

State of Hawai‘i
Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Industry Division
Plant Quarantine Branch
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

March 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Department of Agriculture and Biodiversity,

My name is Michelle Tasaki and I am a second-year law student at the University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law. As a life-long resident of Hawai‘i, I am concerned with the wellbeing of the environment and have an interest in the preservation of our natural resources. I am grateful for the work you do to protect our islands’ agriculture, ecosystems, and communities.

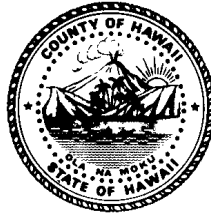
I am respectfully writing **in support** of the petition submitted by Megan Lamson, Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund, and Leila Kealoha, Pōhaku Pelemaka to initiate administrative rulemaking pursuant to HRS § 150A-9.5. The spread of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) poses a direct and serious threat to the environment. Article XI of the Hawai‘i Constitution affirms the State’s obligation to conserve and protect Hawai‘i’s natural beauty and natural resources for present and future generations. I appreciate and commend the Department’s ongoing efforts to address invasive species and safeguard our islands. However, the urgency and severity of the CRB threat warrant additional, proactive measures at this time.

The proposed interim rule represents a thoughtful and necessary step to prevent further spread of CRB by restricting the transportation of high-risk host materials, including live palm plants, mulch, compost, and other decomposing organic matter. These materials are known pathways for CRB larvae and infestation and remain a significant risk of inter-island transmission and further establishment.

As a law student studying administrative law, I understand the importance of timely and responsive rulemaking. I respectfully urge the Department to adopt the proposed interim rule and take decisive action to contain and slow the spread of CRB. Doing so would demonstrate a commitment to the constitutional and moral responsibility we share to steward Hawai‘i’s environment.

Sincerely,
Michelle Tasaki

Holeka Goro Inaba, Ed.D.
Council Chair, District 8, North Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280
Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

March 23, 2026

Chairperson Sharon Hurd Via Email: dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov
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
Hearing: March 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

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

The spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island poses a direct threat to our island's agricultural resources, cultural practices, and natural ecosystems. Species such as niu (coconut), loulu palms—Hawai'i's only native palm—and hala are not only ecologically important but are deeply rooted in Native Hawaiian culture, used for food, weaving, construction, and traditional practices. The loss of these species would have lasting impacts on cultural practitioners, local farmers, and the broader community.

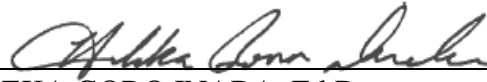
As a resident of West Hawai'i and someone who works closely with the community, I see firsthand how vital these resources are to our way of life and our economy. The agricultural lands in this region, including those in proximity to Kona and North Kona, are especially vulnerable due to the movement of green waste, mulch, and other host materials that can harbor CRB larvae. Without immediate and enforceable restrictions, the unchecked transport of host material will accelerate the spread of this destructive pest across the island.

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

Mahalo for your leadership and continued commitment to protecting Hawai'i's agricultural integrity, native ecosystems, and cultural heritage. Swift action is necessary to prevent further spread of CRB and to preserve the resources that sustain our communities 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 Island.

Sincerely,



HOLEKA GORO INABA, Ed.D.,
Council Chair, District 8, North Kona

HGI.wpb

Uilani Naipo

1267 Auwae Rd
Hilo, HI 96720
uilani.naipo@me.com

19 March 2026

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

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

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

I am writing in 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 the Petition states, CRB started on O'ahu, spread to other islands after a decade of containment, and is now expanding across Hawai'i.

- Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first found on O'ahu in 2013.
- Despite control efforts, it became widespread on O'ahu, damaging coconut trees, hala, and endangered palms.
- For about 10 years, its spread to other islands was prevented.
- In 2023, CRB spread to Kaua'i (now widespread) and was also detected on Hawai'i Island (Waikōloa).
- By 2024–2025, it expanded further across west Hawai'i Island, including areas near Kona International Airport and Keāhole Agricultural Park.

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

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

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

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

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "U'ilani Naipo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

U'ilani Naipo



[EXTERNAL] Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Alexis Kerver <alexis.hwf@gmail.com>
Date Mon 3/23/2026 2:09 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Alexis Kerver
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
PO Box 588, Captain Cook, HI 96704
(808) 895-7765
March 23, 2026

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

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 urge you to approve 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 petitioners have worked with PQB and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will successfully reduce human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

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

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

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

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae ‘āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,

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Alexis Kerver

Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund Community Conservation Volunteer Coordinator

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



Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 urge you to approve 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 petitioners have worked with the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will reduce the impacts of human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

One of the four core values here at the Arts & Sciences Center is Stewardship of the Natural Environment. As such, we urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae 'āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendra Tidwell".

Kendra Tidwell
Executive Director
Arts & Sciences Center

www.hiasc.org
15-1397 Post Office Rd
Pahoa, HI, 96778
(808) 965-3730 x102



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Testimony to Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

March 24, 2026

9:00 AM

PQB Conference Room

Agenda Item IV.C.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 adoption of interim rules 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, and of the petition underlying these rules before you today. The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals has also now agreed that regulatory action is urgently needed for Hawai'i Island, **as the continual, unregulated movement of CRB host material from known infested areas in north Kona continues to threaten the imminent and rapid distribution of CRB to other regions of the island.**

The Sierra Club emphasizes once again 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 further. 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.

Notably, the Sierra Club understands that supporters of these rules endeavored to meet with the affected business community prior to the February Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals meeting, as well as with Plant Quarantine Branch staff, and that questions and confusion regarding the proposal appear to now have been resolved.

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 re-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 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 CRB rules now under your consideration.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Mar 20, 2026

Hawaii Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity
Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

RE: Mar 24 Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity Meeting Agenda Item IV C 1

Aloha Board members,

I am writing to express the support of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee for the revised interim rule for compliance agreements as submitted by the petitioners, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pohaku Pelemaka. 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). As you know, CRB arrived in Kona one year ago, in March of 2025, and has been spreading across the Kona area since. Over this last year we have seen new detections appearing in areas that are likely natural beetle movement, but also several alarming detections that could only have come from accidental human assistance. This kind of movement allows for beetles to go very long distances, creating brand new fronts for battling this devastating species, and exhausting resources.

