UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
ʻŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAIʻI

Legislative Testimony
Hōʻike Manaʻo I Mua O Ka ʻAhaʻōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 a.m.
By
Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

HB 1149 HD2 – RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of HB 1149 HD2 relating to *Oryctes rhinoceros* or coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) which adversely impacts palm species that are important to the State's agricultural economy, cultural heritage, and ecosystems.

CRBs feed on emerging palm fronds that cause damage and often severe enough to cause die back and plant mortality. There exists a CRB response program which is a coordinated partnership with the University of Hawaiʻi, U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture, and other key organizations.

Since the detection of CRB on Oʻahu, funding for CRB response has primarily been through federal partners such as USDA and the U. S. Navy. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaiʻi to support existing CRB response positions and core activities involving research, response, education, and investigative work needed to maintain a successful and effective program to control the spread of CRB.

Specifically, this bill will provide funding for:

- one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent junior researcher to serve as the deputy incident commander under HDOA leadership;
- one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent administrative professional/technician for program administration and maintenance;
- one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent data collection, management, and GIS analysis supervisor;
- three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent data technicians;

- two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent outreach and education specialists;
- one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent canine supervisor for the CRB response canine program;
- two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent canine handlers for the CRB response canine program;
- administration and other related costs for the CRB response canine program, including kenneling and veterinary support; and,
- supplies for maintaining research colonies and potential biological control agents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of HB 1149 HD2, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved budget.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor

SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 30, 2023
10:05 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 1149, HD2
RELATING TO COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1149, House Draft 2 relating to the coconut rhinoceros beetle program. This bill appropriates funds for positions and activities related to the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) infestation control. The Department strongly supports this measure.

The state has reached a turning point to protect our palm and culturally related resources from the invasive CRB. Utilizing federal funding through a variety of agencies, the department has formed an interagency program known as the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response (the Response). The Department leads the Response through a unified incident command system. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the Response over the past nine years, CRB population densities in central Oahu are significantly increasing, most likely through the routine movement of green waste. The fight to eradicate CRB from Oahu is now at a pivotal moment.

Our collaboration with Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH) has demonstrated that through the implementation of a comprehensive green waste management plan, landscape level control of CRB populations is achievable, especially

when combined with the judicious and strategic use of pesticide treatments. The state must follow the Navy's lead in environmental protection through the adoption of a comprehensive green waste management program. The Department, with the passing of an interim rule to Hawaii Revised Statutes 4-72 last year, has been working towards a rough legal framework to manage green waste on Oahu, using compliance agreements. However, given the status of CRB populations on Oahu, the compliance agreements must be coupled with strong actions to mitigate and control populations on Oahu.

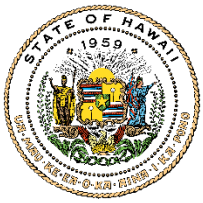
Current funding received by the University of Hawaii to support the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response is limited in scope to specific areas of infestation (JBPHH or natural areas) or intended to contain infestations on Oahu. Additional funding will allow the Response to continue to prevent the spread of infestations outside of Oahu while working toward regional control and eradication on the island of Oahu through the creation of positions which can be used by the University to pursue funding for control and eradication.

The Department greatly appreciates the legislature's action in the funding of this measure. Funding core staff and programs will allow the Response to properly leverage resources in an effective and sustained manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIAʻĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIAʻĀINA



STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS & MEANS

Thursday, March 30, 2023
10:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1149, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

House Bill 1149, House Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds for positions and activities related to the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation control. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the University of Hawaiʻi's Executive Budget request.**

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is a major pest of coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*) and African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*). It can be also found in betelnut (*Areca catchu*), Pandanus species, banana, pineapple, sugarcane, and even the native Hawaiian palms, loulu. Adults damage living palms, either killing the tree due to direct damage, or opening the tree to mortal damage from other insects or pathogens. On Pacific Islands with no natural enemies of this beetle, the damage can be extreme. In Palau, where the beetle first invaded in 1942, the coconut palm was eradicated entirely on some islands, with overall mortality across the archipelago reaching 50%.

