents need to be able to dispose of large amounts of green waste and these customers are a major source of income to our businesses through new landscape installation, gardening services and plant sales. All of this business activity will come to an instant halt if this petition becomes an interim rule or law.
- I am in favor and support of all leaseholders adopting and agreeing to an addendum to our lease agreements requiring each individual leaseholder to bear the duty and expense to conform to a Department developed CRB eradication program. The policy and protocols for this program should be at a minimum in line with the current operation underway in the Ag park.
- Additionally, the leaseholders in the Keahole Ag Park could be required to work together with the Department of Ag to set up and operate a facility, within the Keahole Ag park, to properly process green waste and mulch into a usable soil product. The process would be the same as described above and could be monitored for strict compliance by the proper State agency.

I strongly urge the BOD to deny this petition. I welcome the BOD to return the responsibility to eradicate CRB, back to the individual leaseholders and community with the authority to enforce the CRB eradication policies and protocols given to the appropriate State agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Joe

*Joe Roderick Hawaiian Landscapes, Inc.
dba Orchid Isle Landscaping Company
73-4252 Pukiawe St. Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808.960.3633
www.joeroderickhawaiianlandscapes.com*

[EXTERNAL] CRB Interim Rule submission of testimony (Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden)

From Joe Prydzia <joeprydzia@amygreenwell.garden>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:04 PM

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

Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (112 KB)

CRB petition testimony AGEG 1222026.pdf;

Aloha,

On behalf of the Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden in Captain Cook, HI, I am submitting written testimony in favor of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joe Prydzia

Garden Manager

Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden

<https://www.amygreenwell.garden/>

[EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Interim Rulemaking to Regulate Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Johannes Seidel <johannes@terraformation.com>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 8:28 AM

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

Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (151 KB)

CRB_Testimony_Terraformation_Jan2026.pdf;

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island. Please find my attached testimony in support of this measure.

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

Aloha,

Johannes Seidel

--



M. Johannes Seidel

Director, Hawai'i Forestry Operations

+1 (808) 333-4735

johannes@terraformation.com

terraformation.com/hawaii



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

From Jonathan Simonds <jonathan.s.simonds@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:35 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 Jonathan, I'm a farmer in Hilo up Kaiwika road, 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.**

I'm planting coconut trees on my farm because I expect that we will come together and tackle this problem before it's too late. It's not just coconut trees--I've interplanted my farm with natives and canoe crops like loulou and hala to attract beneficial insects as part of my integrated pest management program. I need your help protecting these important trees and crops.

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.

Jonathan

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

From Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo <kaohanaohonuapo@gmail.com>
Date Sun 1/25/2026 1:22 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (271 KB)
KOOH LOS_HWF PP CRB Petition.pdf;

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board,

Please see the attached testimony from Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo in **support** of the Petition put forth by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka. Mahalo for your consideration and attention to the urgency of this matter.



Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo
PO Box 903
Na'alehu, HI 96772
w: www.honuapopark.org
e: kaohanaohonuapo@gmail.com

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

From Kailina Santiago-Makaimoku <ksantiago@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:36 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.

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,

Kailina Santiago Makaimoku
student and resident of Puna Hawaii

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

From Kainalu Steward <stewardk@hawaii.edu>
Date Mon 1/26/2026 10:18 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

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

My name is Kainalu Steward and I am from Lahaina Maui, and currently reside in Hilo, Hawai'i. 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 Pöhaku 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.**

If we do not take the right action now, we are risking the future health of bioculturally significant plant species such as niu and hala and the communities that actively engage with these plants through cultural practices.

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.
Kainalu Steward

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

From Kaleahoomaka Landreth-Goeas <klandreth-goeas@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 5:22 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.

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,

Kale'aho'omaka Landreth-Goeas
Resident of Hawai'i Island and Middle School Student

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

From Kaleiheana Stormcrow <kaleiheanaapohaku@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 12:37 PM

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

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

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow from Kapu'euhi, 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.

As I'm sure you know, Hawai'i is the endangered species capital and extinction capital of the world, with many plant species here found nowhere else in the world. CRB does not just threaten coconut trees, they threaten the endemic loulu (*Pritchardia spp*)—many species of these palms are endangered already—as well as ma'i'a (banana), and kalo (taro) and kō (sugarcane), just to name a few. We cannot know the true impact of these beetles in Hawai'i until it is too late, which is why ensuring they do not continue to spread is so immensely important from both a biodiversity and a cultural standpoint.

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.

Kaleiheana Stormcrow

[EXTERNAL]

From Kallie Barnes <kallieb@hawaii.edu>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:40 PM

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

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

My name is Kallie Barnes from volcano, and I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rule making 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.**

I recently sat through a presentation from the Big Island Invasive Species committee on CRB and I cried. If this spreads we can say goodbye to the Hawai'i many of us know and love. The number of Polynesian introduced and native species this beetle can affect is astounding. We will lose everything.

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.

Kallie Barnes
HAVO Restoration Project Supervisor
P.O. Box 52 Hawaii National Park, HI 96718
Cell: 808-796-6753
Office: 808-985-6097
Email: kallieb@hawaii.edu

"To love a place is not enough. We must find ways to heal it."

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants](#)

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

From Kanilea Smith <kanileas13@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:27 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 Kanile'a Smith from Mānoa, and I respectfully urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as requested in the petition by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your leadership in protecting Moloka'i from CRB. Hawai'i Island now faces the same threat. Beetles and breeding sites continue to be discovered in North Kona, while high-risk materials such as mulch are still being moved from infested areas without regulatory oversight.

If the movement of untreated host material continues, the permanent establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be inevitable. This decision represents a critical—and possibly final—opportunity to prevent long-term harm to the island's food security, cultural resources, native ecosystems, and economy. Widespread infestation on Hawai'i Island would also significantly increase the risk of CRB spreading to other islands through interisland transport.

The proposed rules are modest but essential. They simply require compliance agreements, training, treatment, and best management practices before CRB host material is moved from known infested areas.

This is heavily time-sensitive. Mahalo ā nui for your consideration and for taking dutiful action to protect Hawai'i's future.

Me ke aloha,
Kanile'a Smith

Testimony- Rep. Kapela

From kapela2 - Haileigh <kapela2@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 4:39 PM

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

Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (14 MB)

Testimony- Rep. Kapela.pdf;

Aloha,

Please accept this written testimony **in strong support** of the joint petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka requesting the adoption of a **one-year interim rule requiring Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the commercial movement of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host material** within the infested area on Hawai'i Island.

I am submitting this testimony **on behalf of Representative Jeanne Kapela**, and her attached testimony is included with this email for your consideration.

Mahalo,



Haileigh Paola-Santos

Legislative Aide
Representative Kapela
House District 5
South Kona-Kea'au
(808) 586-9606
Kapela2@Capitol.hawaii.gov

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

From Kapua Olson <kapuaolson@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 9:35 PM

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

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

My name is Kapua Olson from Keauhou 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.**

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.

Na'u,

Kapua Olson

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1

From kapulei flores <kapuleif@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:53 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

Aloha,

I am urging you to approve the initiative of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of CRB on Hawai'i island, as reflected in the petition by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

CRB is something that not only destroys our native and resourceful coconut trees, but many of our native food plants such as kalo and hala just to name a few. The spread of CRB throughout the islands could be one of the most detrimental and harmful invasive bugs we have encountered here in the islands in years. If we don't seriously do something to control the spread and hopefully get rid of them entirely, this is going to have detrimental impacts that will last for the next 7 generations and completely change Hawai'i.

the movement of untreated host material needs to be regulated and monitored, as one of the main ways it was found to enter into Hawai'i was through the military and other unchecked carriers. your decision on this matter might be our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB in Hawai'i. please please help us protect our island, the plants that literally feed us, and our home for the next generations to come. please support these rules that 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, Kapulei

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

From Katie Hearther <katie.hearther@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 10:15 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 Katie Hearther from Aiea, Hawai'i 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. My views expressed in this testimony are my own personal opinions and not those of any organization I have ever worked or volunteered for.

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.**

We are already seeing the effects of CRB establishment on Oahu and containment, much less total eradication, seems to loom further and further away each week. Swift, decisive, and pre-emptive action is essential to make sure Hawai'i Island does not face the same challenges. I have also had the incredible privilege to volunteer at Kuaihelani (Midway Atoll) in the wahi pana that is the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. All of the major challenges faced by the staff and species of the atoll- especially the cherished mōlī and ka'upu (Laysan and Black-footed Albatross)- stem from lapses in biosecurity. I have seen the immense amount of resources (materials, staff, time, etc.) and funding it takes to reactively respond to invasive species once they are already established and negatively impacting the native ecosystem, and urge you to not let the populations of CRB on Hawai'i Island bloom out of control.

Separately, I know that CRB directly threatens at least 5 species of loulu palm on Hawai'i Island. A lot of my time on Kuaihelani was spent assisting with the propagation, care, and outplanting of another loulu species *Pritchardia remota*, originally endemic to Nihoa and Ni'ihau. It was a massive privilege to care for these endangered palms, and I implore you to support these rules to help preserve its relatives on Hawai'i Island.

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 and your time!

Katie Hearther

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

From Keala Fung <kealadancer@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:00 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 Keala Fung from Honolulu HI ,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.

Keala Fung

‘Olekukahi, Kaulua – 24th, Ianuali 2026

ATTN: Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB)
Submitted via Email at DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

SUBJECT: Testimony to initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain / Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai‘i Island

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

My name is Kēhau Springer, and I am a kanaka ‘ōiwi practitioner and researcher residing in Kea‘au, Moku o Keawe. 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 swift actions to support the Moloka‘i community as they requested your help to protect their island from the potential devastating impacts of CRB. Now, WE on Hawai‘i Island need your immediate help as more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in North Kona, and 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.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration! Time of the essence, please support these critical rules.