Over the last few months, BIISC has been working closely with the petitioners to ensure that we can provide support as necessary to help implement these rules. We have had several productive meetings with the Department's PQ division, the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest species (CGAPS), the CTAHR-CRB Response team, and the petitioners to clarify and refine the rules based on the best available science, feedback from stakeholders, and a review of combined available resources. While compliance agreements will not eradicate CRB from the Big Island, these common sense requirements will significantly reduce the risk of moving CRB from the infested areas to new areas of the island, and will slow the spread as CTAHR develops new tools and methods to better control CRB.

Along with the petitioners, we were able to meet with many of the affected stakeholders in the Kona area, and the attitude was very supportive of such restrictions. Many of the affected businesses are already undertaking protective measures and have adopted best practices, and are committed to stopping the spread of CRB. One of the most cited concerns was that not all businesses in the area were participating at the same level, creating an uneven playing field. These compliance rules would allow consistency in ensuring all parties that engage in movement of host materials are held to the same strict standards to prevent the accidental movement of CRB.

We appreciate the Board's willingness to consider this request, and hope that you can pass this measure today. Mahalo for the opportunity, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions.

Warmly,

Franny Brewer, Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Boisvert-Jorgensen <infofordenise@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:43 PM

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

Aloha,

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, make and enforce the critical rules, and require expert training for those who will be dealing with the materials being transported.

Mahalo,
Denise Boisvert
Honolulu

Please be kind enough to confirm receipt of this testimony.



Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
March 24, 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.C.1. (Petition).

As noted in the Petition, coconut rhinoceros beetle (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. The County of Hawaii has issued multiple Voluntary Compliance Orders for CRB Host Material in an attempt to slow the spread of CRB on the island. The Petition proposes a mandatory compliance structure that includes a Proposed Interim Rule and Compliance Agreement.

CGAPS is grateful for the efforts the Petitioners have made to reach out to stakeholders, including the stakeholder meeting held on February 10, 2026, on Hawaii Island. We are also grateful for the efforts the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) has made to work with the Petitioners to draft a Proposed Interim Rule and Compliance Agreement that are acceptable to both PQB and the Petitioners. We also note that this work was accomplished during a very busy time for PQB, including during the Legislative session and the recent weather emergency impacting the entire State.

We believe the approach taken by the Petitioners, working with PQB and stakeholders, is balanced, requires the use of best management practices to slow the human-assisted spread of CRB, and can be tailored to individual businesses, hopefully keeping costs down while preventing CRB from spreading to other areas of Hawaii Island. We hope this Board will adopt

the Proposed Interim Rule set out in Appendix B and direct PQB to use the Compliance Agreement as set out in Appendix C, with the following modifications:

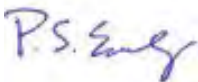
1. Provide PQB the authority to modify the description of the “Infested Area” in section III of the Proposed Interim Rule in Appendix B so that the description matches the Infested Area as set out on the map in Figure 1.
2. Direct PQB to make the following modifications to the Compliance Agreement as set out in Appendix C:
 - a. On page 1, in the Purpose, delete “Quarantine Area” and insert “Infested Area.”
 - b. On page 9, in section 4, 1., a. and c., delete “potted plants” and insert “such plants.”
3. Provide PQB the authority to make technical corrections for clarity, consistency, and style to correct typographical and formatting errors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for all your efforts to address CRB across the State.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

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

Date Tue 3/24/2026 9:20 AM

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

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

My name is Chris Ka'iakapu and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I work both as an Agroforestry Specialist for the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative providing technical support to over 200 farmers around the islands, and as a coconut producer with my own business on the side. I have been on the front lines battling CRB and raising awareness since the Beetle arrived on Kaua'i in 2023. The damages we are witnessing here are heartbreaking and alarming, and the concerns I am hearing from farmers are very clear and valid. If there is one lesson we can learn from Kaua'i, it is that the rule on interisland shipment of potential breeding material should have been extended and taken more seriously. We need to take a more aggressive approach to managing Biosecurity threats to protect our agriculture industry and food security.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Malama pono,

--



Chris Ka'iakapu

Agroforestry Manager,

Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative

+1-808-346-2762

agroforestry@eatbreadfruit.com

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

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



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Chuck Chimera <cgchimera@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:26 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 Chuck Chimera, and I am a resident of Honoka'a. I strongly support agenda item C-1, which would establish interim rules to prevent the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I have worked in conservation for over 30 years, propagating and outplanting rare and endangered loulu palms (*Pritchardia*) in Kīpahulu, Haleakalā National Park. I also care for coconut and loulu palms in my own yard here in Honoka'a. These trees are more than plants—they are living connections to Hawai'i's ecosystems, culture, and history. Seeing them threatened by CRB is deeply personal.

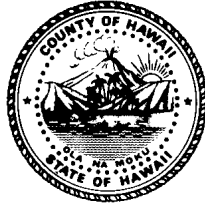
CRB has already caused widespread damage on O'ahu, and without action, the beetle could quickly spread beyond Kona to the rest of Hawai'i Island. The consequences would be devastating—to native ecosystems, culturally significant palms, food security, and our local economy.

These interim rules are a practical, essential step. By mandating best management practices before moving CRB host material, they provide a critical layer of protection for the palms I care for personally and for trees across the island. Containment is still possible, but only if decisive action is taken now.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Board to vote for the final adoption of these interim rules today, protecting Hawai'i Island's palms, heritage, and environment for generations to come.