CRB was found on Oʻahu in 2013 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a routine survey by the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaiʻi-Hilo. An intensive, multi-agency effort was initiated and the CRB Response Team continues monitoring and outreach to this day. The unregulated movement and management of green waste has led to this species spreading throughout Oʻahu, but the efforts to control this pest have been successful at containing CRB to a single island. Continued investment in monitoring, research, and management is necessary to mitigate further damage on Oʻahu and prevent CRB's spread to other islands, thus protecting important natural, cultural, and agricultural plant species.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU
910 CALIFORNIA AVE., WAHIAWA, HI 96786

March 28, 2023

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The East O'ahu County Farm Bureau, which represents approximately 420 farmers and supporters of agriculture from Waimanalo to Kahuku, **strongly supports HB 1149 HD2,** "Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle," which would provide funding to support the CRB control program.

First noticed on O'ahu in 2013, the coconut rhinoceros beetle is now widespread on this island. It feeds not only on coconut trees, but also on ornamental palms and on other commercially valuable species including bananas, sugarcane, papayas, and pineapples. The beetle has been found in traps in the Waimanalo area at least ten times since 2021, and two dozen larvae were recently found in a mulch pile nearby. Waimanalo is home to many of East O'ahu County Farm Bureau's members, including ornamental and fruit growers whose crops are at risk from this devastating pest.

The CRB response program helps to monitor and contain the beetle infestation on O'ahu, reducing damage to crops and ornamental trees, and minimizing the risk of the beetle's spread to other Hawaiian islands. We therefore respectfully urge your committee to support the CRB response program by passing HB 1149 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of great importance to Hawai'i's agricultural community.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

Frederick M. Mencher
for Grant Hamachi, President
East O'ahu County Farm Bureau

PO Box 42
Waimanalo, HI 96795-0042
http://waimanaloag.com

Waimanalo Agricultural Association

March 30, 2023

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1149, HD2
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 AM
Via Video Conference and CR 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Committee Members,

The Waimanalo Agricultural Association (WAA) is writing in **strong support of HB 1149, HD2, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program**. WAA was originally formed in 1995 to address agricultural theft in Waimanalo and has since grown to represent agribusiness in Waimanalo, including plant nurseries, flower and turfgrass farms, growers of fruit and vegetables, equestrian ranches, and distributors of agricultural supplies. WAA is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of agriculture in Waimanalo. HB 1149, HD2 proposes to appropriate additional funds for position and mitigation activities to fight against CRB at the University of Hawaii. These funds are necessary to address the CRB issue to help combat this devastating insect.

The funding mechanism provided in this measure will allow the existing CRB response program to be better equipped to work with other partners to combat this invasive pest! Please consider funding this important initiative.

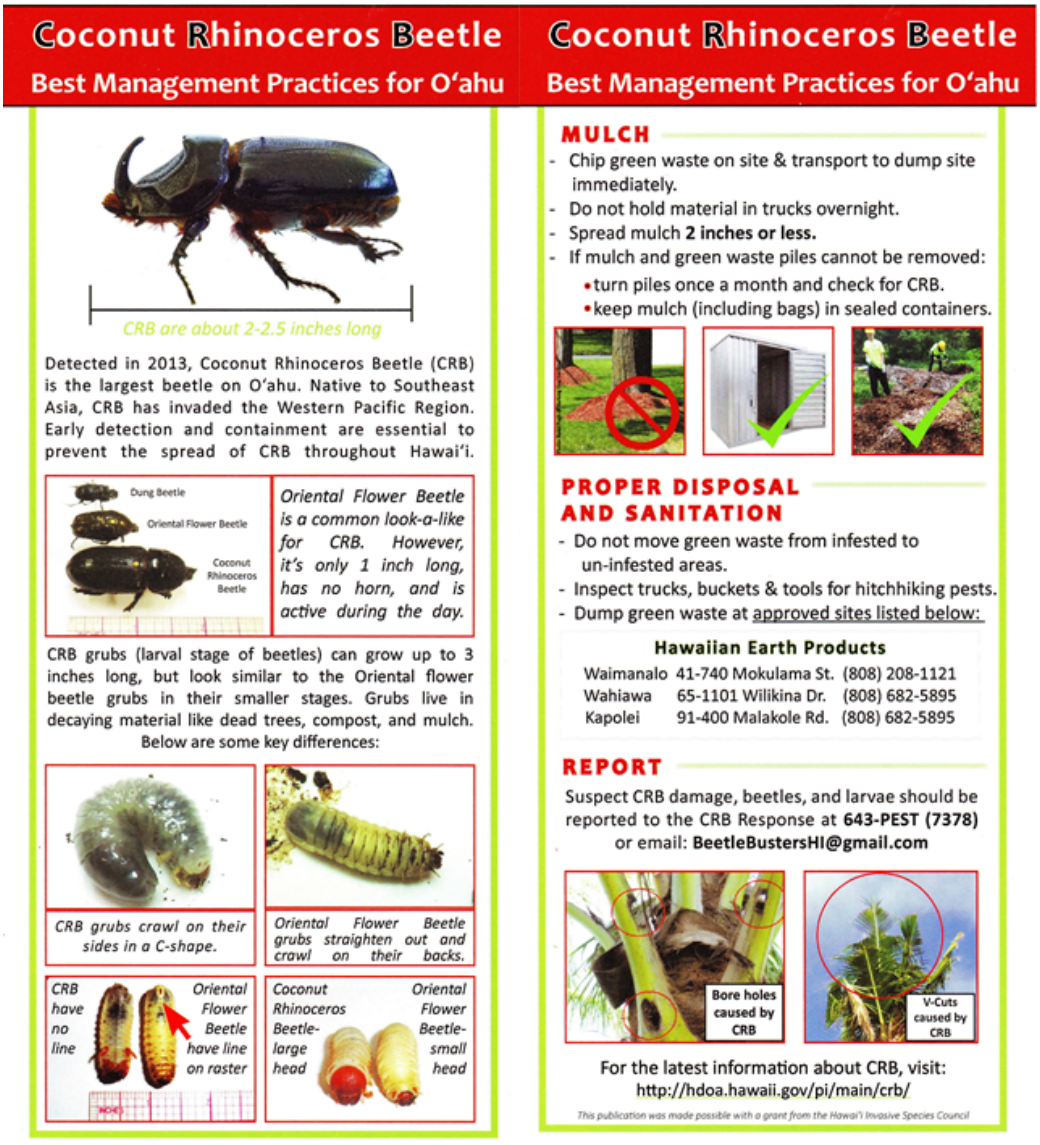
The threat of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is of serious concern to the Waimanalo community as there have been over ten confirmed cases of the CRB in Waimanalo in the last six months alone. The most recent infestation of a live breeding site was found just last month. In November 2022, WAA hosted a Kunia farmer and heard firsthand of the devastation his farm is facing due to CRB. While some farmers have opted to voluntarily comply with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's monitoring program pursuant to an interim rule, most of Hawaii is not familiar with important and necessary best practices to help mitigate the beetle's spread.

A recent demonstration by Keith Weiser, Deputy Incident Commander of Hawaii CRB Response shared a netting technique that a farmer would have to apply to each of its coconut trees to catch CRB and prevent them from burrowing in new spears. While this coconut tree was only 5 feet high making the application of the netting doable – imagine coconut trees over 6 to 7, or maybe even 15 stories high – how is a farmer, a golf course, a hotel supposed to apply netting to protect their trees? What if a farmer has 100 trees, would they have to apply netting to all of the trees? That would be nearly impossible. Are we giving up on fighting these beetles? If we are we will have to live without the beauty of coconut trees, and their benefits – and many other palms that appear to be CRB's favorite feeding sources.

Per the Hawaii Department of Agriculture "CRB is a serious pest of palm trees, primarily coconut palms, as the adult beetles bore into the crowns of the palms to feed on the tree's sap. New unopened

fronds are damaged in this way and when fully opened, may break and fall unexpectedly. If CRB kill or damage the growing point of the palm, the tree may die. Secondary fungal or bacterial pathogens may also attack the wounds caused by CRB, thereby killing the tree as well. Tree mortality after CRB attack has been reported to be anywhere from 10 percent to 50 percent. Dead trees then become a safety hazard as they may fall unexpectedly after the trunk rots, potentially resulting in bodily injury or property damage." This level of damage to coconut trees and palms could devastate the landscape industry and the Waimanalo plant nurseries in particular. The devastation to coconut trees and palms will have grave impact upon the natural landscape among our most popular destinations in Hawaii including our beaches along Waikiki's gold coast, world class golf courses and hotels and resorts statewide.

More attention is necessary to address this invasive pest and we sincerely request that you pass HB 1149, HD2, so more resources can be dedicated to fight this pest at the University of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.



Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle
Best Management Practices for O'ahu

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle
Best Management Practices for O'ahu

CRB are about 2-2.5 inches long

Detected in 2013, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) is the largest beetle on O'ahu. Native to Southeast Asia, CRB has invaded the Western Pacific Region. Early detection and containment are essential to prevent the spread of CRB throughout Hawai'i.

Dung Beetle
Oriental Flower Beetle
Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

Oriental Flower Beetle is a common look-a-like for CRB. However, it's only 1 inch long, has no horn, and is active during the day.

CRB grubs (larval stage of beetles) can grow up to 3 inches long, but look similar to the Oriental flower beetle grubs in their smaller stages. Grubs live in decaying material like dead trees, compost, and mulch. Below are some key differences:

CRB grubs crawl on their sides in a C-shape.

Oriental Flower Beetle grubs straighten out and crawl on their backs.

CRB have no line

Oriental Flower Beetle have line on raster

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle- large head

Oriental Flower Beetle- small head

MULCH

- Chip green waste on site & transport to dump site immediately.
- Do not hold material in trucks overnight.
- Spread mulch **2 inches or less.**
- If mulch and green waste piles cannot be removed:
  - turn piles once a month and check for CRB.
  - keep mulch (including bags) in sealed containers.

PROPER DISPOSAL AND SANITATION

- Do not move green waste from infested to un-infested areas.
- Inspect trucks, buckets & tools for hitchhiking pests.
- Dump green waste at approved sites listed below:

Hawaiian Earth Products

Waimanalo	41-740 Mokulama St.	(808) 208-1121
Wahiawa	65-1101 Wilikina Dr.	(808) 682-5895
Kapolei	91-400 Malakole Rd.	(808) 682-5895

REPORT

Suspect CRB damage, beetles, and larvae should be reported to the CRB Response at **643-PEST (7378)** or email: **BeetleBustersHI@gmail.com**

Bore holes caused by CRB

V-Cuts caused by CRB

For the latest information about CRB, visit:
http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/crb/

This publication was made possible with a grant from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

Sandro Toffola
Natura Nursery

March 30, 2023

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1149, HD2
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 AM
Via Video Conference and CR 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Committee Members,

My name is Sandro Tassan Toffola from Natura Nursery and I am writing in **strong support of HB 1149, HD2 Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program**. Natura Nursery is located in Waimanalo and we grow palm trees and we are extremely concerned about the coconut rhinoceros beetle infesting Windward Oahu, particularly Waimanalo, which is nestled in Ko'olaupoko, is part of an enterprise zone with fertile soil and with close proximity to the largest markets and transportation hubs on the island.

HB 1149, HD2 proposes to appropriate additional funds for position and mitigation activities to fight against the coconut rhinoceros beetle, commonly known as CRB. The funding for the University of Hawaii to is to support key positions within the CRB response program to help combat this devastating insect. The threat of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is of serious concern to Waimanalo as there have been over ten confirmed cases of the CRB in Waimanalo in the last six months alone. While some farmers have opted to voluntarily comply with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's monitoring program, most of Hawaii is unfamiliar with the pest's threat - and important best practices that would mitigate the beetle's spread.

The level of damage that CRB can cause to coconut trees and palms could devastate the landscape industry, especially the Waimanalo plant nurseries. The devastation to coconut trees and palms will have grave impact upon Hawaii's unique natural landscape among our most popular destinations in Hawaii including our beaches along Waikiki's gold coast, world class golf courses and hotels and resorts statewide.

More attention is necessary to address this invasive pest and we sincerely request that you pass HB 1149, HD2.

Happy Plants

41-724 Kumuhau Street

Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

March 30, 2023

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1149, HD2
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 AM
Via Video Conference and CR 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support of HB 1149, HD2, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program**. My name is Lena McCormack from Happy Plants Nursery in Waimanalo and also a member of the Waimanalo Agriculture Association. I am extremely concerned about the coconut rhinoceros beetle that are infesting our island and now have been found in Waimanalo. In our Waimanalo Valley, we have the largest and most concentrated nurseries in all Oahu.

HB 1149, HD2 proposes to appropriate much needed funds for our fight against this devastating beetle. We desperately need the funds to declare an all-out war against the CRB. We cannot stand by and watch the beetles take over our island. At a recent WAA meeting we listened to a farmer and his firsthand devastation of his farm due to the CRB. It was heartbreaking and scary to hear his story. I realize how this Beetle can harmfully impact on the Waimanalo Plant Nurseries who supply a good number of plants throughout the island but the beetles are also known to attack some food plants such as banana, pineapple, taro and other food producing plants.

It is imperative that we provide funding to help reign in this huge, huge beetle problem. Secondly, I am support of HB 1149, HD2 which helps to provide more funds for this program. Waimanalo has been hugely affected by these little ants and need more funds to hire more help. It is not feasible to eradicate or at the very least control the ants with only a few part time workers to cover the whole island. The ants are increasing and moving into communities island wide. We need help, period.
I thank you for any support that you can give me and my fellow nursery members. It is of utmost importance that we try to nip these two horrible and problematic problems before it really does become too late. If it becomes too late we all lose. Please help to protect the aina, our tourism and life in general.

Let me close in saying that Waikiki, with the ancient coconut trees, are in jeopardy. Can you envision the island without palm trees. Our food sources will be changing as well. We need help right now!

Thank you and Aloha,
Lena McCormack
Happy Plants Nursery
Member of Waimanalo Agriculture Association

Island Grower Supplies, LLC
41-1143 Waikupanaha Street
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

March 30, 2023

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1149, HD2
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 AM
Via Video Conference and CR 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Committee Members,

My name is Fred Humphrey from Island Grower Supplies, LLC and I am writing in **strong support of HB 1149, HD2, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program**. Island Grower Supplies LLC is located in Waimanalo and we grow lime, avocado and coconut trees which we sell to the landscape insdustry and we are extremely concerned about the coconut rhinoceros beetle infesting Windward Oahu, particularly Waimanalo.

HB 1149, HD2 proposes to appropriate additional funds for position and mitigation activities to fight against the coconut rhinoceros beetle, commonly known as CRB. The funding for the University of Hawaii. Keith Weiser, Deputy Incident Commander of Hawaii CRB Response recently shared more information about how to mitigate and fight CRB with WAA. Regular regiments of pesticide treatment is one option but it would forego the ability to eat any of the fruit that a tree produced. He also shared a netting technique that a farmer would have to apply to each of its coconut trees to catch CRB and prevent them from burrowing in new spears. While this demonstration coconut tree was only 5 feet high making it doable, but imagine coconut trees over 5 stories high – how is a farmer supposed to apply netting to protect their trees? What if a farmer has 100 trees, would they have to apply netting to all of the trees? That would be nearly impossible.

While some farmers have opted to voluntarily comply with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's monitoring program, most of Hawaii is unfamiliar with the pest's threat - and important best practices that would mitigate the beetle's spread.

This level of damage to coconut trees and palms could devastate the landscape industry and particularly, the Waimanalo plant nurseries. The devastation to coconut trees and palms will have grave impact upon Hawaii's unique natural landscape among our most popular destinations in Hawaii including our beaches along Waikiki's gold coast, world class golf courses and hotels and resorts statewide.

More attention is necessary to address this invasive pest and we sincerely request that you pass HB 1149, HD2 to provide the University of Hawaii the additional resources to get this pest under control. Thank you for moving this bill forward.

Aloha
Fred H Humphrey

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 30, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1149, HD2
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaiʻi's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau supports HB 1149, HD2, which appropriates funds for positions and activities related to coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation control.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) was first discovered at Malama Bay on O'ahu in December 2013. CRB feed on and damage coconut, royal, date, and fan palms. If these preferred food sources are unavailable, CRB can shift to feed on other palms and tropical crops such as betelnut, Pandanus species, banana, pineapple, and sugarcane. CRB use their front legs and horn to dig into the crown of trees. Then, they use their sucking mouthparts to feed on the juices in the inner spear. Adult CRB damage living palms, either killing the tree due to direct damage, or opening up the tree to fatal damage from other insects or pathogens.

Coconut rhinoceros beetle detections have increased in the last 6 months. High-catch areas continue to be Pearl City Peninsula, Waipiʻo Peninsula, West Loch, ʻEwa Beach, and Central Oʻahu. We're seeing regular finds on the West Side of Oʻahu, increased detection on the North Shore as well as concerning trap finds in new areas of Laie, Kahuku, and Waimānalo. The CRB Response is providing tools for community members to minimize their risk and training businesses to become compliant with HDOA's interim rule.

HFB agrees that we need resources to control the CRB that will protect our important palms and crops, reduce the potential for damage to natural resources, and avoid any negative effects on the health and safety of our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 29th, 2023

Testimony in Support of HB 1149
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

House Committee on Agriculture
March 29th, 2023

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Committee Members,

My Name is Justin Franzmeier representing Waimanalo Agricultural Association and Island Foodscaping and am writing in **strong support of HB 1149, relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program.** As a landscaping contractor, Waimanalo Agricultural Association Ambassador and farmer in Waimanalo I can honestly say I have been blessed not having to deal first hand with this pest yet unlike others and want to keep it that way.

In early February an infestation in Waimanalo was found just down the road from our farm and I am guessing this is going to be the beginning of more populations found if we don't act with haste. HB 1149 proposes to appropriate additional funds for position and mitigation activities to fight against the coconut rhinoceros beetle, commonly known as CRB. The funding for the University of Hawaii to is to support key positions within the CRB response program to help combat this devastating insect.