Na‘u

Shauna Kēhaunani Springer

na Shauna Kēhaunani Springer
Kea‘au, Moku o Keawe, Hawai‘i

[EXTERNAL] In support of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) on Hawai'i Island

From Kehaulani Lum <myheavenlydew@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 3:17 PM

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

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

My name is Kehaulani Lum, a steward of over 113 acres on ancestral land in Wailea, Hawai'i Island.

In the nearly 174 years since my ancestor received the lands from the King, the introduction of foreign invasive species and practices has dramatically changed the landscape, rendering it an enormous challenge to restore the native forest and fields in which they thrived.

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, is a vital defense to our efforts.

We appreciate your past actions on Molokai, in this regard, and strongly call upon you to respond to the people of Hawai'i Island who are rightly concerned that the **mulch and other high-risk vectors of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on without any regulatory oversight.**

For the past 15 years, we have invested several millions of dollars into planting thousands of native and canoe trees and plants, including loulou, niu, ohia, koaia, hoawa, ulu, mamaki, kalo and more, on land that was depleted of such by more than a century of extractive agricultural practices.

Sadly, not all have survived, due to the power of invasive species that aggressively outcompete and harm them. However, we are inspired by those that are still alive.

Yet, now, we are faced with a threat that may kill even the strongest among them, in the form of a voracious and irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island, if the movement of untreated host material is allowed to continue unabated.

Your decision on this matter IS our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island, and the legacy of devastation for generations to come.

If anyone has toured the shores of Waialua on O'ahu, or any other infestation zone, as I have, and witnessed their path of destruction, you know that this is no mere threat.

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.

We thank you, in advance for your serious consideration.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum

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

From kellee hearther <calikellee@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 9:30 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

25 January 2026

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

I am writing to you as a resident of 'Aiea, O'ahu, Hawai'i 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.**

It is tantamount that we do ALL we can to prevent the spread of CRB and you have the opportunity to help make a tangible difference. All over O'ahu there are remnants of palm trees, trunks with no leaves at all, eaten to death by the CRB.

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,
Kellee Hearther

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

From Kencho Gurung <kenchogurung@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:21 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 Kencho Gurung 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 Pöhaku 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.**

Please help- we have seen what is happening on other islands and we must act now. We cannot lose palms here where so much of Hawai'i's food is grown.

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.

Kencho Gurung

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

From keri zacher <zacherk@hotmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 7:00 PM

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

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

My name is Keri Zacher from Molokai, 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.
Keri Zacher

[EXTERNAL] Testimony

From Kiaikai Cloud <kiaikaicloud@haaspcs.net>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:51 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.

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 am from Waianae. We are known to have the nicest and the biggest coconut grove. It is a big thing because the only stories that I heard about it are from my great grandfather. But he did not tell me it was my mom, my mom and grandma were not alive to see it. That's a big deal and my grandfather was a little while but it was a big thing. We should be able to see it now and see how big and nice it was. So if we take this beetle away we can try to re-grow it so the future generations can see it and let Waianae be known for its coconut grove.

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.

Take way this beetle.

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,

Kiaikai Cloud

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

From Waikiki - Hawaii Condo <hawaiicondo@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 5:52 PM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

A wise frog (not a coqui) named Kermit once sang, "It's not easy being green". He may have been talking about his looks, but his statement was far-reaching, and even all the way to the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

It is not enough to simply recycle, and to not waste water, and to stop polluting the air and water around us. **It takes courage and conviction** to battle extremely fierce opponents such as the formidable coconut rhinoceros beetle, and little fire ants, and coqui frogs, and the far too many other invasive species and noxious weeds that have been thriving in Hawai'i for decades upon decades.

Please have the courage and conviction to vote in favor of the petition to initiate critical administrative rulemaking to contain or slow the spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island. Containing and preferably irradiating these menaces will help to ensure a lush and green Hawai'i, and one that will still have beautiful palm trees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Kim Jorgensen

Waikiki

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

From Kimberly De Souza <kimskiln808@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:15 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Kimberly De Souza
kimskiln808@gmail.com
1/22/26

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 e 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.

While it is well known that coconut palms are the primary food source of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity notes that "*secondary food sources include foxtail and sago palms, hala (screw pine), kalo, banana, pineapple, sugarcane, and 'ulu—many of which are culturally and economically important crops*" (DOA Biosecurity FAQ).

I work full-time as a restoration manager focused on rehabilitating degraded lands with native species, and I currently oversee a site that also incorporates Polynesian-introduced plants. This site includes niu, hala, and 'ulu, and will soon support dryland kalo. The site is located in Kohala, a region of Hawai'i Island that has not yet been reached by CRB. However, given the documented host range of CRB, there is serious concern that once the beetle spreads into this area, these culturally and agriculturally important species will face substantial impacts.

In recent years, Hawai'i has made meaningful progress toward increased food self-sufficiency, particularly through staple crops such as 'ulu and kalo. The unchecked spread of CRB threatens to undermine these gains. If decisive and coordinated action is not taken while CRB remains confined to Kona and Waikoloa, the long-term consequences for banana farms, niu groves, 'ulu orchards, and lo'i across Hawai'i Island could be severe.

Beyond food production, the potential impacts extend deeply into cultural practice. If hala populations are significantly affected, the practice of ulana lau hala and lei making utilizing hala is also at risk. The inability of practitioners to harvest hala locally would disrupt the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, place-based cultural practices, and the continued use of natural resources in culturally appropriate ways.

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.

These impacts represent only my personal experience; however, the full severity of CRB spread has not yet been realized across the islands. This moment presents a critical window to act. Failing to do so risks widespread and irreversible damage to Hawai'i's food systems and culturally significant crops.

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,

Kimberly De Souza

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

From Kiq Daniel <kidaniel@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:56 AM

To jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>; DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

My name is Kiq Daniel from Kea'au, 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.**

We don't need rhinoceros beetle because they are breaking the environment and due to they're damage the trees cannot produce any food and that could be bad for our local agriculture and economy.

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.

Kiq Daniel

[EXTERNAL]

From Kirkland Mawae <kirklandmawae1997@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 8:55 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 Kirkland Keoni Mawae from Kailua-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.**

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.

Kirkland Keoni Mawae

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

From Koki Atcheson <kokiatch@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 8:23 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

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

My name is Koki Atcheson from Nu'uuanu, and I am personally writing to urge 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 for your support and recognition of community-led efforts to protect Moloka'i from CRB. Continued action to stop the spread and devastation of CRB is needed to support the best interest of those who will bear the impacts of continued spread of CRB -- farmers, cultural practitioners, native species, and landscape industry professionals.

Witnessing years of increased devastation of CRB on O'ahu demonstrated the importance of preventing the spread and taking early action. Rulemaking authority to limit the spread of vectors is critical in buying time while treatment methods, including biocontrol, are developed.

Additionally, preventing the spread of CRB host material is economically prudent compared to the cost of replacing CRB host plants, let alone the irreplaceable loss of mature coconut trees, loulu palms, hala, banana, papaya, kalo, and the cultural heritage of these plants. As a very beginner weaver of lau niu and lau hala, I have grown deeper respect for these trees and generations of people who care for them, including the care that comes from creating from their materials. I add my voice here to many who have fought against threats to these trees and the art forms and food security they support.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka recognize what is at stake and I am in full support of the reasonable measures to require training, inspection, and safer storage of CRB host materials. Hawai'i Island's communities, agriculture, and culture rely on action against CRB from your Department.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration of this testimony,
Koki Atcheson



Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo

Post Office Box 903
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772
kaohanaohonuapo@gmail.com

January 25, 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 Hawai'i Island

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

Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo would like to express our full **support** of the petition put forth by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo (KOOH) is a small, community-based organization committed to protecting the natural and cultural resources of Honu'apo. Our mission is "to restore, care for, and protect the natural and cultural resources within the Honu'apo area." Utilizing the values of mālama 'āina, kūpono, and kuleana, we work in strong community partnerships to preserve this area for future generations.

KOOH was formed to protect Honu'apo from development, and worked to raise federal, state, and private funds to purchase Honu'apo in 2006. Since, we have hosted volunteer days restoring the loko i'a and coastal ecosystem of Honu'apo, which is home to a historic coconut grove of well over 100 trees, and is a reintroduction site for an endangered loulou, *Pritchardia maideniana*. Because of its habitat preference, *P. maideniana* is recognized to be one of the primary target species of CRB. We will not stand by and watch our historic niu and endangered loulou succumb to CRB damage.

We believe that the Board has an opportunity to finally take action and believe this interim rule could be the catalyst that DAB needs to stop the human-driven spread of CRB. Sitting idly and watching CRB creep from Waikōloa to Kona to Ka'ū to Hilo is not something that will restore public faith in government organizations such as DAB. We believe the Board will act with integrity and urgency, and push forth this interim rule immediately.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Nohealani Ka'awa, President, Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo

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

From Kristen Young <kyoung@hcucc.org>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 9:05 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 Kristen, I am from Honolulu with family in Kohala. 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. I trust you will make the simple and right decision to protect our environment and communities.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Kristen Young
Honolulu, HI 96813



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

IN SUPPORT OF Agenda Item IV.B.1

Interim Rule to to Regulate the Transportation of CRB Host Material on Hawai'i Island

January 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Plant Quarantine Branch, Honolulu

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

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

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

Communities we work with are intimately familiar with the impacts of invasive species on every aspect of life in Hawai'i — jeopardizing native ecosystems, food security, traditional and cultural practices, public health, fire safety, climate resiliency, our economy, and the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Pōhaku Pelemaka is a beloved and active member in our E Alu Pū network. Their mission focuses on preservation and protection of biocultural resources, Native Hawaiian wellbeing, and intergenerational knowledge exchange. Part of their work includes caring for an ancient uluniu (coconut grove) with over 1,400 niu trees in Puna; they also help organize the Hawai'i Island Hala Festival. Invasion of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on their traditional and cultural practices is imminent, representing just one example of many on Hawai'i Island.

The overall devastation caused by CRB on five of the main Hawaiian Islands is hard to ignore, and the impacts can also be irreversible once CRB are established. **Loss of significant cultural and food resources like niu (coconut), ulu (breadfruit), mai'a (banana), kalo (taro), hala (pandanus), and others would erode cultural practices and resources that Native Hawaiian and local communities cherish, perpetuate, and regenerate in furtherance of cultural integrity, food self-sufficiency, and connections to 'āina and each other.** For these reasons KUA also supported the interim rulemaking last year to help prevent CRB from moving on to Molokai, and we acknowledge and mahalo the BAB for your swift approval of that necessary community effort. CRB was initially detected on Hawai'i Island in October 2023 in Waikōloa Village, and since at least March 2025 they have already been found in multiple West Hawai'i areas. Although Hawai'i County has a Voluntary Compliance Order in effect, this was always intended as a precursor to a mandatory compliance structure to be implemented by BAB. With movement already occurring on the island, *now* is the time for stronger protections against these invasive pests.

Organizations and initiatives in our networks have long dedicated considerable energy and resources to educate the public to act in defense of our islands from invasive species. Several leading Molokai and Hawai'i Island voices among them. Despite community efforts to raise awareness, centralized policy (or lack of policy) which fails to consider the voices of communities closest to the impact *themselves* overlooks the power of a collaborative citizenry and community. People "on the ground" are not only the most knowledgeable about what they actually need, but are also the most impacted by the active *mistakes* of others (i.e. gorilla ogo invasion all over O'ahu and the recent introduction of CRB on Lāna'i). **We implore you to listen to the Hawai'i Island locals and take *real action* to support our biosecurity systems by supporting this interim rule *before it is too late*.** 'Āina Momona is not achievable without prioritizing the urgent protection from these invasive pests to protect our precious biocultural resources and those that intimately love and care for them.

Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony in support. Please **APPROVE** the interim rulemaking petition before you today.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

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

From 'Āina Ho'ōla Initiative <ainahoola@gmail.com>
Date Fri 1/23/2026 5:27 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

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

My name is Kumiko Mattison from Hilo, and I urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as requested in the petition by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for your past actions to protect Moloka'i from CRB. Hawai'i Island now faces the same threat. Beetles and breeding sites continue to be found in North Kona, while mulch and other high-risk host materials are still being moved from infested areas without regulatory oversight.

If the movement of untreated host material continues, the permanent establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island is likely imminent. This would cause irreversible harm to our food security, cultural practices, native ecosystems, and economy, and would greatly increase the risk of spread to other islands.

Please support these modest but critical rules requiring compliance agreements, training, and treatment before CRB host material is moved from known infested areas. Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Kumiko Mattison

Kumiko Hasegawa Mattison
'Āina Ho'ōla Initiative
P.O. Box 5596, Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 895-2350
Website: <https://ainahoola.org>
Facebook: @aina.hoola.initiative
Instagram: @aina_hoola_initiative

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

From Lauren Lipcon <lilipcon@injuryfundsnow.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:49 PM

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

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

My name is Lauren Lipcon, and I live and farm in Upcountry Maui. I respectfully urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, as requested in the petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Mahalo nui for the Board's past leadership in responding to Moloka'i's urgent request for protection from CRB. Today, Hawai'i Island faces an equally critical moment. Increasing numbers of beetles and breeding sites are being identified in North Kona, while mulch and other high-risk CRB host materials continue to move out of infested areas without regulatory oversight. This gap creates an unacceptable risk of permanent establishment.

I speak not only as a concerned resident, but as a farmer directly exposed to this threat. Our Maui farm is home to more than 180 palms across eight varieties, including three rare varieties—all highly susceptible to CRB. An outbreak on Maui would be devastating to our operation and to the island as a whole. Because of that risk, we actively participate in early-detection efforts and host a CRB trap on our property to support MISC monitoring. This is not theoretical for us—it is personal, immediate, and ongoing.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island appears increasingly imminent—and it will become inevitable if the movement of untreated host material continues unchecked. Your decision now may represent the final opportunity to prevent generations-long damage to Hawai'i Island's food security, cultural landscapes, native species, and local economy.

Equally concerning, widespread CRB establishment on Hawai'i Island dramatically increases the risk of interisland spread through off-shipment of host materials and other transportation pathways, placing all islands at heightened risk.

I urge you to support these modest, practical, and essential rules, which simply require compliance agreements for training, treatment, and best management practices before CRB host material may be moved from known infested areas.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's agricultural future.

Mahalo,

Lauren Lipcon



Farm: 808-419-6135

Cell: 305-321-6465

355 Kaluanui Road
Makawao, HI 96768

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

From Lehua Todero <lehua@terraformation.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 8:16 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (84 KB)

CRB Interim Rule Testimony Hawaii Island.docx (1).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.*

I work for Terraformation, an organization that has been actively engaged in early detection and response efforts related to CRB. Detection traps were established at our baseyard, located within what is now designated as an "infested area" at HOST Park, approximately one mile south of Kona International Airport, prior to any CRB detections being reported in this area. Terraformation traps captured some of the earliest CRB individuals, occurring only days after initial detections were confirmed nearby.

Since that time, we have continued to regularly monitor detection traps and submit reports as required. Multiple CRB individuals have been captured in our traps to date, reinforcing the importance of early detection, consistent monitoring, and rapid reporting. In addition, Terraformation has implemented a range of preventative best management practices to reduce the risk of CRB infestation at our facilities. These measures include sanitation protocols, staff training, careful material handling, and multiple site visits by CRB detection dogs.

Based on our experience, BMPs are both effective and achievable. Many of the actions that reduce CRB risk are straightforward, low-cost, and easily integrated into routine operations when clear guidance and expectations are in place. Establishing standardized BMPs would provide landowners, organizations, and operators with the tools needed to meaningfully reduce the likelihood of CRB spread across islands and landscapes.

Without proactive and coordinated measures, CRB poses a serious threat to Hawai'i's native and cultural plant resources, including loulu palms and coconut palms, as well as broader agricultural and ecological systems. BMPs offer a practical and immediate pathway to slow the spread of this invasive pest while longer-term management strategies continue to be developed.

For these reasons, I strongly support the adoption of formal Best Management Practices to help control the spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and encourage

I am in full support of the proposed interim rule.

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.

Mahalo nui,

Lehua Todero

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Lehua Todero
Seed Bank Manager
+1 (808) 443-6058
lehua@terraformation.com
[Terraformation.com](https://www.terraformation.com)





Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation

To: Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hi 96814

January 23, 2026

From: Kalāho'ohie Mossman
Executive Officer EKF
1500 Kalaniana'ole St.
Hilo, Hi 96720

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

Aloha mai, 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.

For us at the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, it is of the utmost importance that we ensure our 'āina, and the life within it are protected. EKF has been involved with Mālama 'āina efforts for the past 40 years. It is critical that we keep CRB from spreading across Hawai'i Island. We have a very close relationship with the living organisms on our islands, the niu for food, weaving and carving, loulou for hale thatching, hala for lei and weaving. CRB threatens the cultural utilization of these plants for the next generations.

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.

Mālama pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KM', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Kalāho'ohie Mossman
Executive Officer
Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation
1500 Kalaniana'ole St. Hilo, Hi 96720

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

From Leo Nahe Smith <its.leonahe@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 6:08 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 Leo Nahe and I am from Wai'ehu, Maui, 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,

Leo Nahe Smith

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1 Testimony

From lmklungness@gmail.com <lmklungness@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:42 PM

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

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

To Members of the Board,

I am a former employee of the University of Hawaii, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the USDA-ARS. Consequently, I am very concerned about the invasion of the Rhinoceros beetle in Hawaii. Species of palms are an integral part of the environment and economy of Hawaii.

For example, I myself am surrounded by Arica palms on my ¼ acre property. These trees provide protection against the wind, and act as a barrier against invading wiwi on the adjoining uninhabited properties.

To date, we have had no indication of CRB in our Arica palms, but if they were to be invaded, and we would be required to remove the palms, we would be unable to defend ourselves from either the invading vegetation or the high winds that can, at times, threaten the island.

Our situation is only a small example of the extensive impact CRB will have if left unchecked in the Hawaiian island chain. Your immediate attention to this devastating invasion is required.

Sincerely,

Lester M. Klungness, Dist. 5 Chair

P.O. box 364

18-4133 Komo St.

Mountain View Hawaii 96771

Hm phone 808-968-6789

IPhone 909-895-3075

eMail: lmklungness@gmail.com

Website www.LesterFisher.com

Facebook classic Lester M. Klungness

Page Lester M Fisher

Instagram @lestermfisher

Pinterest Lester Fisher

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

From Lila Lay <llyay@connectionspsc.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:10 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 Lila and i live in Puna, 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.

Lila

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

From Lilah Shapiro <lmshapiro@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:54 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.

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 work for Liko Nā Pilina, a forest restoration project based in Keaukaha, Hilo. We have hala and loulu on our site and cannot afford anymore destruction to the ecosystem after dealing with ROD as well as the Queensland Longhorn Beetle which has killed many 'ulu and kukui trees. It is crucial that we stop CRB from spreading to the rest of the island. We need to learn from what happened in O'ahu and act before it is too late. We still have time.

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,

Lilah Shapiro
Liko Nā Pilina

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

From Lisa Roy-DeAguiar <lisa.roydeaguiar@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:11 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 Lisa Roy-DeAguiar. I am from Kahalu'u, Kona and currently live in South Kona. Please consider this testimony as demonstration of my firm support of the community group Pōhaku Pelemaka and numerous non-governmental organizations working desperately to stop any further ecological and economical damage caused by the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of 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.**

Hawai'i is widely known to be highly vulnerable to invasive species and has already suffered extreme loss of native and endemic plant and animal species due to unintentional, and sadly sometimes intentional, introductions. Time is not on our side, and the rapid spread of CRB on Hawai'i island is heartbreaking.

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.

Aloha,
Lisa Roy-DeAguiar

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

From Makahanaloa Fishing Association <makahanaloafishing@gmail.com>

Date Sat 1/24/2026 11:19 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

Aloha mai kākou,

Makahanaloa Fishing Association supports any rulemaking effort to stop the spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island. We are witnessing the death of named and ancient coconut groves on O'ahu and Kauai due to CRB. We know the vector points and how to stop the spread and must employ every method we have to eradicate CRB on Hawai'i Island. Niu is a critical resource for Hawai'i and it's people.

Makahanaloa Fishing Association represents over one hundred and forty fishing 'ohana from Hilo. Traditional areas in Hilo Palikū have been threatened since the sugar plantations bulldozed the many cultural sites into the valleys. The Association is by every means seeking to grow and to protect our fishing community's rights to provide food for their families and maintain the generational bond with our treasured wahipana. Our Association has cared for and use niu in a variety of ways and we are planning to establish coconut groves at the newly acquired 'āina of Kawainui as a repository.

Please take this CRB threat as seriously and urgently as it deserves. The very way of life we practice is threatened because of CRB.

Mahalo nui,

Blake McNaughton
President



FISHING ASSOCIATION

www.makahanaloa.com

PO Box 83-1084 Pepe'ekeo Hi 96783

Ua ola no o kai i kai - Fishers live by their own efforts

ʻŌlelo Noʻeau (2838)

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

October 2, 2025

Subject: Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Detected in Your HOA

Dear HOA Member,

On September 29th, a CRB breeding site was confirmed within your HOA. Based on the collected samples, CRB have likely been present for at least 3-5 months.

Your immediate assistance and kōkua are critical to help stop the spread of CRB within your community and throughout the greater Kona area. Eradication is only possible with swift action and strong community cooperation.

To support the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's (Department) ongoing CRB eradication program, we ask your help with the following:

1. **Allow property access** for Department staff to survey potential CRB breeding sites, particularly areas with green waste, compost, or mulch exceeding 1 cubic yard.
2. **Survey your property** for possible breeding sites. Routine checks are key to identifying and eliminating any early signs of infestation.
3. **Support CRB trap installation** within the HOA and assist with monitoring and reporting trap findings.
4. **Allow treatment** of trees, mulch, compost or green waste if needed. This may require vehicle or equipment access and use of water.
5. **Facilitate removal** of infested material to an approved composting site.
6. **Stop the movement** of green waste both to, from, and within the HOA.
7. **Keep the community clean** by sharing information about green waste dumping locations.
8. **Do not store or stockpile large amounts of green waste, compost, or mulch** exceeding 1 cubic yard on your property.
9. **Cover green waste, compost, or mulch piles** with netting or impermeable material to prevent CRB entry and make detection easier.
10. **If using mulch or compost**, spread it thinly (less than 2 inches deep) to allow drying and reduce breeding risk.



Subject: Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Detected in Your HOA
October 2, 2025
Page Two of Two

11. **Inspect green waste/mulch/compost at least every three months** for possible CRB presence.
12. **Regularly check large palm trees** for signs of CRB damage.
13. **Immediately report and secure any suspect CRB or tree damage** to the Department.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Kamran Fujimoto at 808-974-4145 or email Kamran.G.Fujimoto@hawaii.gov. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in stopping the spread of CRB.

Sincerely,



Sharon Hurd, Chairperson
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

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

From Marlee Breese <marleebreese@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 3:53 PM

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

it is imperative that all possible actions be taken to contain and slow the spread of CRB on hawai'i island and, ultimately, to eliminate them.

your decision may be our last chance to prevent the establishment of CRB on our island and avoid the impacts this will have on our island's food security, cultural integrity, native species and overall economy. the time to act is **NOW!**

the widespread distribution of CRB on our island will only increase the risk of introducing this pest to other islands. the time to act is **NOW!**

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.

Marlee Breese
Hawai'i Island/Kohala resident

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"It's better for everybody when it gets better for everybody." Eleanor Roosevelt

"No assault on democracy will ever be limited to its targets." Stacy Abrams

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

From Melyn Hollis <melhollis@me.com>
Date Sun 1/25/2026 6:52 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

1 attachment (1 MB)
Makalei Estates CRB Letter.pdf;

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

My name is Melyn Hollis from Makalei Estates, North Kona and I am writing to request your support for the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the 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.

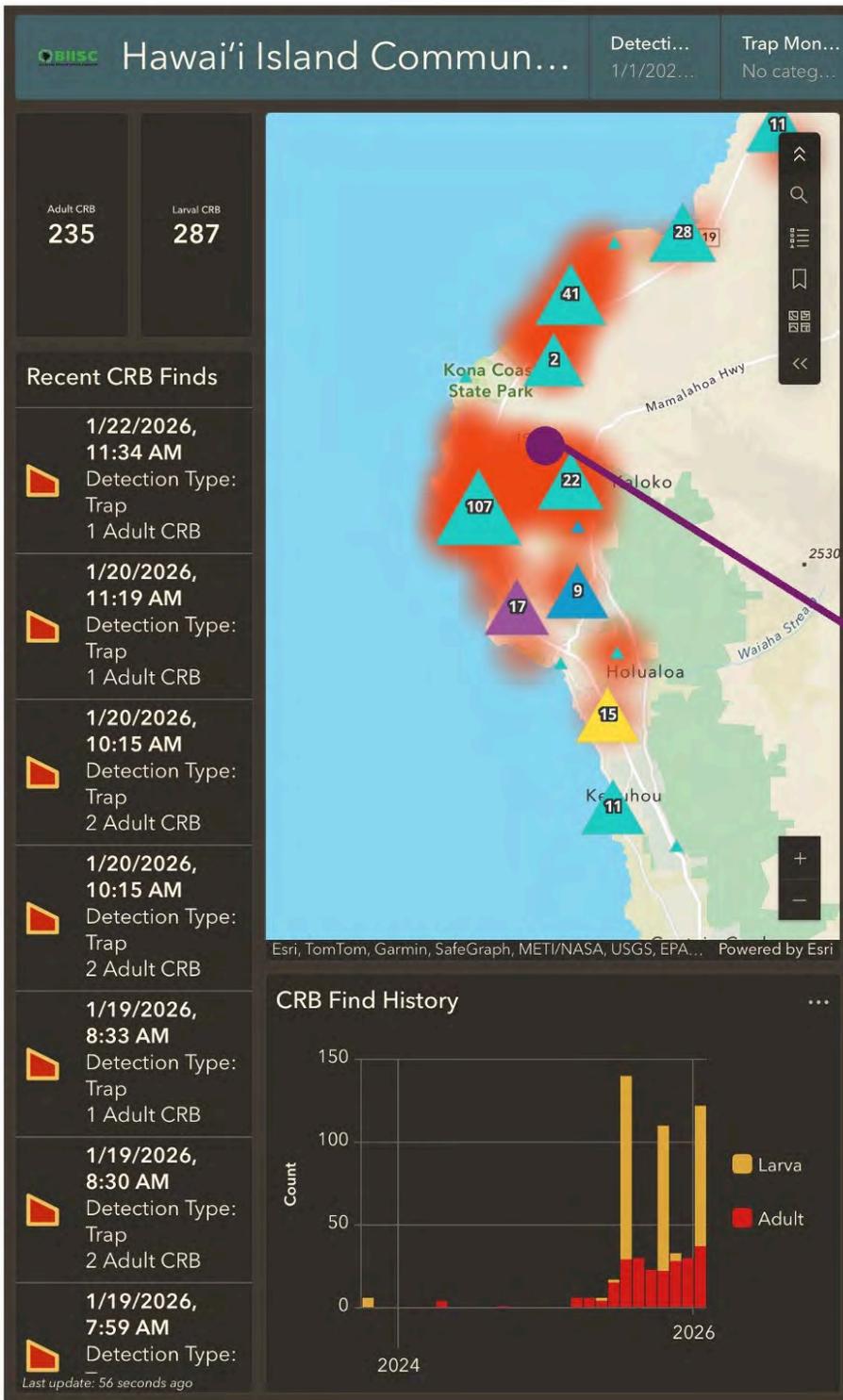
Hawai'i Island urgently needs your help, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are discovered in north Kona, and as mulch, untreated green waste and other high-risk vectors of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on Hawai'i Island without regulatory oversight.

For the past 5+ years, my wife and I have been establishing a small (3 acre) fruit farm in Makalei Estates, an agricultural subdivision mauka of the Palamanui dryland forest and the Kona International Airport. In the middle of 2025, neighbors in our subdivision started to report finding adult CRB and larvae on their farms and the community requested the help of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) to slow or stop the spread of CRB in our area and beyond. Our community association received a notice from your office (dated October 2nd 2025 - see attached below) alerting us that CRB had been detected in our subdivision and since then our community members have been active with BIISC to follow your guidelines.

My wife and I installed a CRB pheromone trap (CRB00953 – supplied by BIISC) on our property, between Makalei Estates and Palamanui, on December 23rd 2025 and as of today have already caught (and destroyed) 9 adult beetles.

Looking at the BIISC Community CRB Monitoring Dashboard,
(<https://uhm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/375bb1cb2cd74596b23dc4a20419f210>)

it is easy to see the huge increase in CRB findings since the start of 2025. Some of this growth is likely to be due to better detection through the efforts of BIISC and their corporate, community and educational partners but the graph does show the increasing problem in West Hawaii.



CRB00953

Our subdivision is at the northern boundary of a CRB hotspot and I marked the approximate location of our trap on the CRB Dashboard screenshot above.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent and, as you said in your letter to our HOA, eradication is only possible with swift action and strong community involvement.

The unabated movement of untreated host material is certainly contributing to the spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island. Your approval of this petition will help slow the spread of CRB and give BIISC and their partners a significant boost in helping to achieve the ultimate goals of your Department's CRB eradication program.

Failing to act together will likely lead to the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island with impacts on the island's food security, native species, overall economy and culture. It will also increase the risk of CRB being introduced and established on other islands.

Please support the petition before you which requests compliance agreements for training, treatment, and other best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from a known infested area. In addition, any additional support that you can provide to your Department's CRB eradication staff, BIISC and community groups would greatly help with this urgent issue.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this request and for your leadership in the efforts to eradicate CRB.

Melvyn Hollis

www.linkedin.com/in/melvyn

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

From meredith buck <aloha@meredithbuck.studio>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 1:11 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Meredith Buck, and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, Hawai'i. I am a kumu ulana lauhala, and I work with various fibers including niu (coconut), loulu (fan palm), and other plants threatened by the spread of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

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.

As a cultural practitioner, having seen the devastation CRB has wreaked on O'ahu, it is difficult to overstate the urgency I feel in containing and ideally eliminating the CRB from our island.

One of the primary challenges weavers (especially beginners) face today is difficulty locating trees from which to harvest lau hala, niu, and loulu. It has been seen on O'ahu that niu and loulu groves have been decimated, the CRB then moving on to hala as the next available host. Were the CRB allowed to spread around Hawai'i island, it would be a devastating blow to the weaving community and our ability to pass on the knowledge we carry to the next generations. Without materials there is no way to continue. This would mean loss of livelihood for many weavers, as well as unquestionable cultural loss for all Hawai'i.

The remainder of this testimony is provided by the Sierra Club, and I include it here to represent a more comprehensive point of view.

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 Hawaii 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.

Meredith Buck
96740

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

From Mia Wilkinson <mwilkinson@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:07 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.

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,

Mia Wilkinson, student of HAAS PCS
Resident of Puna, Hawai'i

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

From Misty Carter <Misty_Carter@outlook.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 10:32 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (68 KB)

Testimony CRB Petition for Interim Rulemaking.pdf;

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Misty Carter, and I am writing from Hawai'i Island as the President of Hui 'Oihana – Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. I urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (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 CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your leadership and action. We are seeing an increasing number of beetles and breeding sites discovered in North Kona, while mulch and other high-risk CRB host materials continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions of Hawai'i Island without regulatory oversight.

As a community leader working at the intersection of economic development, cultural integrity, and kupu mau, I am deeply concerned about what unchecked CRB spread means for our island. Niu is not only an agricultural resource—it is a cultural foundation, a food source, a climate buffer, and a symbol of intergenerational knowledge and care. The loss of niu would have cascading impacts on small businesses, food security, cultural practice, coastal stability, and community well-being.

This concern is one of the reasons Hui 'Oihana is raising public awareness through The Niu Festival: A Ho'opono Event in Hilo, a community-wide gathering centered on niu as the "tree of life." The festival is designed to educate, activate, and mobilize our community around stewardship and protection of niu, because we recognize that prevention requires both policy action and informed, engaged communities.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent and inevitable if untreated host material is allowed to continue moving unabated. Your decision on this matter may represent our last meaningful opportunity to prevent CRB from becoming established on Hawai'i Island, with generations-long impacts on food security, cultural integrity, native species, and the overall economy.

Notably, widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also increase the risk of the pest being introduced to other islands through off-island transport of host material and interisland commerce.

Please support these modest but critical rules, which simply require compliance agreements for training, treatment, and best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from known infested areas. These measures are reasonable, necessary, and urgently needed.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony and for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's people, places, and future.

Me ka mahalo,

Misty Carter

President, Hui 'Oihana – Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

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

From Nicole Nakata <nknakata@gmail.com>

Date Sat 1/24/2026 1:09 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 Nicole Nakata from O'ahu, 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.**

Watching the decimation of beloved niu groves on O'ahu and knowing loulou, hala, mai'a and many other plants critical to Hawai'i culture and food systems, are also imperiled, is heartbreaking. If we can prevent what has happened here from occurring on other islands, we should be taking action.

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.

Nicole

Sent from my iPhone

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

From Noelle Lindenmann <noelle.royer@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 10:39 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 Noelle Lindenmann and I live in Kailua-Kona. 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.

Noelle Lindenmann (she/her/hers)

e. noelle.royer@gmail.com // tallgirl@uw.edu

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

From Olena Bassette-George <obassette@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:57 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>

[For an Overview of CRB Issue, Click here](#)

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

My name is Olena Bassette-George from Connections Charter Public School, 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.**

My concerns about the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestations are the **risks of our native plants and animals** that could potentially go **EXTINCT**, if we don't act fast on this problem! Meaning, if we don't fix this problem quick enough, it will be a **devastating loss for the Hawaiian Cultural Heritage...**

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.

– Olena

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B,I I support the petition to slow the spread of CRB on Hawaii Island. It would be utterly stupid to not address and remove the coconut rhinoceros beetles.

From Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 6:55 AM

To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; jodie.HWI@gmail.com <jodie.HWI@gmail.com>

Patricia Blair, Kailua, 8088886393

Sent from my iPad

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1

From Paul Carter <paul@tranceandhealing.com>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 10:45 AM

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

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

My name is Paul Carter from Waihe'e Maui, 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.

I urge you to act swiftly as every day counts. I share a small farm here in haiku, and we have a few hundred coconut trees which provide water, milk and meat for many families. It would be devastating to lose them, as it would in Hawai'i Island and for all the people who already and will in the future even more depend on this great food and water source.

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.

Paul Carter

201 River Rd.,

Wailuku 96793

Sent from my iPhone

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

From Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:49 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 Peter Wilson from Pahoa 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 Pöhaku 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.**

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

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.

Peter Wilson

--

Pete Wilson
13-927 Kahukai Street
Pahoa HI 96778
808-557-8108

[EXTERNAL]

From Peter Watson, III <watsonp@hawaii.edu>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 5:04 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Kaleikukui Watson
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Hawai'i Island
Email: peter.akima.watson@gmail.com
Date: January 23, 2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 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 express my strong support for the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this urgent matter and urge the Board to act quickly to adopt the proposed interim rule requiring Best Management Practices within the infested area.

I have a deep personal, cultural, and professional connection to niu, hala, and loulu palms. I am currently a student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and have been actively involved in ecological and cultural stewardship work focused on niu groves in Puna, particularly at Ka'akepa. My work includes surveying, documenting, and caring for niu varieties, many of which are culturally significant and increasingly rare. These trees are not simply agricultural resources, but foundational to Hawaiian lifeways, providing food, fiber, tools, ceremony, and identity.

The spread of CRB threatens far more than individual trees. On O'ahu, we have already seen how unchecked CRB populations devastate coconut groves, hala, and endangered palms, permanently altering landscapes and cultural practices. Hawai'i Island is still at a critical point where meaningful containment and management actions can slow the spread and protect remaining healthy groves. However, relying on a voluntary compliance order is not sufficient when the risk posed by movement of host material is so high. Without a mandatory interim rule, even well-intentioned businesses lack clear, enforceable guidance, and the opportunity to contain CRB will continue to slip away.

Requiring Best Management Practices for the commercial movement of CRB host material is a reasonable, necessary, and overdue step. This interim rule would provide clarity, accountability, and immediate protection for niu, hala, loulu, and other vulnerable species that are central to Hawai'i Island's ecosystems and cultural heritage. From my perspective working directly with these trees, preventing the movement of infested material is one of the most effective actions we can take right now to slow further spread.

I strongly urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to direct the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to convene the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals and to approve the proposed interim rule as quickly as possible. Taking decisive action now will help safeguard Hawai'i Island's natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, consideration, and commitment to protecting Hawai'i's agricultural and cultural landscapes.

Aloha,

Kaleikukui Watson

[EXTERNAL] Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

From Pi'i La'eha <pii.laeha@auberge.com>

Date Sat 1/24/2026 2:20 PM

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

 1 attachment (69 KB)

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

January 24, 2026

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

As **Keepers of Kalāhuipua'a**, Pi'i La'eha, Danny Akaka Jr, Anna Akaka, Ethan Souza, and Kāhōkū Hurley], we are 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 inter-island 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,

Pi'i La'eha

Danny Akaka Jr

Anna Akaka

Ethan Souza

Kāhōkū Hurley

--

PI'I LA'EHA
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER
MAUNA LANI, AUBERGE COLLECTION

P 808.885.6622
68-1400 Mauna Lani Dr
Waimea, HI 96743

 Auberge Collection



[EXTERNAL] Pass Rules to Keep CRB From Spreading

From Prana Mandoe <pj.haku@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 10:54 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 Prana Mandoe. I was born and raised on Maui and have lived in Hilo for the last thirty years. I urge 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.**

I want you to know how awful it will be for my family and the wider community if the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle spreads on Hawai'i Island.

My family is a keeper of Hawaiian culture. My husband, John Aweau Turalde, is a Kālai Pahu, or Hawaiian drum carver. He supplies hand-carved pahu to Kumu Hula across the Hawaiian archipelago and to those living on the North American continent, Japan, and Europe. He focuses particularly on providing pahu to those who might not be able to afford top prices. His work making pahu drums, exhibiting the craft, and teaching workshops has recently been recognized by First Nations; he has been selected to join the Luce Henry Fellowship on Indigenous Knowledge as a knowledge keeper. However, without coconut trees, he (and other carvers) will not have the wood to make traditional drums. Hawaiian pahu will become rare if not extinct in their own land and original form, leaving kumu hula disconnected from the place they celebrate in their dances. They will be forced to buy "pahu drums" mass-produced in countries with cheap labor instead of having a relationship with the trees that provide the sounds of hula.

Second, our son Kane Turalde (age 21) is a coconut hat weaver. He has been weaving these pāpale niu for shade and style for a number of years. He used to give and sell the hats to locals and tourists. However, since he moved to the North Shore of O'ahu, where the CRB is in charge, he cannot weave hats because he cannot find living coconut trees! This stops him from practicing his home culture, from participating in the gift economy where Hawaiians and others give what they make or catch and support each other that way, and it stops him from earning money.

Third, the CRB is known to attack other important Hawaiian plants, including lauhala. I am a student of lauhala weaving; my current Kumu was given the charge to share her knowledge by Aunty Elizabeth Maluiki Lee, one of the weavers who led the revival of lauhala culture. Her work, and my future work, passing the knowledge of skilled artisans to the next generation, is endangered by the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. Our daughter, Dena Ka'ao'aoloa Turalde, is a 17-year-old up-and-coming weaver. She, like all Hawaiians, should have access to the materials needed to practice her culture... but this opportunity to follow in the footsteps of her ancestors will be taken away if the CRB is not stopped.

Finally, our family has planted a coconut grove at the site of Lihikai Hawaiian Cultural Learning Center in the ahupua'a of Waiākea in Hilo. Our nonprofit organization, He Ola Hou O Ke Kumu Niu (New Life for the Coconut Tree) maintains this site as a place where the community can practice Hawaiian culture and lifestyles in a Hawaiian environment. We take care of niu (coconut) trees, lauhala, hau, milo, kou, kamani, and many other native plants. We need the material to practice the culture. Without Hawaiian plants, no Hawaiian culture! I dread the possibility of losing our grove, our trees, our materials, our work, our culture, and even some of our food. This is what will happen if the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is allowed to spread. In other words, if the status quo is maintained, we will lose irreplaceable Hawaiian arts and lifeways.

Do not let this happen. Please. You have an obligation to restrict the movement of mulch and any host material for the CRB larvae.

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.

Prana Mandoe and the Turalde family

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

From Rafaell Rozendo <rafaellrozendo@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 9:57 PM

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

Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

My name is Rafaell from Papaikou, 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.**

Because Hawai'i already imports 90% of its food and farmers face rising costs, low labor supply, and existing pests, the long term establishment of CRB could ruin our chances at strengthening our local food system. 1 out of 3 residents of Hawai'i island face food insecurity. We need to take immediate action to expand our local food supply to lower costs so our community can afford to eat, as well as for disaster preparedness and economic development.

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.

Rafaell Rozendo

[EXTERNAL] Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

From Rasika Edwards <redwards@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:07 PM

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

My school has Ulu, Kukui Nut, and Hala. We do not want the CRB at our school or our community.

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,

Your name / organization



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TO: Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

FROM: Representative Kusch
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: Testimony in Support of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Host Material on Hawai'i Island

DATE: 01/27/2026

Aloha Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board,

I strongly support the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to regulate the transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host material on Hawai'i Island.

CRB poses a serious and immediate threat to Hawai'i's agriculture, native ecosystems, and cultural resources. It damages coconut palms, native loulu, and other palm species, and once it becomes established, it is extremely difficult to control. That makes prevention and containment critical.

Hawai'i Island plays a key role in statewide biosecurity. Its size, diverse agriculture, green waste facilities, and frequent movement of organic material increase the risk of CRB spreading if host materials aren't properly regulated. Transporting green waste, mulch, compost, and decaying vegetation creates a clear pathway for the beetle to move both within the island and to other islands.

Interim rulemaking is necessary to address this threat now, rather than waiting for permanent rules while damage continues. This petition reflects a precautionary, science-based approach focused on protecting Hawai'i's natural and agricultural resources.

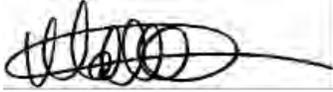
The stakes for Hawai'i Island are especially high. Coconut and native palms support shoreline stability, cultural practices, tourism, and local food systems. Losing them would have serious ripple effects for communities, farmers, and the island's economy, and could put the rest of the state at greater risk as well.

While I recognize these rules may require adjustments for green waste operators, landscapers, and agricultural producers, the cost of inaction would be far greater. With clear guidance and collaboration, these measures can be implemented fairly and effectively.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to approve the Petition for Interim Rulemaking and take immediate action to regulate the transport of CRB host material on Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to protecting Hawai'i's lands and future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kusch', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Representative Kusch
District 1
Hawai'i State Legislature

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

From Roark O'Neal <roneal@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 8:57 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 Roark from Puna ,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.

Roark O'Neal

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

From Rosemary Bearden <rbearden@hawaii.edu>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:49 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Rosemary Bearden

Conservation Biologist

PO Box 142, Ninole, HI 96773

1/22/2026

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 such as our endemic loulu species. 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, 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.

As an employee at Big Island Invasive Species Committee, I have been on the frontline of finding and managing CRB breeding sites in Kona. I have found CRB at site after site this past month. Speaking from my personal experience on the ground, the problem is worsening, and to combat it we need to better regulate the transportation of CRB, particularly the transport of potential CRB breeding material.

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.

Aloha,
Rosemary Bearden

DLNR Testimony- RE CRB Kona DAB Meeting 1/27

From Terrago, Rubyrosa T <rubyrosa.t.terrago@hawaii.gov>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:49 AM

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

Cc Chee, Patrick CC <patrick.c.chee@hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (181 KB)

DLNR Testimony - RE CRB Kona- signed.pdf;

Aloha,

Transmitting the attached DLNR Testimony for the DAB meeting , January 27,2026.

Thank you.

Ruby Terrago
Administrative Assistant III
Cell:808-445-2933
Email:rubyrosa.t.terrago@hawaii.gov
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

From Ryan Chang <ryanschang@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 5:48 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 Ryan Chang from O'ahu, 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.**

I am living through the CRB infestation on the island of O'ahu. Professionally, I work in conservation, and these pests have been found in the far reaches of almost every part of O'ahu, including remote locations where our only native palms reside. I have witnessed firsthand accounts where our loulu have been attacked and even killed by CRB. These palms are irreplaceable, and all of the other islands do not need this kind of problem. Some loulu are endemic and critically endangered to the island. This kind of loss is permanent and the species will cease to exist if immediate action is not taken.

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 inter island 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.

Ryan Chang

[EXTERNAL] Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

From Saige Pasion <spasion@haaspcs.net>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:57 PM

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

Saige Pasion high school student class of 2029 resident of Puna Hawaii

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

From Sakari Isis <sakariisis13@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 8:01 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 Sakari from Pahoia town, and I am urging you to **approve** the initiation of rule making 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.**

My husband and I recently purchased an order of mulch from a local company to be delivered to our home in Puna. Upon arrival we were told it came directly from Waikoloa, which was a surprise to us considering the numerous confirmed CRB sites near that area. After learning this information we thoroughly inspected the mulch pile and found multiple grubs which we collected and positively ID'd as the Oriental Flower Beetle (OFB). It was a near miss and ultimately left us feeling unsettled knowing we could have unintentionally contributed to the spread of CRB. Luckily we are aware of CRB and how to identify them. But people continue to spread mulch and other materials from Kona to Puna, where invasive species come to thrive. CRB in Puna would be absolutely devastating to many of these historically significant areas where Niu is protected and holds cultural significance. We already have many invasive species working against us and the native flora, the last thing we need is material contaminated with CRB being spread into new areas. We need stricter bio security surrounding this serious issue. It could have been devastating to have brought CRB to our hale and our surrounding neighbors. As well as unintentionally contributing to the spread of this harmful species.

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.

Sakari Lista

[EXTERNAL] Petition for Interim Rulemaking

From Samantha Al-Bayer <salbayer@hawaii.edu>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 12:06 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.**

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.

Palms of all sorts are an attraction to the eyes of all of us. I've seen the damage that has been done from CRB on Guam. Its by definition, devastating. Our native palm are endemic to the islands and are not found anywhere else in the world. The CRB will obliterate them and we will have yet another threatened and or endangered species to add to our list. The coconut palms are very useful and beautiful (when alive and healthy) they provide shade, food, shelter, fire starter. When infected with CRB, they die slowly and look raggedy. Do we want to destroy or keep the ania beautiful and protected?

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 am a big supporter in biosecurity and what it does for island protection. Please double down on the CRB spread and make it known and enforced. Think about the beautiful palms in your yard or families yard that always give without needing anything from you. Once you see them infected, you'll be sorry. Lets be safe than sorry!

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,

Samantha A Al-Bayer

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Samantha Al-Bayer

Masters of Science Student

Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

200 W. Kawili Street

Hilo, HI 96720



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

From Sarah Ann Kaneko <skaneko@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:49 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 Sarah Ann Kaneko from Connection Public Charter School, 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.

Sarah Ann Kaneko

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

From Savannah Villarreal Wheeler <savannahvillarrealwheeler@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 9:08 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 Savannah Wheeler from Kailua-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.**

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.

—
Savannah Villarreal Wheeler, M.A. | She/Ella | [LinkedIn Profile](#) | [Master's Portfolio](#) | [Resume](#)

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

From Serafina Gajate <sbgajate@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 6:03 PM

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

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

My name is Serafina Gajate, and I am strongly urging you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the 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.

As a professional conservationist, subsistence gather and cultural practitioner, I have seen firsthand the devastating impacts that invasive species have on our island. I cannot overstate how devastating the effects of a full-on CRB infestation would be on our island. They are already attacking many more species than just palms, and spreading rapidly. The only successful strategies for preventing invasive species establishment is immediate and aggressive action.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i is imminent if the movement of untreated host material is not stopped. 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.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui,
Serafina Gajate

[EXTERNAL] URGENT

From Shansen Akana <sakana@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:40 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 Shansen Akana from Connections charter school, 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.

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

From Sisa Happy <shappy@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:44 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 Sisa Happy from Connections Public Charter School, 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.

Sisa

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

From Talon-James Hanselman <thanselman@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:11 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 Talon-James Hanselman from Kaumana ,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.

Talon-James Hanselman

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Misty Carter, and I am writing from Hawai'i Island as the President of Hui 'Oihana – Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. I urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to prevent the devastating establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (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 CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your leadership and action. We are seeing an increasing number of beetles and breeding sites discovered in North Kona, while mulch and other high-risk CRB host materials continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions of Hawai'i Island without regulatory oversight.

As a community leader working at the intersection of economic development, cultural integrity, and kupu mau, I am deeply concerned about what unchecked CRB spread means for our island. Niu is not only an agricultural resource—it is a cultural foundation, a food source, a climate buffer, and a symbol of intergenerational knowledge and care. The loss of niu would have cascading impacts on small businesses, food security, cultural practice, coastal stability, and community well-being.

This concern is one of the reasons Hui 'Oihana is raising public awareness through The Niu Festival: A Ho'opono Event in Hilo, a community-wide gathering centered on niu as the "tree of life." The festival is designed to educate, activate, and mobilize our community around stewardship and protection of niu, because we recognize that prevention requires both policy action and informed, engaged communities.

The irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island may be imminent and inevitable if untreated host material is allowed to continue moving unabated. Your decision on this matter may represent our last meaningful opportunity to prevent CRB from becoming established on Hawai'i Island, with generations-long impacts on food security, cultural integrity, native species, and the overall economy.

Notably, widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also increase the risk of the pest being introduced to other islands through off-island transport of host material and interisland commerce.

Please support these modest but critical rules, which simply require compliance agreements for training, treatment, and best management practices before CRB host material can be moved from known infested areas. These measures are reasonable, necessary, and urgently needed.

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony and for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's people, places, and future.

Me ka mahalo,

Misty Carter

President, Hui 'Oihana – Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

Benton Kealii Pang
3204 Carlos Long St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
808-349-3636 / launahale@yahoo.com

January 23, 2026

To: DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV, jodie.HWF@gmail.com
RE: Agenda IV.B.1 - Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

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

My name is Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D. I served thirty five years in Hawaiian conservation and retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During federal service, I worked with partners on Guam and observed the damage caused by the coconut rhinoceros beetle.

On Guam, CRB destroyed coconut forests central to Chamorro food systems, coastal stability, and cultural practice. Coconut decline reduced access to traditional materials and weakened cultural continuity. Recovery never occurred once CRB spread across the island.

My doctoral research focused on ethnobotanical uses of trees in North Kona during the time of Kamehameha I. Coastal coconut groves supported warriors through materials and food resources. Those groves supplied timber and fiber for kauhale construction and halau wa'a used for canoe storage and maintenance. Loss of coconut resources strikes directly at cultural foundations tied to ali'i leadership and community survival.

Hawai'i Island now faces the same risk. North Kona reports show expanding beetle detections and active breeding sites. Green waste, mulch, and other host materials continue moving out of infested zones without enforceable controls. Early failures on Guam followed the same pattern.

The petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka offers a narrow opportunity for prevention. Administrative rulemaking focused on compliance agreements, training, treatment, and handling of host material provides a practical response. Such rules protect forests, food systems, cultural resources, and local economies.

Spread across Hawai'i Island raises exposure risk for every island through interisland transport of host material. Once establishment occurs, eradication ends as an option.

Please approve initiation of rulemaking under Agenda Item IV.B.1.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Benton Kealii Pang

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.
Retired Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Thirty-five years in Hawaiian conservation



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Maka'āinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 23, 2026

Representative Jeanne Kapela
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii, District 5
415 S Beretania St. Rm 418
Honolulu, HI 96817
repkapela@capitol.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.

The continued spread of CRB poses a serious and immediate threat to Hawai'i Island's cultural, ecological, and economic resources. Niu (coconut), loulu palms, and hala are foundational species that support native ecosystems, cultural practices, subsistence, landscaping, tourism, and agriculture. The loss of these plants would have devastating and irreversible impacts on our communities, coastal environments, and sense of place. Once CRB becomes widespread, eradication is no longer feasible, making early intervention and containment absolutely critical.

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 appreciate the Board's consideration of this petition and its ongoing work to address invasive species in Hawai'i. I look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that decisive and timely measures are taken to protect Hawai'i Island from further spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

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,



Representative Jeanne Kapela
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
District 5



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Maka'āinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 23, 2026

Representative Jeanne Kapela
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii, District 5
415 S Beretania St. Rm 418
Honolulu, HI 96817
repkapela@capitol.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.

The continued spread of CRB poses a serious and immediate threat to Hawai'i Island's cultural, ecological, and economic resources. Niu (coconut), loulu palms, and hala are foundational species that support native ecosystems, cultural practices, subsistence, landscaping, tourism, and agriculture. The loss of these plants would have devastating and irreversible impacts on our communities, coastal environments, and sense of place. Once CRB becomes widespread, eradication is no longer feasible, making early intervention and containment absolutely critical.

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 appreciate the Board's consideration of this petition and its ongoing work to address invasive species in Hawai'i. I look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that decisive and timely measures are taken to protect Hawai'i Island from further spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

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,



Representative Jeanne Kapela
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
District 5



Jen Lawson
Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative
65-1227 Opelo Road A9
Kamuela, HI 96743

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.

At this point, the negative impacts of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to Hawai'i's ecosystems, people, landscapes, and sense of place are undeniable. The loss of ni'u, native loulu, and hala due to CRB must be minimized by detecting, containing, and treating infested areas.

Since detecting CRB at the Waikōloa Dry Forest Preserve in 2024, we have been encouraged by the community support and effort to deploy traps, treat trees, and minimize the spread of CRB. Despite individual efforts and agency collaborations aimed at outreach, education, and CRB detection, CRB continues to spread.

Allowing CRB host material to move out of infested areas of Hawai'i 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, undermines community efforts to contain CRB and puts our ecosystems at risk.

As the petition states, the threat and likelihood of the continued spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island in the absence of effective rules create a situation dangerous to the public health and safety, and the ecological health of flora or fauna present in the State, which is so immediate in nature as to constitute an emergency.

We ask that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity act swiftly to address this emergency and do everything possible to prevent the further spread of CRB from known infestation sites such as the Keāhole Agricultural Park. Regulating the commercial transport of material is critical.

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

Thank you for your efforts to help control the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island.

Sincerely,

Jen Lawson,
Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Toni "Makani" Gregg and I live in Pahoia, Hawai'i. 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.

Thank you very much for your past actions in support to our 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. Too many beetles and breeding sites are being 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.**

I witnessed the devastating effects of CRB on O'ahu and in my family's yards. It is so sad and so scary to see so much loss to so many food crops in my lifetime. Our state's ag biosecurity needs to make big steps to protect our foods. 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 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.

Toni "Makani" Gregg
143-470 Pohoiki Road
Pahoia, HI, 96778

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

From Thea Shapiro <tshapiro@haaspcs.net>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:54 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.

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. Please support all efforts to protect our culture and environment.

Aloha,

Thea Shapiro
Resident of Puna, Hawai'i and teacher at HAAS PCS

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

From Tomas Lynch <sombrero.ninja@googlemail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 8:25 AM

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

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

My name is Thomas Lynch from Kapahulu, 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 Pöhaku 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.

Thomas Lynch

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

From p tearson <tia.pearson@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 6:33 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 Tia Pearson from Wahiawa, HI 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.

Tia Pearson



THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

PO Box 52 · Hawai'i National Park, HI · 96718 · Ph 808.985.6197 · FX 808.985.6029

Members

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
USGS Biological Resources Division
Kamehameha Schools
USDA Forest Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i

Corie Yanger
Three Mountain Alliance
P.O. Box 52
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718
808-430-0913, cmyster@hawaii.edu

20 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,

On behalf of the Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership, I write in strong support of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

The Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) is a collaborative watershed partnership dedicated to protecting and restoring native forests, watersheds, and cultural landscapes across Hualālai, Mauna Loa, and Kīlauea. Our work safeguards critical habitat for native species, protects water resources that sustain communities and agriculture, and preserves culturally significant landscapes that are deeply tied to Native Hawaiian practice and identity.

The rapid spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle across Hawai'i Island poses an urgent and serious threat to these resources. CRB attacks coconut palms, native loulu palms, hala, and other important species that are essential components of our native ecosystems and cultural practice. As demonstrated on O'ahu and Kaua'i, once CRB becomes widely established, the loss of mature palms is swift and severe. Hawai'i Island still has an opportunity to slow this invasion but only if effective biosecurity measures are implemented immediately.

The petition correctly identifies a critical gap: the continued movement of CRB host material from infested areas without enforceable best management practices. Experience across the state has shown that treatment of individual trees and breeding sites alone is not sufficient.

Preventing human-assisted spread through regulation of host material movement is essential to protecting uninfested areas of Hawai'i Island and preventing inter-island spread.

From a watershed protection perspective, the loss of palms and other important native species will alter forest structure, reduce habitat for native wildlife, and undermine long-term restoration investments. Many of our partner agencies, community groups, and cultural practitioners have invested decades of effort into restoring native ecosystems and re-establishing unique native and culturally important plant species. The unchecked spread of CRB puts this work at risk.

We therefore urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to:

- Direct the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to convene the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals to consider the proposed Interim Rule, and
- Approve the Interim Rule as quickly as possible to establish enforceable movement controls and compliance measures for CRB host material.

Hawai'i Island still has a window of opportunity to avoid the devastating outcomes already seen on other islands. Swift action now will protect ecological health, cultural resources, and long-term public investments in conservation and restoration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your leadership in strengthening Hawai'i's biosecurity protections.

Aloha,


Corie Yanger
Program Manager

Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting Agenda Item IV.B1 - Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation
of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
January 27, 2026, 9:00 am
1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, Hawaii and via Videoconference

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

We are testifying to advocate for immediate actions which will protect 'āina, livelihoods, and Native Hawaiian cultural traditions of Hawai'i Island which are intrinsically connected to native ecosystems and landscapes from ranging from mauka to makai. In accordance with our mission to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends, TNC has worked for decades to protect ecosystems across Hawai'i Island. Since 2011, TNC has co-stewarded the Kīholo coastal area, with Hui Aloha Kīholo, a non-profit organization whose mission is to "protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kīholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship." The Kīholo preserve includes a historic fishpond surrounded by culturally significant varieties of coconut palm trees and a grove that is over 150 years old. Adjacent to the preserve, are small stands of loulu (endangered native palms) descended from the coastal forests that dominated the Kona and Kohala shoreline before humans arrived here.

Since being first detected on O'ahu in 2013, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) has caused widespread decimation of coconut groves, hala, and endangered native palms (loulu) across the island. Response efforts on O'ahu managed to contain the spread of CRB for a decade but ultimately failed to eradicate the pest. In 2023, CRB was detected on Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. On Hawai'i Island, CRB was first detected in Waikōloa Village and detections have increased across West Hawai'i, including near the Kona International Airport and within the Keāhole Agricultural Park.

We understand that the CRB population first detected on the island of O'ahu in 2013 has a genetic resistance to biocontrol measures employed on Pacific Islands that were invaded in the early 20th century. We contend that toxic chemical methods of control are inappropriate for trees in

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Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

close proximity to groundwater and sensitive aquatic ecosystems like anchialine pools and fishpond estuaries, in addition to harming native and naturalized pollinators vital for coastal vegetation health. Our Kona coast represents some of the highest densities of these globally significant and culturally vital habitats on earth. We cannot afford to scorch the water in pursuit of short term CRB remediation while ignoring the source of the infestation.

Although, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DOA) and its partners undertook efforts to control this invasive pest, these methods have not been effective at stopping the spread to Hawai'i island. We have detected adult CRB in pheromone traps on private and Hawai'i State lands within the Kīholo State Park and are unable to access accumulated leafy debris akin to mulch deep in the wild kiawe and hau forests that surround roads, houses, and stewardship areas. At least one of these CRB detections was linked to a landscaping business transporting material from the Keāhole Agriculture Park.

Without the regulation of materials known to host CRB, island-wide spread of this destructive invasive pest is possible. Multiple agencies have mounted emergency responses, including fumigation, trapping, and pesticide treatments. Voluntary compliance orders have been issued, but no mandatory state rule has been issued despite the continued spread. TNC supports the Petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka seeking the adoption of an Interim Rule to regulate the transport of CRB host material from infested areas, which includes compliance agreements, required treatments, permits for movement, and penalties for violations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Agenda Item IV.B1.

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono.

Aloha,



Kalani Quiocho
Hawai'i Island Marine Program Director
The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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

From Touching The Earth Farm <manager@touchingtheearthfarm.com>
Date Mon 1/26/2026 11:46 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 Brooke Brebrick, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Touching The Earth Farm, a regenerative tropical fruit farm located in North Kohala on Hawai'i Island. I strongly urge you to approve the initiation of rulemaking to contain and slow the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle CRB, as outlined in the petition submitted by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

Touching The Earth Farm manages a diverse tropical orchard that includes coconut along with other long term perennial crops that are foundational to Hawai'i's food security cultural practices and local economies. As land stewards actively engaged in regenerative soil management on farm research and farmer education we are deeply concerned by the continued movement of untreated high risk CRB host material from infested areas to other regions of Hawai'i Island without adequate oversight training or treatment requirements.

In addition to advocating for stronger safeguards, Touching The Earth Farm is already working proactively with BIISC to monitor and manage CRB risk on our site, including the placement and ongoing maintenance of traps and continued education around best management practices. We are committed to being part of the solution. Looking ahead, our farm is also poised to support Hawai'i's coconut industry through the development of shared processing infrastructure, helping growers add value locally. These efforts underscore why preventative rules are so critical at this moment.

From what we are witnessing on the ground time is truly of the essence. The discovery of additional beetles and breeding sites in West Hawai'i combined with the unrestricted transport of mulch green waste and other host materials places farms like ours and countless others at immediate and unnecessary risk. Once established, CRB will cause irreversible damage not only to coconut palms but to entire agroecosystems that depend on canopy trees for soil stability, moisture retention, biodiversity and long term productivity.

The proposed rules are reasonably measured and essential. Requiring training treatment and best management practices for businesses transporting high risk host material is not a burden it is a basic and responsible safeguard. Without these protections in place the irreversible establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island feels increasingly inevitable with devastating consequences for food security, cultural integrity native species and the broader agricultural economy.

Additionally the unchecked spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island significantly increases the risk of inter island transmission placing all islands at risk through the off shipment of host material. The consequences of inaction will not be isolated; they will be statewide and generational.

We are grateful for the Board's past actions to protect Moloka'i and we now respectfully ask for that same leadership and urgency on behalf of Hawai'i Island. This decision may represent our last meaningful opportunity to prevent the permanent establishment of CRB here.

Please support the initiation of rulemaking to contain and slow the spread of CRB. The future of Hawai'i's farms, forests and communities depends on it.

Mahalo nui for your time leadership and consideration,

Mahalo,
Management Team
Touching The Earth Farm
808-889-6808 #1



[EXTERNAL]

From Trinston Marcellino <trmarcellino@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:09 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 trinston marcellino from hilo connections public charter school, 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.

Trinston marcellino

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

From Waikane Kaleiwahea <wkaleiwahea@connectionspsc.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:49 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 Waikane Kaleiwahea] from the hilo ,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.**

This reminds me of Fire ants on the island. So last year on the bay I was on the sand and I got bitten by fire ants. Being back on the bay it gotten worse.

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.**

[EXTERNAL] Re: Testimony for Agenda Item IV.B.1

From Wayne Tanaka <wayne.tanaka@sierraclub.org>
Date Thu 1/22/2026 3:51 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

1 attachment (172 KB)
BAB Testimony Hawaii Island CRB petition 012726 amended agenda.pdf;

Hi!
In light of the amended agenda which corrected the petitioner name in this agenda item, I am re-submitting the testimony with the petitioner name also corrected in the header. Please use this version if can.
Mahalo!
Wayne

On Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 4:45 PM Wayne Tanaka <wayne.tanaka@sierraclub.org> wrote:

Aloha,
Please find attached the testimony of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i on agenda item IV.B.1 on next Tuesday's BAB meeting.
Mahalo nui,
Wayne

--



Wayne Chung Tanaka
Executive Director
he/him/oia
Kahalu'u, Hawai'i
(808)538-6616

www.sierraclubhawaii.org

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

--



Wayne Chung Tanaka
Executive Director
he/him/oia
Kahalu'u, Hawai'i
(808)538-6616

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

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

From Wyatt Savella <wsavella@hawaii.edu>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 2:23 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 Wyatt Savella from Kealakekua, 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 forwards 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.

I was born and raised on Hawai'i Island, so this issue is impactful on a personal level. Every visit back home, I see the effects of CRB worsening, which is very saddening to see. I feel like each tree that CRB destroys, a piece of Hawai'i's identity is lost. These native and canoe plants play a very important role both ecologically and culturally. I want these plants to continue to thrive for generations. The idea to protect and preserve these special plants is still a possibility, but the time for action is now. I do not want more plants and animals in Hawai'i lost. Invasive species have already taken over a lot of important species in Hawai'i, so we must come together to care for the land we love.

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 inter island 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.
Wyatt Savella

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

From Zaxyn-Kapili Kodani <zakodani@connectionspcs.org>

Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:57 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 Zaxyn-Kapili Kodani from Hilo, 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.

Zaxyn-Kapili Kodani

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

From Joseph Wat <joew@keyproject.org>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 12:52 PM

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

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

My name is Joe Wat from Kahalu'u, O'ahu, 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.**

Over the last 5 years I have seen the destruction of CRB at a farm I worked out on the North Shore and I've watched CRB populations explode along the Ko'olau Coast. While home-scale "best management practices" for compost management and trap-setting are useful once CRB is established, we need large-scale coordinated efforts to prevent Hawai'i Island from experiencing the loss and heartbreak that O'ahu is currently enduring.

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. If Hawai'i does not manage these pests (CRB and LFA) and they appear in shipments to the continent it could permanently destroy Hawai'i's agricultural export industry.

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.

Aloha nō,
- Joe Wat

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Joe Wat
Community Development Coordinator
KEY Project

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