Mahalo nui,

Chuck Chimera
Honoka'a, Hawai'i Island



HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

DATE: March 24, 2026
TO: Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai‘i Island

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

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

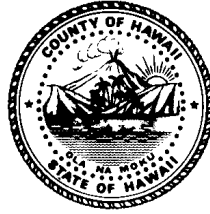
As the Petition states, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) was first detected in Hawai‘i on the Island of O‘ahu in 2013. Since that time, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (referred to as DAB in this petition) and its partners worked to prevent the spread of CRB. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful 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 petitioners have worked with PQB and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will successfully reduce human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai‘i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada

James E. Hustace
Council Member
District 9
North & South Kohala



Waimea: (808) 887-6077
Hilo: (808) 961-8564
james.hustace@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street | Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 20, 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 Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

I am writing in my capacity as an elected representative serving the Kohala community to express strong support for the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to regulate the transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host material on Hawai'i Island.

As outlined in the Petition and supporting materials, CRB has demonstrated a clear and concerning pattern of spread across the State. Since its initial detection on O'ahu in 2013, CRB has become firmly established there and has since spread to Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island. Recent detections in West Hawai'i—including areas beyond Waikōloa—underscore that the threat is no longer isolated and is actively expanding.

A key finding emphasized in the Department of Agriculture materials is the role of green waste, mulch, compost, and other host materials in facilitating the spread of CRB. Without enforceable controls on the movement and treatment of these materials, we risk accelerating the beetle's establishment across Hawai'i Island.

For communities in Kohala and across Hawai'i Island, the stakes are significant. Coconut, hala, and native loulu palms are foundational to our landscapes, cultural practices, and sense of place. The continued spread of CRB threatens not only these iconic species, but also broader agricultural systems and ecosystem health.

Given the urgency of the situation, I strongly support the adoption of interim rules to regulate host material movement and reduce pathways for CRB spread. I further urge the Board to act swiftly to:

- Establish clear, enforceable standards for handling and transporting host materials
- Support increased detection, compliance, and enforcement capacity on Hawai'i Island
- Strengthen coordination with County and community partners
- Expand public outreach to ensure residents and businesses understand their role in prevention

Taking decisive action now will help prevent further spread, reduce long-term costs, and protect Hawai'i Island's natural and agricultural resources. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your leadership in addressing this urgent issue.

Mahalo nui,

James E. Hustace
Hawai'i County Council Member
District 9 (North & South Kohala)

Hawai'i County Is an Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer

Aloha no kakou,

My name is Damien Kenison, president of Kauhakō 'Ohana Association, a 501c3 community nonprofit based in Ho'okena/Kauhakō, South Kona, Hawaii Island. The introduction of invasive species to Ka Pae 'Aina O Hawaii Nei has had severe negative impacts to our natural and cultural resources. The Ohia trees are dying, Beetle borer killing coffee trees, Red Fire Ants painfully stinging farmers, Coqui frogs and now Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB).

Unchecked, the CRB will have a devastating impact on a resource that most people identify with Hawaii, swaying coconut trees along our shores and beaches. This "canoe plant" has provided food, cordage, and medicine for generations of Hawaiians. The coconut is culturally important as well as providing tourists with a fond memory of their visits to our islands.

Please approve the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island** before it is too late. A Hawaii without coconut trees is a depressing and unimaginable concept that we should prioritize to address and remedy asap.

Ke Aloha Nunui,



Damien Kenison
Kauhakō 'Ohana Association
PO Box 38
Honaunau, HI. 96726
(808) 987-9149

Toni “Makani” Gregg
Program Coordinator, Pōhaku Pelemaka
Puna, Hawai‘i Island
pohakupelemaka@gmail.com
March 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. I submit this testimony personally and in my capacity as Program Coordinator of Pōhaku Pelemaka, a Native Hawaiian 501(c)(3) nonprofit based along the coast of Puna, Hawai‘i.

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.

Pōhaku Pelemaka stewards approximately 60 acres of coastal land at Ka‘akepa, a wahi kūpuna in Puna, where biocultural restoration and intergenerational knowledge transmission are at the heart of our mission. Niu is central to this work — not as a commodity, but as a kinolau, a relative, and a foundation of the biocultural landscape we are actively restoring. We are currently conducting research on niu varietal diversity at Ka‘akepa, documenting heritage coconut varieties, developing a community-controlled coconut documentation manual, and building a niu nursery to preserve and propagate rare cultivars for future generations. Some of these varieties may exist nowhere else. CRB poses a direct threat to irreplaceable genetic diversity that our community is working to protect and perpetuate.

Beyond niu, our coastal landscape is home to hala and other CRB host species integral to the ecological and cultural health of this place. Pōhaku Pelemaka serves over 1,500 participants annually through programs rooted in Native Hawaiian values of kuleana, mālama ‘āina, and ‘āina momona. The unchecked spread of CRB across Hawai‘i Island would devastate food

sovereignty, biocultural heritage, and the living connection between our communities and these plants.

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 still have a window to contain this infestation on Hawai‘i Island, but that window is closing. Enforceable rules for the transportation of host material are a necessary and practical step — one that our niu, our hala, our loulu, and the communities who depend on them cannot afford to wait for.

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,

Toni “Makani” Gregg
Program Coordinator, Pōhaku Pelemaka

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Agenda Item C-1: Interim Rules for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material

Hawai'i Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

Aloha Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D., from Honolulu. I testify in strong support of Agenda Item C-1, which would establish interim rules restricting the transportation of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material.

Background and Expertise

As a federal biologist with 35 years of experience in Hawai'i conservation, I have seen firsthand the consequences of failing to act decisively against invasive species. I witnessed the destruction CRB caused on Guam, where the beetle has damaged at least 25% of coconut trees since its detection in 2007. The coconut palm is the "tree of life" for the indigenous CHamoru people — its loss is not just ecological but deeply cultural.

I also helped control the first CRB detection in Hawai'i when it was found near Hickam Air Force Base in December 2013. Watching CRB spread from those initial finds near Pearl Harbor to establishment across all of O'ahu has taught me one clear lesson: without aggressive, enforceable intervention, containment becomes nearly impossible.

Personal Connection to Kona and the Threat at Hand

My doctoral research was conducted in the uplands of Ka'ūpūlehu, Kona 'Ākau. I know that land, its 'ohana, and the cultural and ecological significance of its native forests and shorelines. The recent discovery of CRB breeding sites in north Kona is deeply alarming. Once a pest like this establishes permanently, reversal is nearly impossible.

The continued movement of untreated mulch and other host materials from infested areas poses a direct threat to the entire island. Voluntary compliance alone will not stop human-assisted spread — that is precisely how CRB expanded across O'ahu. Containment in West Hawai'i is still possible, but only if binding action is taken now.

Why Interim Rules Are Necessary

These interim rules are a modest and practical step. They require training, treatment, and best management practices before high-risk materials are transported from infested areas. By mandating — not simply suggesting — these measures, the rules create a real layer of protection against the imminent spread of CRB beyond Kona.

On Hawai'i Island, CRB threatens five endemic species of loulu palms, three of which are already designated as endangered. The food security, native ecosystems, cultural resources, and local economy of Hawai'i Island are all at stake. Inaction risks repeating the devastation we have already seen on O'ahu and Kaua'i.

Recommendation

I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to adopt these interim rules today. As someone who has dedicated his career to mālama 'āina, I cannot overstate the urgency of this moment. This is the time to act — for our food security, our native species, our cultural heritage, and our island communities.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kealii Pang', written in a cursive style.

Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

3204 Carlos Long Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

808-349-3636

mokumanamana@gmail.com



March 23, 2026

Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Attn: Sharon Hurd, Chair
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814

Re: Agenda item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

Aloha e Madame Chair and Members of the Board,

Ho'āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc. (HKN), a Native Hawaiian-led nonprofit Community-based Conservation Management organization, strongly recommends the **APPROVAL** for the Petition for Interim Rulemaking as stated on the agenda.

Since its first detection on O'ahu in 2013, CRB is widespread decimating traditional coconut groves, pūhala, and endangered palm trees like the endemic loulu. Which is the reason why I bring concerns from Kealakekua Bay. HKN has an agreement with the DLNR - Division of State Parks (DSP) to co-manage and remove invasive species and restore Natives stemming from coral and fish in the ocean to plants, animals and bugs on land. Out of the 532 acres of Kealakekua State Historical Park, the area known as Ka'awaloa Flats is where an abundance of the native loulu and distinct coconut species reside and are endemic. However, Ka'awaloa (Captain Cook's Monument) is not an easily accessible area for humans but neighboring land owners are hubs for CRB. Access to the Ka'awaloa area is limited only by boat, or a two hour arduous hike alongside Palikapu-o-Keoua. With the recent sightings of CRB in West Hawaii, and a ten year spread between O'ahu and Kona, we are concerned with losing valuable natural resources to CRB. Adding to the loss of the resource is the extinction of the cultural practices attached to those resources.

The petitioners have already begun its collaborative work, bridging the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) and those businesses who are operating within the infested area. The community is ready to take action, and is awaiting the government to align resources to support community efforts.

West Hawai'i needs your support NOW, and we hope that you can deploy those resources whether it be rulemaking or other means of support, HKN urges DAB to take urgent measures before it is all too late.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen
Executive Director/CEO



[EXTERNAL] CRB Petition

From Damien Kenison <namamo@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 3/20/2026 12:42 PM

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

 1 attachment (61 KB)

CRB.docx;

Aloha no kakou,

My name is Damien Kenison, president of Kauhakō 'Ohana Association, a 501c3 community nonprofit based in Ho'okena/Kauhakō, South Kona, Hawaii Island. The introduction of invasive species to Ka Pae 'Aina O Hawaii Nei has had severe negative impacts to our natural and cultural resources. The Ohia trees are dying, Beetle borer killing coffee trees, Red Fire Ants painfully stinging farmers, Coqui frogs and now Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB).

Unchecked, the CRB will have a devastating impact on a resource that most people identify with Hawaii, swaying coconut trees along our shores and beaches. This "canoe plant" has provided food, cordage, and medicine for generations of Hawaiians. The coconut is culturally important as well as providing tourists with a fond memory of their visits to our islands.

Please approve the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island** before it is too late. A Hawaii without coconut trees is a depressing and unimaginable **concept that we should prioritize to address and remedy asap.**

Ke Aloha Nunui,

Damien Kenison

Kauhakō 'Ohana Association

PO Box 38

Honaunau, HI. 96726

(808) 987-9149



[EXTERNAL] Agenda item C-1

From Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:44 PM

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

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

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,

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

Volcano HI 96785

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz
County Council District IV



(808) 961-8265
ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiiicounty.gov

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 20, 2026

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

Aloha, Chair Hurd and Honorable Members of the Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity:

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.

CRB is already widespread on O'ahu and Kaua'i, and since 2023 has been detected at multiple sites on Hawai'i Island, including Waikōloa, the Kona International Airport area, and Keāhole Agricultural Park. This pest threatens niu, hala, and native palms, public landscapes, agricultural parks, and culturally significant ecosystems. Without action, the economic, safety, and cultural costs will be substantial.

As Chair of the Policy Committee on Planning, Land Use, and Economic Development, I see biosecurity not as a narrow agricultural issue, but a cross-cutting threat to land use, infrastructure investment, and our sense of place.

Together with Sen. Tim Richards, Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, and the Department of Research and Development, I co-hosted the Hawai'i Island AgriPolicy Summits in November 2024 and December 2025. Across both gatherings, farmers, land managers, researchers, and agency partners consistently named CRB as a top priority, calling for proactive controls rather than costly, reactive remediation. This Petition reflects exactly this community-driven urgency.

I respectfully urge the Board to convene the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals as quickly as possible and approve the proposed interim rule without delay.

Mahalo for your leadership and timely response.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Kierkiewicz', written in a cursive style.

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT IV



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Earl Kim <mothra246@yahoo.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 11:04 AM

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

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

My name is Earl J. Kim and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Earl J. Kim



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Frederick Smith, Jr <fmrsmith@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:06 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 Frederick Smith, and I live in the Kealakekua ahupua'a in the Kona moku. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

We in South Kona are very concerned about the dangerous impacts of CRB getting established down here. Please pass this item to help prevent CRB's devastating impact on the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,

Frederick

--

Frederick Smith

TCBES MS Student, UH-Hilo (2026)
MBA Marketing & Finance, UC Davis (2012)
MS, Environmental Policy, U. Montana (2003)

Captain Cook, HI
415-717-6833
[LinkedInProfile](#)



[EXTERNAL] Agenda C-1, Interim CRB rules

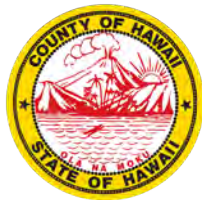
From Glenn Choy <choyhawaii@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 12:30 PM

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

I strongly support this agenda item. Thank you.
Sent from my iPhone

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

Testimony in Support of Agenda C-1 Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

March 23, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support Agenda C-1 Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisor Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital lay of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by votinh for their final adoption today.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Villegas', is written over a white background.

Rebecca Villegas



HO` OULU LĀHUI

Susan Osborne
Ho`oulu Lāhui
171 Halai Street
Hilo, HI. 96720
Halai96720@gmail.com

March 20, 2026

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

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 urge you to approve 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 petitioners have worked with the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will reduce the impacts of human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

Ho`oulu Lāhui has been the steward of 600 coastal acres in the District of Puna, Hawai'i Island. We are a Hawaiian focused organization. Kua O Ka Lā Charter School emerged from our successful programs that are culturally driven and place based. As such, our critical habitat of coconut and hala have been central to the development of our programs.

We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae 'āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. We are grateful for your serious consideration

Aloha,

Susie Osborne

Susie Osborne
C.O.O Ho`oulu Lāhui



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
PO Box 1801
Kealahou, HI 96750



**PŌHAKU
PELEMAKA**

Pōhaku Pelemaka
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pāhoa, HI, 96778

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

March 22, 2026

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

We the Petitioners have been working hard on creating an Interim Rule that we believe will be successful, incorporating thoughtful input from businesses, community members, and PQB. We would like to highlight the many testimonies (100s) you received for this matter in the January meeting – those supportive testimonies still stand.

Because of the weather Hawai'i has experienced this past 10 days, we are aware that fewer supportive testimonies were sent to you for this meeting's agenda. Many of our community members and agencies are still without power, without internet, and more importantly, recovering from disaster and crisis. We ask that you please show grace for our 'ohana and friends across the pae 'āina that have not been able to provide testimony and that you consider accepting late testimony as well. We also hope that you and your 'ohana were not too badly impacted by these storms, and if you were, we send pule your way.

Since the January 27, 2026 meeting with BAB, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Pōhaku Pelemaka quickly met with PQB to address any concerns related to the Compliance Agreement and/or the proposed Interim Rule. In early February, we met with stakeholders within the Infested Area (businesses operating within Keāhole Ag Park) to clarify the Interim Rule and address gaps in the Compliance Agreement that will ensure that for the year the interim rule is in place, both wildlife and people can be protected. We then met again (multiple times in multiple platforms) with PQB to align all edits into one cohesive document, which was provided to you in the Submittal. Notable changes include clarification of the definition of terms, shortening the timeframe from inspection to transport, the addition of a designated collection bin, and general clarifications.



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
PO Box 1801
Kealahou, HI 96750



**PŌHAKU
PELEMAKA**

Pōhaku Pelemaka
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pāhoa, HI, 96778

However, we have additional requests from the Board at this time:

- 1.) *That BAB directs PQB to use the Compliance Agreement as set out in Appendix C*
- 2.) *That BAB provides PQB the authority to make any changes in punctuation, spacing, etc. for consistency in style*
- 3.) *That in the Compliance Agreement:*
 - a. *In the PURPOSE section, please change "Quarantine Area" to "Infested Area"*
 - b. *In the Compliance Agreement, Section 4, 1. (a) and (c) "potted plants" be changed to "such plants"*
- 4.) *That in the Interim Rule:*
 - a. *the description in Section III in the Interim Rule be changed for clarity, as written below*
FROM:
"In this Interim Rule, the designated CRB infested area on Hawaii island is the geographic area generally within Waikōloa Road, Māmalahoa Highway (Highway 190), La'aloa Avenue in Kailua-Kona, and along the coastline from La'aloa Avenue to Waikōloa Road, as shown in Figure 1 below..."
TO:
"In this Interim Rule, the designated CRB infested area on Hawaii Island is the geographic area generally bound by the following: Waikōloa Road from Highway 190 to the coast, continuing south to La'aloa Avenue and from the coast to its intersection with Highway 11 to the east (mauka)..."

We appreciate all the hard work done by PQB, by the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals, and by the stakeholders and community members to get these documents finalized and agreed upon, and ready for implementation. We trust that the Board will move to adopt this interim rule and that we, together, change the trajectory of the fate of Hawai'i Island's food security, biosecurity, and native species protections!

Mahalo nui loa for all your thoughtful time and consideration,

Jodie Rosam & Megan Lamson
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Leila Kealoha
Pōhaku Pelemaka



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Jana Ireijo <janaireijo@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:54 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 Jana Ireijo, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I deeply appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' recognition of the urgent and escalating threat facing Hawai'i Island. The potential for CRB to spread beyond Kona is not hypothetical. It is a daily and growing risk. The consequences of widespread establishment would be devastating to our island's food systems, native ecosystems, cultural practices, and local economy.

As an artist whose work is grounded in place, environment, and the stories of our land and ocean, I see firsthand how interconnected and fragile these systems are. The loss of coconut and other host plants would ripple through communities in ways that extend far beyond agriculture.

By mandating, rather than simply recommending, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules provide a critical and necessary layer of protection. They represent a proactive step to slow or prevent further spread, not only across Hawai'i Island but also to other islands.