This level of damage to coconut trees and palms could devastate the landscape industry and particularly, the Waimanalo plant nurseries. An important note is that these beetles not only attach coconut trees but other palm varieties and even bananas. The devastation to coconut trees and palms will have grave impact upon Hawaii's unique natural landscape among our most popular destinations in Hawaii including our beaches along Waikiki, world class golf courses, hotels, resorts and residential estates statewide.

More attention is necessary to address this invasive pest and we sincerely request that you pass HB 1149. Thank you for your consideration.

ISLANDFOODSCAPING

Waimanalo Agricultural Association

LATE

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:33:31 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Testifying for Waimanalo Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Mahalo nui for taking this extremely destructive Beetle head on. The impacts have already been catastrophic and without appropriate resources, it could be crippling to the native ecosystem unique to Hawai‘i, agriculture, economy and life.

The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32 stands in strong support of this and all measures taken that will help to identify, address, end and proactively ensure that this disaster of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles never again pose a threat to Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

Chair Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/28/2023 3:49:10 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilana Nimz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1149. I am an arborist and encounter Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) in my work, and have observed the damage it can cause to palms. We have a variety of palm species across our islands that are culturally and aesthetically significant. Funding for the CRB program is critical to controlling the population and identifying new ways to address the problem. Additionally, control will help prevent spread to the neighbor islands, where CRB has not yet been detected. Protect Hawaii's economy and landscape by supporting CRB control programs.

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:04:35 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in **strong support of HB1149** which would appropriate funds to support existing CRB response positions and activities. CRB is a huge threat to Hawaiian cultural practices (niu products, ulana lauhala), traditional food systems (niu, kalo), endangered Hawaiian plants (loulu) and the overall landscape of Hawai‘i. There is so much to lose if we do not get CRB under control.

Eradicating invasive species and preventing their spread requires consistent funding.

Please pass HB1149.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Lorraine Waianuhea

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:55:49 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Takamori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CRB populations have devastating impacts on foundational species to cultural heritage, agriculture, ecosystems, and economies of Hawaii. CRB are currently only found on Oahu and not on neighboring islands so it is important that it doesn't spread due to the lack of resources available. Control is essential to reduce impacts on Oahu and accidental transport of Oahu.

I can't imagine what irreversible damage CRB will do to our native plant and animal populations if left untreated. Please choose to act while there is still time.

March 30, 2023

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1149, HD2

RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 AM

Via Video Conference and CR 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1149, HD2, which concerns the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Program. As a member of the Waimanalo Agricultural Association, we are deeply concerned about the infestation of CRB in Windward Oahu, particularly in Waimanalo. This area, located within Ko'olaupoko, boasts fertile soil and close access to major markets and transportation hubs on the island.

The economic consequences of the CRB infestation extend beyond landscape nurseries, though they will be most severely impacted due to the labor, time, money, and crop planting efforts they have already invested. The damage to coconut trees and palms could have a disastrous effect on Hawaii's distinctive natural landscape, including our popular destinations like Waikiki's Gold Coast beaches, world-class golf courses, and hotels and resorts statewide.

HB 1149, HD2 aims to allocate additional funds for personnel and mitigation efforts to combat the CRB. This funding would support crucial positions within the University of Hawaii's CRB response program, which already has a well-established team working statewide to address the potential widespread devastation caused by this invasive beetle.

CRB infestations have been confirmed in Waimanalo, and the currently available control methods, such as pesticides and physical barriers, are insufficient to protect the area. Furthermore, removing mulching from good agricultural practices will adversely affect farmers' productivity and soil health. We urgently need better tools and resources to address this threat.

We request more attention and resources to combat this invasive pest and ask for your support in passing HB 1149, HD2. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Brian Boltz

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:05:42 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1149 HD2.

LATE

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:56:31 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this measure that will appropriate funds to support coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) response positions and activities. The CRB is a serious pest that can devastate not only coconut palms, but other food and ornamental crops.

It has already done significant damage on Oahu; it needs to be prevented from doing more damage there and from spreading to the neighbor islands.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-1149-HD-2
Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:36:20 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

CRB threatens life in Hawai‘i and should be declared a natural disaster. Addressing CRB requires a commitment of funds and manpower, technology and community partnership. Please take the next step and pass this legislation ensuring that Hawai‘i iā given a chance against these catastrophic beetles and others that threaten Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane