



[EXTERNAL] CRB testimony

From Athan Nguyen <athan4@hawaii.edu>

Date Tue 1/27/2026 8:07 AM

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

 1 attachment (53 KB)

board of agriculture and biosecurity meeting.pdf;

Aloha, in support for the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to take immediate action and remove CRB materials from infected areas on Hawai'i Island. Attached is my testimony.

Mahalo,
Athan Nguyen.

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

My name is Athan Nguyen from Kapolei, 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 CRB. Now, Hawai'i Island needs your help, as more and more beetles and breeding sites are spreading in north Kona, and as **mulch and other high-risk materials of CRB continue to be moved from infested areas to other regions on Hawai'i Island without any regulatory oversight.**

Personally, I have seen the capabilities of damage that CRB can inflict on Native Plant species and in public parks or gardens. Working at Ulu'Ae Learning center as a program assistant, I was tasked with monitoring groups of students as we took them to various sites. Few sites that I saw CRB impacts included the gardens Pu'u Kapolei and even our garden at the center. CRB would cause irreversible damage to the native plant species in our gardens.

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.

Athan Nguyen.

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

From Carol Li <carolli@hawaii.edu>

Date Tue 1/27/2026 8:32 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 Carol from Honolulu, 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.**

Although I live on O'ahu, I have close friends on

Hawai'i Island and care deeply about the communities there. Our ecosystems are so unique and fragile. It is so important for our futures to ensure the environment they depend on is taken care of.

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.

Carol

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

From Chasity Bae <ckbae@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 9:52 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 Chasity Bae and I am from Waipi'o, O'ahu with generational ties to Kohala 'ākau (North Kohala) on Hawai'i 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.**

O'ahu has already seen the devastating impact of CRB and it is crucial that we keep other islands from this state. As we lose niu, we lose a piece of history, 'ike (knowledge), and mea 'ai (food). Please remember this when conducting decision making and that our livelihood depends on our 'āina.

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

Notably, the widespread distribution of CRB on Hawai'i Island will also exacerbate the risk of the pest being introduced and established on other

islands, via the off-shipment of host material or other forms of interisland transportation.

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

Time is of the essence.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Chasity Bae

January 27, 2026

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

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

My name is Kawehi Young, and I am writing in strong support of the petition to initiate administrative rulemaking to implement an interim rule to contain and slow the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island, agenda item IV.B.1.

While adult beetles can fly up to two miles, CRB spreads over much greater distances through human-mediated movement of infested materials. It is imperative that regulations be put into place to mitigate the spread of CRB from Kona to other parts of Hawai'i Island. The devastation of niu across O'ahu and Kaua'i is a sobering wake-up call, and there is no time to wait.

While these measures may initially feel inconvenient to some, I believe these regulations will ultimately empower businesses and the community to adopt best management practices that benefit everyone. Preventing the spread of invasive species is a shared kuleana. This interim rule is just one piece of the puzzle—but it is one of the most critical.

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle has proven to be a persistent and damaging invader across the Pacific and is notoriously difficult to eradicate once established. Without mandatory regulations in place, infested materials may already be moving to new locations across the island. Your decision today may represent our best—and possibly last—opportunity to prevent CRB from becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island.

I respectfully urge the Board to move forward with this rulemaking. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Na'u iho nō,
Kawehi Young

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

From Palani <volkno@hawaii.rr.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 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 Frank Trusdell from Volcano, 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, our home, Hawai'i Island needs your help, as 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 regulatory oversight.

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

Frank Trusdell



[EXTERNAL] Support Agenda IV.B.1

From janet Matlock <matlock.janet@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 3:41 PM

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

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

I am writing to encourage you to support the proposed rules regarding best practices for businesses transporting high-risk CRB host materials from within an infested area.

I live within one of those infested areas. We know the risks, and are doing our best locally to manage and eradicate this devastating pest. We don't want this menace to spread across Hawai'i Island. Your positive action is imperative in this effort.

Mahalo,
janet Matlock
Kailua Kona

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

From Jeff <jeff@outofthesea.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 6:56 PM

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

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

My name is Jeff Haun from Hakalau on the Island of 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.**

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.**

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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 for your consideration of this testimony,
Jeff Haun

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

From Jennifer Riordan <jenrio19@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 12:59 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 Jennifer Riordan from Puna, 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.**

I have seen the devastation CRB has caused on Oahu and I fear that if we do not act now we will lose some of the oldest coconut groves here on Hawaii 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.**

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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.

Jennifer Riordan

[EXTERNAL] Fwd: GL N3109 Coleman Kumuhau Farm Lot

From junior coleman <juncoleman@gmail.com>
Date Tue 1/27/2026 8:24 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

 2 attachments (140 KB)

S-3109 - repayment plan agreement (1)20_260128_041828.pdf; Repayment Plan Agreement - gls3109 Coleman 42020_260128_041759.pdf;

Attachments for your reference

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **junior coleman** <juncoleman@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 28, 2026, 4:16 AM
Subject: GL N3109 Coleman Kumuhau Farm Lot
To: <DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Director Sharon Hurd & DAB Board,
Hope all is well with you, our 'ohana sends their aloha. I am humbly requesting a 3 month deferment of DAB Board meeting agenda item 1 under ARMD as much needed kokua for our 'ohana regarding the farm lot in Waimanalo located at Kumuhau St.

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For the record, The Agricultural Resource Management Department (ARMD) namely Linda Murai and her underling Roy Hasegawa were not giving the complete details or story regarding the farm and repayment plans, Plans of Utilization & Development, payments etc.

The following is part of the story on this important matter. Lot of information but recounts my encounter with ARMD, honestly felt that Linda Murai had a personal vendetta against us, her reputation amongst many of the Waimanalo farmers was pretty bad and noticeably prejudice against kanaka:

The report that ARMD has submitted is inaccurate and is a false picture in saying the lot has never been developed, farmed and there are squatters. Much has been planted and harvested as stated and in line with our original Plan of Utilization and Development. We are currently growing, native/ canoe plants such as niu, uala, maia, noni, ulu, kukui, mamaki, uhaloa, wauke, hau, hala etc. In our new Plan of Utilization and Development we have incorporated more diversified trees and plants such as calamansi, 2 varieties of malunggay(moringa), soursop, lime, laupele, cacao, java plum (btw very abundant throughout farm helps balance blood sugar and is used to treat diabetes in India,

Bangladesh etc.) Our new Plan of Utilization and Development which I submitted in January 2023 via email(on record) with no response from ARMD as received or approved is still actively being carried out.

With regards to the repayment plan agreements they say I rejected, I couldn't accept them as they were not in my best interest in both instances. I have attached both repayment plan agreements. The first repayment plan agreement was offered by ARMD in April 2020 during the COVID period but the backstory is that it was preceded by a very contentious series of phone calls with Linda Murai who was hellbent and stated that I was DONE and she had submitted request to terminate the farm lease. A matter of fact she hung up on me three times. I called back each time she still continued to be rude as I told her that hanging up on me was unprofessional and I asked her if I had to go above her to be heard. She hung up on me again. She then called me back and said if I want to go above her go ahead but she will not support me anymore. I then called the HDOA Chair's office and informed her of the situation and she indicated she would remove it from the meeting agenda and advised me to just work with Linda although I told her she had said she wasn't going to help me, The Chair said she will let her know to do so. The following week after the April 17th 2020 board meeting, Linda Murai and Roy Hasegawa showed up to the farm, my family was in the midst of working on the land cultivating Kalo planting huli at the time. The two ARMD individuals handed me a Repayment plan agreement and said to just sign, however I read it and said I couldn't agree to the terms as it said I had to pay \$10,000 a month. They said to come up with my own repayment plan agreement and left. I sent a Repayment plan agreement on May 7, 2020 which was more affordable and I then made payments in at or above what I had proposed, then COVID had caused additional financial challenges, so I paid when I could.

ARMD resubmitted request to terminate the lease at the November 29, 2022 HDOA Board meeting but the item was deferred without comments by the HDOA Chair.

I made a balloon payment via a cashier's check at the end of December 2022.

I received a second Repayment plan agreement from ARMD/Roy Hasegawa via email with Linda Murai cc'd in February, after reviewing it, I could not accept the terms namely the section where it stated that ARMD could terminate the lease without the necessary authorization by the BOARD if a payment was missed or late. I specifically pointed this out to Roy Hasegawa in email responses repeatedly and he stated in writing that the Repayment plan agreement had been approved by the Deputy Attorney General and any changes or revisions will not be accepted. I continued to express in emails to be very clear that I could not agree to the proposed agreement as it would supersede the BOARD'S Authority in such matters and would not be favorable for me. I sent balloon payments on February 25th 2023 via certified mail and was received at HDOA on March 3rd 2023. I then received an email on March 9 confirming receipt of balloon payments and Roy stated in his email "We are offering the repayment plan agreement as a reasonable and favorable action rather than submitting a request for termination of lease. The repayment plan agreement is not a requirement. It is in your best interest to sign the agreement. "

Our 'ohana is asking to defer any cancellation of the General Lease 3109 If that can be done it would help greatly and give us additional time to finance and continue carrying out our new Plan of Utilization and Development.

Lastly, we have had 5 deaths in the family in the past year, I have been overseas for family health reasons and need 3 months to fix all things with regards to this important matter.

Me ka ha'aha'a a me oia'i'o,

Milton JF Coleman Jr

[EXTERNAL] GL N3109 Coleman Kumuhau Farm Lot

From junior coleman <juncoleman@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/27/2026 8:16 AM

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For the record, The Agricultural Resource Management Department (ARMD) namely Linda Murai and her underling Roy Hasegawa were not giving the complete details or story regarding the farm and repayment plans, Plans of Utilization & Development, payments etc.

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With regards to the repayment plan agreements they say I rejected, I couldn't accept them as they were not in my best interest in both instances. I have attached both repayment plan agreements. The first repayment plan agreement was offered by ARMD in April 2020 during the COVID period but the backstory is that it was preceded by a very contentious series of phone calls with Linda Murai who was hellbent and stated that I was DONE and she had submitted request to terminate the farm lease. A matter of fact she hung up on me three times. I called back each time she still continued to be rude as I told her that hanging up on me was unprofessional and I asked her if I had to go above her to be heard. She hung up on me again. She then called me back and said if I want to go above her go ahead but she will not support me anymore. I then called the HDOA Chair's office and informed her of the situation and she indicated she would remove it from the meeting agenda and advised me to just

work with Linda although I told her she had said she wasn't going to help me, The Chair said she will let her know to do so. The following week after the April 17th 2020 board meeting, Linda Murai and Roy Hasegawa showed up to the farm, my family was in the midst of working on the land cultivating Kalo planting huli at the time. The two ARMD individuals handed me a Repayment plan agreement and said to just sign, however I read it and said I couldn't agree to the terms as it said I had to pay \$10,000 a month. They said to come up with my own repayment plan agreement and left. I sent a Repayment plan agreement on May 7, 2020 which was more affordable and I then made payments in at or above what I had proposed, then COVID had caused additional financial challenges, so I paid when I could.

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Our 'ohana is asking to defer any cancellation of the General Lease 3109 If that can be done it would help greatly and give us additional time to finance and continue carrying out our new Plan of Utilization and Development.

Lastly, we have had 5 deaths in the family in the past year, I have been overseas for family health reasons and need 3 months to fix all things with regards to this important matter.

Me ka ha'aha'a a me oia'i'o,

Milton JF Coleman Jr

[EXTERNAL] HAWAII CRB TESTIMONY

From kawaila Purdy <wailahiazz@outlook.com>

Date Tue 1/27/2026 12:01 AM

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

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

My name is Shylyn Fay Kawailahia Purdy 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.**

Niu plants play a big role in my life and many other Hawaiian families I know. We grew up eating and drinking it almost everyday. I learned to make coconut milk and oil at young age and soon after learned how to weave hats and baskets I quickly understood the cultural importance of our coconut trees and learned how to make many other things using all parts of the tree. I passed on those teachings to my kids and now at 15 & 16 yrs old they are still continuing to do so. There are many people/families just like us that use it on a daily basis. I would hate to see that taken away from anyone and any place. It's important for all islands to get the support they need to prevent CRB from spreading . It's the tree of life and it provides everything we need to survive.

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.

Shylyn Fay Kawailahia Purdy

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

From Keliikanakaole Ioane <kioane6@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 7:52 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 Keli'i Ioane from Hilo on Hawai'i 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.

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.**

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Mahalo,

Keli'i Ioane

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

From Kelli Lariosa <kellil@keyproject.org>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 1:02 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 Kelli Lariosa from Kaneohe 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.

Kelli Lariosa



Kelli Lariosa

Social Services Programs Assistant
KEY Project

808-239-5777 | keyproject.org



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Representative Chun Testimony - Petition for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Host Material Regulation Interim Rulemaking

From chun2 - Kianna <chun2@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 2:39 PM

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

Cc Dustin Lee <d.lee@capitol.hawaii.gov>; CAPITOL2023-repchun <repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (696 KB)

Rep Chun CRB Testimony.pdf;

Aloha,

Please see attached for Representative Chun's written testimony regarding interim rulemaking to regulate the transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle host material on Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo,

Kianna Teehera

Legislative Aide for Representative Cory Chun

District 35 (Portions of Pearl City and Waipahu, Crestview)

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 406 | Phone: (808) 586-6170

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

[EXTERNAL] CRB

From Lois Crozer <lbc@hawaiiintel.net>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 4:05 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,

I am urging you to approve the initiation of rule making 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.

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 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.

Please take heed, as we don't have time to waste.

Lois Crozer

Kailua

[EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV.B.1 Palms & CRB rule

From manninga001@hawaii.rr.com <manninga001@hawaii.rr.com>

Date Tue 1/27/2026 12:30 AM

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

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Conference Room

January 27, 2026 9:00 AM PQB

Agenda Item IV.B.1

Native Loulu Palms are magnificent trees on every island from Niihau to South Kona, and on rat-free Huelo Islet, Loulu are still the canopy dominant. Loulu thrive in diverse habitats from coastal brackish ponds to dry, moist and very wet summit cloud forests. On Oahu we see now vast and shocking damages to many kinds of palms that this giant rhinoceros beetle native to Southeast Asia has done, having sneaked into our state after escaping its specific, ancient, natural enemies that have long suppressed this insect there. The Conservation Council for Hawaii supports this rule, since it can provide laboratories here and abroad a few years needed to find, import and test in quarantine the best natural enemies for local releases. A primary goal of the current U.H. lab testing is to ensure the virus is host-specific and will not harm Hawai'i's native ecosystem.

Researchers showed that adult beetles efficiently disseminate an *Oryctes rhinoceros nudivirus* (OrNV) to breeding sites through defecation at feeding and breeding sites, spreading the infection and leading to a significant reduction in damage and pest populations ([Zelazny 1976](#)). This virus has been the most effective classical control method, and continues to be widely used within Pacific CRB management programs ([Jackson 2009](#)). It was so successful that the virus is considered one of the landmark classical biological control

programs ([Hajek et al. 2006](#)). First released in Western Samoa in 1967, the virus reduced CRB populations and successfully maintained low numbers in invaded countries and territories for more than 30 yr. Viruses from the Philippines (imported through AgResearch, New Zealand) have produced promising results against CRB(-Guam variety) in Solomon Islands ([Tsatsia et al. 2018](#)). Also green muscardine fungus, *Metarhizium* species, have long been recognized for their biological control potential.

The proposed rules are not for a complete ban on the movements of CRB host material, but ensure that businesses seeking to transport host material from an infested area take precautions to minimize the risk of spreading CRB, and would even the playing field for those model businesses that have already voluntarily adopted best management practices to minimize the spread of CRB, by ensuring that all businesses act with high levels of precaution. Failure to adopt interim protections while the natural resources, diversified agriculture, and Native Hawaiian traditional practices of Hawai‘i Island remain under such clear threats, would ignore constitutional provisions that the Board has a duty to apply.

By voting YES for this rule, will you please give Big Island palms a chance to survive?

Aloha, Steven Lee Montgomery, Ph. D., Board Member

Conservation Council for Hawaii

P.O. Box 2923 Honolulu, HI 96802

[EXTERNAL] Testimony In Support

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

Date Mon 1/26/2026 2:28 PM

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

Cc jodie.HWF@gmail.com <jodie.HWF@gmail.com>; Nancy Redfeather <nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com>

Aloha,

I testify in support of a petition to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity submitted by the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka, for proposed rules that would require training, treatment, and other best management practices for any businesses wishing to transport high-risk CRB host material from within all infested areas.

Attached is my Testimony.

Mahalo,

Nancy Redfeather

www.kawanuifarm.org

www.hawaiiseedgrowersnetwork.com

nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com

79-985 Kawanui Place, Kealakekua, 96750

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**. It seems obvious to me that **the time has come for this next step**.

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.

CRB will take another step to lessen the food crops that traditionally grow well here. We are not even sure how many different crops will be impacted in the future. I have been growing food for my family and community here since 1978, and every year it is getting more difficult.

My husband and 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. Time is of the essence. HDOA finally has received Legislative funds for Invasive Species and we should all do everything we can to spend this in a timely manner allotting it to what will be most effective.

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,

Nancy Redfeather and Gerry Herbert

Kawanui Farm, Honalo www.kawanuifarm.org

www.hawaiiseedgrowersnetwork.com

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

From Nanea Lo <naneaclo@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/27/2026 8:03 AM

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

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

My name is Nanea Lo from Papakōlea, 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.

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.

me ke aloha 'āina,

--

Nanea Lo (*she/they/'o ia*) | Micro-influencer

Board Member | [Hawai'i Workers Center](#)

Board Member | [Circular Fashion Hawai'i](#)

Granter | [Hawai'i People's Fund](#)

Pod | [Naughty + Native](#)

(808)444-1229

[LinkedIn](#)

"*A'ole 'ulu i loa'a i ka pōkole o ka lou*" - 'Ōlelo No'eau

No breadfruit can be reached when the picking stick is too short.

There can be no success without preparation.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

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

January 26, 2026

TO: Sharon Hurd, Chair
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814

FROM: Representative Cory Chun
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Hawaiiʻi State Legislature

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

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 Hawaiʻi Island.

The issue of CRB in the state of Hawaiʻi has become increasingly dire since its discovery as a destructive, invasive species that has wreaked havoc on the state's agriculture and ecosystems. First detected on Oʻahu in 2013, CRB has caused damage to palm species that has led to devastating effects on several plant species of our ʻāina, like coconut, royal, date, and fan palm, as well as sugar cane, bananas, and kalo.

Currently, CRB population management requires the inspection and treatment of high-risk materials. While there is an existing emergency response program, the rapid spread of CRB is becoming even more difficult to manage, despite the efforts of the field service crews and collaborative partners. The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response team is based on Oʻahu, so the efforts originating from this emergency response program are limited in its capacity to help other islands effectively.

Establishing interim rulemaking is a necessary and timely step to protect Hawaiʻi Island's natural resources and prevent the severe and lasting impacts already experienced on Oʻahu and

Kaua'i. Given the significant threat CRB poses to our ecosystems and agricultural systems, containment and management must remain a top priority, and these efforts must be supported on Hawai'i Island.

Implementing regulatory control of host materials for CRB, such as compost, mulch, and potting mix, could slow the spread of the pervasive pest, allowing more time to manage the population of CRB. With brevity and urgency, taking action now will help to heal and protect the unique native plant species of our state.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory Chun', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Cory Chun
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, Chair
District 35
Hawai'i State Legislature

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
HONOLULU, HAWAII**

THIS AGREEMENT made this _____ day of _____, 20____, between the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resource Management Division, hereinafter referred to as "ARMD", and Milton Coleman, Jr., Lessee, General Lease No. S-3109, hereinafter referred to as "Customer"; hereby mutually agree as follows:

THAT, the ARMD and Customer, do hereby agree to a repayment schedule for the outstanding amount of FIFTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED ONE AND 70/100 DOLLARS (\$59,201.70), in lease rent and interest charges as of April 14, 2020. In addition, customer shall make timely payments of current lease rent due. Customer shall, commencing on May 1, 2020, remit the total monthly sum of **TEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS** (\$10,000.00) per month and every month thereafter due on the 1st of each month, until all outstanding amounts relating to Account No. N-3109 are fully paid. The \$10,000.00 monthly payment will be applied to delinquent rent and interest charges. Customer agrees to make additional payments as funds allow.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

CUSTOMER

STATE OF HAWAII

Signature: Milton Coleman, Jr.

Brian Kau, P.E.
Administrator & Chief Engineer
Agricultural Resource
Management Division

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
HONOLULU, HAWAII**

REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

THIS REPAYMENT AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) made this day of , 20___ (“Effective Date”), between the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resource Management Division (“State” or “Lessor”), as lessor, and Milton Coleman, Jr. (“Lessee”), as lessee, under State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture General Lease No. S-3109 (“Lease”).

WHEREAS, the Lessee owes to the State an outstanding amount of NINETY-FOUR THOUSAND, SEVENTEEN AND 45/100 DOLLARS (\$94,017.45) in lease rent and interest charges as of February 14, 2023 under the Lease (“Outstanding Amount”).

WHEREAS, the State has provided the Lessee due notice of breach or default regarding the Outstanding Amount in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Lease.

NOW, THEREFORE, the State and the Lessee hereby mutually agree as follows:

THAT, the State and the Lessee, do hereby agree to a payment schedule governing the Lessee’s repayment of the Outstanding Amount to the State. THAT, the Lessee shall pay THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$13,000.00) on or before February 28, 2023.

THAT, the Lessee shall, commencing on March 1st, 2023, in addition to paying the current lease rent when due, remit the total monthly sum of TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$2,200.00) per month and every month thereafter due on the 15th of each month, until all outstanding amounts relating to Account No. S-3109 are fully paid. Lessee agrees to make additional payments as funds allow. As long as Lessee makes such payments, interest shall not accrue on the Outstanding Amount. However, if Lessee fails to

make any single payment, then interest will resume accruing from the date of the missed payment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have voluntarily executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

MILTON COLEMAN, JR.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milton Coleman, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

By:
Its:

“Lessee”

STATE OF HAWAII

By: Brian Kau, P.E.
Its: Administrator & Chief Engineer
Agricultural Resource Management Division

“Lessor”

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

From susanblueyes2-gs@yahoo.com <susanblueyes2-gs@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 7:42 PM

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

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

I am writing to strongly 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.

Thank you 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 where I live, needs your help as more and more 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.**

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 very well 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.

Thank you for hearing and considering my plea to you for your support on this very important decision,

Susan Bambara,
Kurtistown



P.O. Box 1662
Honolulu, HI 96806

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Implement an Interim Rule to Require a Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity Permit or Compliance Agreement for to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

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

Meeting Date: January 27, 2026 at 9 am

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

My name is Pauline Sato and on behalf of the Mālama Learning Center (MLC), I am testifying in support of the initiation of administrative rulemaking to prevent the establishment of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB) on Hawai'i Island. We support the petition put forward by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka.

We are deeply grateful for your recent support of the Moloka'i community's efforts to remain CRB-free. Hawai'i Island faces an immediate crisis with breeding sites recently discovered in North Kona and new beetles being found almost daily. The island is at a critical turning point.

Because the risk of transporting CRB through mulch and other high-risk vectors is so high, it is illogical to allow these materials to move from infested areas to other regions without regulatory oversight. This is not a localized issue; without intervention, the continued inter-island shipment of host material threatens the biosecurity of the entire state.

The timing of your decision is critical. We respectfully ask for the implementation of mandatory compliance agreements—including required training, treatment, and best management practices—before any host material can be moved from known infested areas.

Mahalo for your leadership and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this vitally important matter.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pauline Sato", written in a cursive style.

Executive Director

[EXTERNAL] Agenda IV.B.1.- Petition To Initiate Administrative Rule Making to Contain the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island

From Wendy <wendy@outofthesea.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 7:11 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 Wendy Haun from Hakalau, 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.**

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.

Wendy Haun