I respectfully and strongly urge you to support these rules by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo,

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] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Jennifer Spanjian <jennifer.spanjian@gmail.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 10:03 AM

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

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

My name is Jennifer Spanjian and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Jennifer

Jennifer Spanjian
jennifer.spanjian@gmail.com



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Jennifer Riordan <jenrio19@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 8:19 PM

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

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

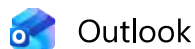
My name is Jennifer Riordan and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Jennifer Riordan



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Jessica K <jessntd@gmail.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 3:40 PM

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

Aloha, my name is Jessica Kuzmier and I am a resident of West Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which establishes rules to codify the prevention of coconut rhinoceros beetles here on Hawai'i Island. This is a very necessary step in curtailing what has become a very destructive force that has wreaked havoc on Hawai'i Island. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, mahalo.

Please support these rules by adopting them. Jessica Kuzmier, West Hawai'i Island



[EXTERNAL] Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From John Lindelow <cybernet9@gmail.com>
Date Sun 3/22/2026 2:29 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

FROM:
John Lindelow
Save Lanikai (SaveLanikai.com)
PO Box 297
Kailua, HI 96734
808-554-0448
savelanikai@gmail.com

TO:
Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
[1428 South King Street](#)
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96814](#)

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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,

Save Lanikai (<https://SaveLanikai.com>) is a community initiative to stop the spread of CRB in Lanikai on Oahu.

The regulation regarding transportation of host material is ESSENTIAL to controlling the spread of CRB on Hawaii Island.

Please don't let the Big Island suffer the same fate as Kauai and Oahu!

I am writing to urge you to approve 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 petitioners have worked with PQB and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will successfully reduce human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

We urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae 'āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,

John Lindelow, [Save Lanikai](#)




[EXTERNAL] LIVE NOTE: Support for rules regarding the Coconut Rhino Beetle. Agenda C-1.

From John Shockley <shockleyjr@gmail.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 11:55 AM

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

 1 attachment (7 KB)

favicon.ico;

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports any and all means to control the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle as well as all other invasives that are flooding Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time.

John & Rita Shockley Coordinators Free Access Coalition.

Free Access Coalition
freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com





[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Kainalu Steward <stewardk@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:06 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 Kainalu Steward, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle, or CRB, across Hawai'i Island.

I deeply appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' recognition of the urgent and escalating threat facing Hawai'i Island. CRB is not just an agricultural pest—it poses a direct risk to our island's food systems, native ecosystems, cultural landscapes, and local economy. If allowed to spread beyond Kona and become widely established, the impacts would be severe, long-lasting, and costly to reverse.

Hawai'i Island serves as a critical hub within our island chain. Failure to contain CRB here significantly increases the risk of accidental transport of eggs, larvae, or adult beetles to other islands not yet impacted, compounding this crisis statewide.

By **mandating**, rather than merely recommending, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host materials, these interim rules provide an essential and proactive line of defense. This is a necessary step to reduce the likelihood of further spread during this critical containment window.

For these reasons, I respectfully and strongly urge you to support the final adoption of these rules today.

Mahalo nui,
Kainalu Steward



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Kaleiheana Stormcrow <kaleiheanaapohaku@gmail.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 1:08 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 Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Kaleiheana Stormcrow



[EXTERNAL] Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Katie Cartee <kcartee@hawaii.edu>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 8:29 AM

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

Aloha Members of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

I am writing to urge you to approve 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 petitioners have worked with PQB and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will successfully reduce human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

If we do not take this threat seriously now, we risk far more restrictive and disruptive measures later, or irreversible losses to Hawai'i's native ecosystems. This rule is not an overreach; it is a necessary first step.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae 'āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,

Katie Cartee

--

Katie Cartee (she/her)
Integrative Physiology BA | CU Boulder
Marine Science BS | UH Hilo



[EXTERNAL] subject:%20Testimony%20in%20SUPPORT%20of%20Agenda%20C-1%3A%20Interim%20CRB%20Rules%20for%20Hawai%CA%BBi%20Island

From keri zacher <zacherk@hotmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 12:28 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 Keri Zacher and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Keri Zacher



[EXTERNAL] Testimony to SUPPORT Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

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

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:38 PM

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

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 agenda item C-1 to establish urgently needed interim rules to contain or slow the spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island. Containing and preferably irradicating 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] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Kodie Solis-Kalani <kodiesk@hawaii.edu>

Date Tue 3/24/2026 7:36 AM

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

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

My name is Kodie Solis-Kalani and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Kodie Solis-Kalani



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Kristen Young <kyoung@hcucc.org>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 5:55 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 Kristen and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Kristen Young
Honolulu, Hawai'i



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

IN SUPPORT OF Agenda Item IV-C-1

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

March 24, 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-C-1 as necessary, proactive defenses 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 O‘ahu and Kaua‘i so far 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** this interim rulemaking to protect from further CRB invasion on Hawai‘i Island before you today.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.



[EXTERNAL] Re: KUA Support for Item IV-C-1 Interim Rules for Hawai'i Island CRB Defense

From Leila Kealoha <leila@pohakupelemaka.org>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 5:38 PM

To Olan Leimomi Fisher <olan@kuahawaii.org>

Cc DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>; Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>; KUAHAWAII-Kevin <kevin@kuahawaii.org>; Megan Lamson <meg.HWF@gmail.com>

Mahalo e Olan and KUA!

On Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 8:58 AM Olan Leimomi Fisher <olan@kuahawaii.org> wrote:

Aloha mai kākou,

I hope everyone is staying safe with all this flooding :(please take care!

Attached is Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA's) testimony in strong support of Agenda Item IV-C-1 rule making for Hawai'i Island CRB defense.

Mahalo,

Olan

Olan Leimomi Fisher (she/her/'oia), Esq.

Kua'āina Advocate

olan@kuahawaii.org

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)

grassroots growing through shared responsibility

www.kuahawaii.org

Artwork by KUA network member Kēhau Kapua'a.

--

Executive Director
Pōhaku Pelemaka
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka

"The land is chief, and man is its servant."

It is our kuleana as kanaka to care for the lands that feed us



[EXTERNAL] Re: Testimony for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

From Leila Kealoha <leila@pohakupelemaka.org>

Date Fri 3/20/2026 1:26 PM

To Susan Osborne <halai96720@gmail.com>

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

Mahalo Aunty Susie

Executive Director
Pōhaku Pelemaka
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pahoa, HI 96778
(808) 937-7991

He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka

"The land is chief, and man is its servant."

It is our kuleana as kanaka to care for the lands that feed us

On Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 11:02 AM Susan Osborne <halai96720@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha,

Please find Ho`oulu Lāhui's testimony attached.

Mahalo
Susie Osborne
Chief Operating Officer/Ho`oulu Lāhui



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

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

Date Tue 3/24/2026 9:27 AM

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

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

My name is Lisa Roy-DeAguiar and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,

Lisa



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Mac Edwards <mac.edwards.808@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 2:39 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 Mac Edwards and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,

Mac Edwards



[EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV-C-1 - Testimony

From Makahanaloa Fishing Association <makahanaloafishing@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 8:18 AM

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

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

Chairperson Sharon Hurd
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
[1428 South King Street](#)
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96814](#)

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

Aloha Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,

We are writing to urge you folks to approve the **Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.**

You well know the spread of CRB in Hawai'i and the damage that this pest is already doing to our neighbor islands. The petitioners have worked with the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will reduce the impacts of human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. Please do your job and help to manage and eliminate this threat to Hawai'i Island.

Makahanaloa Fishing Association represents over 140 fishing 'ohana from Hilo. We rely on niu (coconut) for a variety of reasons. Don't DELAY with bureaucracy. This process is taking too long already. CRB does not operate on a government timeline. Please act with urgency as this situation demands.

Mahalo nui,

Blake McNaughton
President
Makahanaloa 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
'Ōlelo No'eau (2838)

March 22, 2026

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity
Office of the Chairperson
1428 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814-2512

RE: March 24, 2026 Agenda Item IV.C.1: Interim Rule to Restrict Movement of CRB Host Material on Hawai'i Island

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

My name is Sophia Horovitz. I am a second-year law student at The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I write in strong support of agenda item IV.C.1, the Petition to Initiate Administrative Rulemaking to Implement an Interim Rule to regulate the transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host material within and from the designated CRB infested area on Hawai'i Island.

CRB presents an escalating emergency across the islands and poses an immediate threat to ecological resources, public health, and Hawai'i's natural environment. As demonstrated by its devastating impact on O'ahu and Kaua'i, CRB is not just a threat to Hawai'i island. This interim rule represents an important step toward slowing its spread and protecting our islands as a whole.

Adopting an interim rule to curb the spread of CRB is vital while a more permanent solution is developed. The unrestricted movement of CRB host materials significantly contributes to its spread. Implementing clear guidance and safeguards *now* is essential to limit further spread of CRB. The proposed interim rule offers a practical approach by establishing training requirements and safeguards for the transportation of infected host materials.

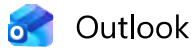
For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to adopt the interim rule. Taking this step now will help limit the spread of CRB while long-term solutions are developed, and it reflects the proactive action necessary to protect the health of Hawai'i's communities and ecosystems.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration on this item.

Sincerely,



Sophia Horovitz



[EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island

From Mikey Kyser <mikey@pohakupelemaka.org>

Date Tue 3/24/2026 7:48 AM

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

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

Aloha,

Attached you'll find my testimony for Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (Oryctes Rhinoceros) Host Material on Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo for your time a consideration

Michael W Kyser Jr
Project Tech PP, Pohaku Pelemaka
mikey@pohakupelemaka.org



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawaii Island

From Jennifer Mitchell <gethawn@icloud.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 1:47 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 Jennifer Mitchell and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Jennifer Mitchell



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

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

Date Tue 3/24/2026 8:24 AM

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

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

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

My name is Nancy Redfeather, I am a farmer in mauka Kona, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

The future of our community food system rests on making these responsible and wise decisions.

Mahalo nui,

Nancy Redfeather

www.kawanuifarm.org

www.hawaiiseedgrowersnetwork.com

nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Nanea Lo <naneaclo@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:11 PM

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 and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

me ke aloha 'āina,

--

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

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

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

Digital Archivist | [Kona Historical Society](#)

(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.



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Nanea Lo <naneaclo@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 8:58 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 and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

me ke aloha 'āina,

--

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

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

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

Digital Archivist | [Kona Historical Society](#)

(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.



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

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

Date Mon 3/23/2026 6:46 AM

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

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

My name is Noelle Lindenmann and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide testimony.
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

Noelle Lindenmann (she/her/hers)
e. noelle.royer@gmail.com // tallgirl@uw.edu
p: 310.729.6627



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Victoria Felt <mrs.vfelt@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 8:11 PM

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

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

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Victoria Felt



[EXTERNAL] Agenda Item IV-C-1

From danielle pacific <danielle.pacific@gmail.com>
Date Fri 3/20/2026 9:49 AM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Jodie Rosam <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

Danielle Pacific, Community Member
19-4194 KeKoa Nui Blvd Volcano HI
danielle.pacific@gmail.com
808.276.0608

3-19-2026

To:

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

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 urge you to **approve 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 petitioners have worked with PQB and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will successfully reduce human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

Because CRB threatens so many important food and native species, it is imperative to do what is on our power to protect and preserve these plants. I personally harvest niu regularly to make milk and oil for our 'ohana, and share it with others as well. Until we can find a more permanent solution to this infestation, we need to approve petitions and rules like this.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae 'āina.

Thank you for all the work you do towards protecting this 'āina. Your work matters. And, Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,
Danielle Pacific

--

Aloha and Coconuts
Danielle Pacific (She/Hers)

Manual and Visceral Therapy by appointment
End of Life/Death Doula
Bereavement Support/Grief Companion
Home Vigil Services
Home Funeral Educator
Hatha Yoga Teacher
Former Birth Doula

808 276 0608
<https://daniellepacific.com/>

" The work of the mature person is to carry grief in one hand & gratitude in the other & to be stretched large by them." Francis Weller



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 10:37 AM

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

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

My name is Peter Wilson and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Peter Wilson

--

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



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

From Philip Niedermann <afaflix@gmail.com>
Date Fri 3/20/2026 3:04 PM
To DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY <dab.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc jodie.hwf@gmail.com <jodie.hwf@gmail.com>

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

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 urge you to **approve 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 petitioners have worked with PQB and businesses operating within the infested area, and this rule sets manageable parameters that will successfully reduce human-spread of CRB to non-infested areas. Without a rule in place, Hawai'i Island will suffer devastating losses of native (endangered) species, food security, and of the economy. We still have a chance to change that trajectory.

CRB threatens important food and native species, and it is imperative to do what is in our power to protect and preserve these plants. I have been learning more about harvesting niu regularly to make milk and oil, and I enjoy sharing it with others. Until we can find a more permanent solution to this infestation, we need to approve petitions and rules like this.

I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule to prevent the spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and across non-infested areas across the pae 'āina.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha,
Philip Niedermann

--

Phil

Disclaimer: Any errors in spelling, tact, or fact are transmission errors.



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of the CRB INTERIM RULE HAWAI'I ISLAND

From Ryan Perroy <ryanperroy@gmail.com>

Date Tue 3/24/2026 8:21 AM

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

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

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

My name is Ryan Perroy and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

This threat is devastating and regulatory action is needed.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,

Ryan Perroy



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Sakari Isis <sakariisis13@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/23/2026 5:55 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 Sakari and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui,
Sakari



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda C-1: Interim CRB Rules for Hawai'i Island

From Stephen Munkelt <stephen@munkeltlaw.com>

Date Sun 3/22/2026 12:01 PM

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

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

I greatly appreciate the Board's and the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals' understanding of the dire, emergency situation facing Hawai'i Island, with respect to the daily threat of CRB becoming broadly established well beyond Kona. As you know, the consequences of CRB becoming established throughout Hawai'i Island would be devastating to the island's food security, ecology, cultural integrity, and economy. The widespread establishment of CRB on Hawai'i Island would also increase the chances of CRB eggs, larvae, or adults making their way to other islands not currently known to have active CRB infestations.

By mandating, rather than simply suggesting, best management practices prior to the movement of CRB host material from Kona, these interim rules would provide a vital layer of protection against the potentially imminent and devastating spread of CRB across Hawai'i Island and throughout our island chain.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge your continued support of these rules, by voting for their final adoption today.

Mahalo nui

Stephen A. Munkelt
Kailua-Kona, HI. 96740
Cell: 530-277-8508



THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

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

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20 March 2026

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

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership, I write in strong support for approval of the Petition for Interim Rulemaking to Regulate the Transportation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host material on Hawai'i Island.

Our work at Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) is to collaboratively protect and restore native forests, watersheds, and cultural landscapes across Hualālai, Mauna Loa, and Kīlauea. We safeguard critical habitat for native species, protect water resources that sustain communities and agriculture, and preserve culturally significant landscapes that are deeply tied to Native Hawaiian practice and identity.

The presence and spread of CRB on the Island of Hawai'i is a very serious concern to us. CRB poses an immediate threat to Hawai'i Island's native ecosystems, cultural resources, and economy. It attacks coconut, loulu, and hala—species that are critical to forest structure, watershed function, and Native Hawaiian cultural practice. As demonstrated on other islands, once established, CRB impacts are severe.

For watershed and forest protection, the stakes are high. The loss and impacts to plant species will degrade habitat, affect water resources, and undermine decades of restoration and conservation investment across Hawai'i Island.

The petition addresses a clear and urgent gap: the ongoing movement of CRB host material without enforceable safeguards. Preventing human-assisted spread is essential, and the proposed rule provides practical, implementable measures to do so.

Hawai'i Island still has a narrow window to prevent the level of impact already seen elsewhere. Acting now to prevent the spread of CRB will protect Hawai'i's ecological, cultural, and agricultural investments and save tremendous amounts of funding and time required should the situation worsen. I urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule without delay to protect uninfested areas across Hawai'i Island and the broader pae 'āina.

Mahalo for your leadership in strengthening Hawai'i's biosecurity protections.

Aloha,

Corie Yanger
Program Manager
Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership



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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

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24 March 2026

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

Re: Agenda Item IV-C-1: Review and Approval of the 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 Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership, I write in STRONG SUPPORT of agenda item C-1, which would establish critically needed interim rules to prevent the potentially devastating spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) across Hawai'i Island.

Our work at Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) is to collaboratively protect and restore native forests, watersheds, and cultural landscapes across Hualālai, Mauna Loa, and Kīlauea. The presence and spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Hawai'i Island is therefore a matter of serious and immediate concern. CRB threatens coconut, loulu, and hala—species essential to forest structure, watershed function, and Native Hawaiian cultural practice—and, as seen on other islands, its impacts become severe once established. The consequences would extend across ecosystems, water resources, and the cultural and economic foundations that depend on them.

For watershed and forest protection, the stakes are especially high. The loss of these key plant species and the impacts on additional native species would degrade habitat, undermine water security, and jeopardize decades of restoration and conservation investment. The petition addresses a clear and urgent gap: the continued movement of CRB host material without

enforceable safeguards. Mandating best management practices before such movement is a practical, necessary step to prevent human-assisted spread and protect uninfested areas.

Hawai'i Island still has a narrow window to avoid the level of damage seen elsewhere. Acting now will help safeguard the island's ecological, cultural, and agricultural resources while preventing far greater costs in the future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve this Interim Rule without delay.

Mahalo nui for your time and leadership in helping to combat this threat.

Aloha,

Corie Yanger
Program Manager
Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership