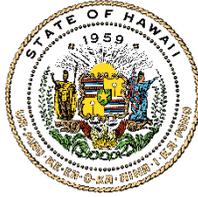


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Senate Committee on
WATER AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:02 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 746, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 746, Senate Draft 1 establishes and appropriates money for a two-year pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources that incentivizes community members to collect and submit the coconut rhinoceros beetle and its larvae for compensation. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

Coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) feed on the crowns of coconut palms and other palm species, including Hawai'i's native loulu palms. CRB creates large holes in the trunk, where adults feed and burrow. This weakens the tree and can eventually kill it. This is a significant pest across the Pacific Region, and in 2023, it expanded from O'ahu to Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i islands. Bounties on invasive species have been tried elsewhere with little success in reducing populations (e.g., cane toads in Australia, stoats and opossums in New Zealand). While bounties can be a helpful educational tool, they require oversight beyond the Department's current capacity.

The Department finds that more effective approaches that involve integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, such as biological control using natural predators or parasitoids, are urgently needed. In addition, public outreach and encouraging residents to report beetle sightings and avoid transporting infested mulch would help manage this destructive insect. The Department continues to support the CRB

Response Team based at the University of Hawai'i and island-based working groups to protect the natural and cultural resources that CRB threatens.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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 COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025
10:02 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 746, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 746 SD1 relating to invasive species, which establishes and appropriates moneys for a two-year pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources that incentivizes community members to collect and submit the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and its larvae for compensation.

The Department of Agriculture (Department) supports the intent of this measure but has concerns regarding how the compensation aspect would be implemented. The Department believes that finding ways to incorporate communities into ongoing control efforts are extremely important, particularly in long-term management and educational standpoints, and depending on how the program is implemented, could make a difference in achieving the highest goal regarding any pest, eradication. The Department believes that "compensation", depending on the form and amount, could invigorate community action. However, the Department is concerned that this measure does not preclude the use of any kind of monetization for submitting CRB and should a



monetary-based structure such as a bounty be used, it could result in the opposite effect on CRB infestations that this measure seeks to remedy.

The biggest challenge for a program such as this one is to find a form of compensation that will greatly incentivize participation but also ensures the compensation structure is not abused. When dealing with a pest, when any form of compensation is tied to it, particularly a monetary one, there is an increased likelihood that individuals seeking to exploit the system would breed and also possibly spread the pest for financial gain, thereby exacerbating the problem the program was designed to deal with. This issue is further exacerbated when dealing with arthropod pests as they are generally not difficult to breed, and often reproduce quickly, and in high numbers. Alternatively, if the compensation is minimized, there is generally a significant decrease in community participation, rendering that part of the program ineffective.

The Department would be completely supportive of this measure if the compensation structure for community members was clearly defined in such a way as to prevent abuse or was removed from the measure. However, the Department believes that consultation with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council could alleviate some of the aforementioned concerns and is in strong support of the other CRB-related aspects of this measure regarding community engagement, workshops, and training events; digital and social media campaigns; media advertising; and educational materials and outreach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Chelsea Arnott, HISC Coordinator on behalf of
HISC Co-Chair Sharon Hurd and Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang**

Senate Committees on WAYS AND MEANS

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:02 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of SENATE BILL 746 SENATE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 746 Senate Draft 1 establishes and appropriates moneys for a two-year pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources that incentivizes community members to collect and submit the coconut rhinoceros beetle and its larvae for compensation. **The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council) supports the intent and provides comments on this measure.**

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is a highly destructive pest that has caused significant damage to our coconut palms, as well as other trees, throughout Pacific Region and Hawaii. Invasive species like the CRB require coordinated, scientifically informed efforts that consider the broader ecosystem, pest biology, and long-term eradication strategies. Once a pest becomes widespread in an area, it is necessary for the community to become engaged in the management.

This measure is a creative method to engage and educate the community while addressing some of the infestations of CRB especially in areas where there are already community programs and organizations in place. The Council recommends that such a program be developed as a pilot by a dedicated outreach team that understands the target pest and can regularly engage/oversee the program. The UH CRB Response Team currently employs two outreach specialists for the State. If such a program was under their direction, another 3-4 specialists would be needed on Oahu and an additional two for every island that is included.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

LATE

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: February 18, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB746 SD1 RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The act establishes a two-year pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources that incentivizes community members to collect and submit the coconut rhinoceros beetle and its larvae for compensation. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i is the endemic species, meaning found here and no where else, capital of the world. We have the rarest native and endemic plants, animals, and micro organisms. All of these species are foundational to our ability to live and thrive here in Hawai'i. Furthermore, due to an incredible lack of overall biosecurity at all levels, we as a government are losing the fight in protecting our native and endemic environment. Nearly every endemic species in Hawai'i is either endangered, critically endangered, or extinct. Simply put, without these native species and a healthy environment, our ability to inhabit these islands become less likely for our future generations.
2. We believe that there needs to be short- and long-term management initiatives to manage and control the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). Management, eradication, and prevention of the spread of CRB is foundational to food security, the health and wellness of our 'āina, and sustainability and resilience overall.

3. There are known biocontrol agents that are utilized in Southeast Asia to manage CRB. Safely testing and researching these agents for use in Hawai‘i, could significantly support our collective management initiatives of this very invasive pest.
4. Our cultural identity and ecological heritage in Hawai‘i are negatively impacted by CRB. We must seek every option in the management and control of CRB; from community education to expanding the current CRB response program.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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

February 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 746, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:02 AM

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

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 746, SD1, which establishes a two-year community-based incentive pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to eradicate the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) in Hawai'i. This measure is a critical step in engaging the public in the fight against one of the most destructive invasive species threatening Hawai'i's agriculture, native ecosystems, and cultural landscapes.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle was first detected in Hawai'i in 2013 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and has since spread across O'ahu and to other islands, including Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. CRB infestations cause significant damage to coconut, royal, date, and fan palms, weakening and eventually killing these trees. The beetle's impact extends beyond palms, as it also poses a threat to crops such as Pandanus species, banana, pineapple, and sugarcane. The economic consequences include increased costs for pest control, tree replacement, and lost revenue from agriculture, landscaping, and tourism.

SB 746, SD1 creates a community-driven approach to CRB eradication by providing compensation to residents, farmers, landscape professionals, and other stakeholders who collect and submit beetles and larvae to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This incentive-based strategy has been successfully used in other invasive species control programs, mobilizing community participation while complementing existing government-led eradication efforts.

Key components of this program include:

- Direct compensation to community members for beetle and larvae collection
- Program administration and oversight by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council
- Community engagement, workshops, and training events to educate the public on CRB identification and control
- Digital and social media campaigns to raise awareness and encourage participation
- Media advertising and outreach to increase public involvement

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau has long advocated for increased resources to combat the spread of invasive species, including the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Controlling CRB infestations requires a multi-faceted approach that includes biological controls, pest control tools, trapping, green waste management, and public engagement. By integrating a community-based response into existing control efforts, SB 746, SD1 will enhance early detection, containment, and eradication of this highly destructive pest.

We urge the committee to pass SB 746, SD1 to expand CRB control efforts and protect Hawai'i's agriculture, environment, and cultural resources from further damage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 2:31:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Invasive pests, such as (and especially) the coconut rhinoceros beetle have the potential to cause immense economic and ecological harm to Hawaii, far in excess of the funds required to control them and prevent their spread. SB746 addresses an urgent need, as the possibility still exists to nip the CRB invasion in the bud, before it metastasizes. Please pass SB746!

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 5:27:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill as more **MUST** be done to protect the plants in this state against CRB

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 6:19:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Miyashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In very strong support of bill SB746.

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:08:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Baye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very concerned with the infestation that I'm seeing on the island. I fully support this bill.

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 10:46:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Teriirere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:07:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rey Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a community member, I am highly concerned about coconut rhinoceros beetle problem, as it affects great amount of people who relies on agricultural crops, scenic plants, and native plants. But I have to respectfully oppose this bill, as it have greater potential for people to abuse this bill in their favor.

Invasive species are named invasive species because they are highly adaptive and easily reproduce. CRB has been observed in reproducing abandoned mulch or even in bag of potting soil, showing great resilience and rate of reproduction.

Thanks to many who are putting effort to eradicate and reduce CRB population across the world (as they are invasive in many other nations), there are great amount of educational resources available that can easily accessible to learn about their life cycle.

Thus my biggest concern is that people may abuse this Bill to farm or captive-rear CRB to receive compensation, ignoring the real problem of reducing wild population of already existing CRB. Logistically, it is way more efficient to farm CRB than go out and drive around to catch CRB.

So this bill may actually increase CRB population on the island of Oahu and spread CRB to other island, as higher population density means more likelihood of CRB to hitch a ride on freight shipment on port areas, or other people on the island who would see this bill as means of easy economic gain and farm CRB in their own island, creating potential for spread of CRB to the other island.

While I do appreciate the DLNR and many others who means well for this bill, it is highly risky for community members of Oahu who are experiencing hardship from CRB and community members from other island who hasn't yet experienced hardship from CRB, as it has high potential to spread CRB to other island and does not solve actual problem.

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 4:19:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David E Shormann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This should be an "all hands on deck effort." and getting the community involved is certainly one of many options that should be utilized.

SB-746-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 1:14:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a great way to get people involved in caring for their environment.