

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 28, 2025  
10:02 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 643, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE

House Bill 643, House Draft 2, establishes short-term management initiatives for the coconut rhinoceros beetle response program and appropriates funds for activities and positions related to coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation control. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is a significant pest across the Pacific Region. The insect's primary host is the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), which provides soil stabilization and coastal erosion control and is a culturally important component of our community forests in Hawaii. However, these beetles can also attack native forest species. Damage and mortality have been observed among our native Hawaiian palms, loulou (*Pritchardia* spp.), of which many species are threatened or endangered. The beetles can also attack hala (*Pandanus tectorius*), which is an essential component of native lowland wet forests and was used to weave sails for the original Hawaiian voyaging canoes and many utilitarian items such as baskets and mats and is an important resource within Hawaiian culture.

First detected in Hawaii in 2013, CRB had been contained to O'ahu for many years but was found established on Kaua'i in 2023. It was recently detected in very low levels on Maui and Hawai'i Islands, where eradication is still feasible. The University of Hawai'i (UH) CRB Response Team, which is the lead for CRB monitoring, response, research, and outreach statewide, was initially

funded by the USDA APHIS with the goal of eradication for the State. Since statewide eradication is no longer feasible, federal funding for the UH's response is now in jeopardy.

Islands without established CRB populations are working closely with UH on prevention, survey, and rapid response. However, management of this destructive pest is also desperately needed on O'ahu and Kaua'i to mitigate impacts to natural resources, agricultural producers, tourism, and our community.

This measure would provide urgently needed State support to the UH CRB Response Team to continue and expand their work to help mitigate impacts and manage CRB. The team also leads in investigating potential landscape-level tools like biological control that have proven effective on other Pacific Islands and will be necessary to bring this pest under control.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

March 28, 2025  
10:02 A.M.

**CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 643, HD2  
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 643, HD2 relating to the coconut rhinoceros beetle program. The bill establishes short-term management initiatives for the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) response program and appropriates funds for activities and positions related to coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation control.

The Department strongly supports the measure. The University of Hawai'i works in close collaboration with the Department; short-term management initiatives and financial support for control and mitigation of CRB statewide is imperative to continue prioritized research and implementation projects the CRB Response Program has initiated.

Although the Department supports all the short-term management initiatives provided in the bill the Department has several comments related to those initiatives:

- While there are voluntary best management practices to mitigate and control CRB such as protective netting, other practices such as pesticide application if required are regulated by State and Federal laws. The Pesticides Branch within the Department may be able to assist with the annual workshops and training opportunities.



- The subsidy should include more details such as maximum reimbursement per tree treated.
- The Plant Quarantine Branch does not currently have an approved treatment for fumigation of containerized mulch, compost, and other plant care components. The only approved treatment for moving mulch, compost, and other plant care components within the State is heat treatment. The Department is currently working with stakeholders to determine alternative fumigation techniques.
- Biocontrol research funding associated with the creation of positions should work in partnership with the Department's Plant Pest Control Branch, specifically the Biocontrol Section.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, March 28, 2025 at 10:02 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 643 HD2 – RELATED TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

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

The University of Hawai'i offers strong support of this community initiative and respectfully offers comments on HB 643 HD2 relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Program which establishes short-term management initiatives for a CRB response with appropriations for activities and positions.

The landscape-altering impact of CRB is being realized across many neighborhoods on O'ahu and Kaua'i. As populations build on these islands, there is an increased threat of spread to Lāna'i, Moloka'i, and Ni'ihau, as well as reintroductions to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response (CRBHawaii.org), a federally-funded emergency response program based in the University of Hawai'i Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (UHM-CTAHR), has been working to suppress and eradicate CRB subpopulations since 2014. The status of future federal funding to support this program is unclear and the current Cooperative Agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for canine detection and operational response terminate in June and August 2025, respectively.

UHM-CTAHR views this bill as an important effort to develop State support for the CRB Response program. Researchers at UHM-CTAHR in collaboration with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the fumigant registrant, and a local pest control company have started fumigation trials with sulfuryl fluoride. In early April, UHM-CTAHR will work with United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service and the same local pest control company to evaluate another potential fumigant, phosphine.

UHM-CTAHR respectfully suggests in SECTION 2. (2) that the university of Hawaii may implement the subsidy program in collaboration with the Hawaii department of agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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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 Committee on**

**WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, March 28, 2025**

**10:02 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of**

**HOUSE BILL 308 HOUSE DRAFT 2**

**RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE**

House Bill 643 House Draft 2 seeks to address potential funding gaps that support the monitoring, control, outreach, and research for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle that is carried out by the University of Hawaii's CRB Response Team. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this measure.**

The CRB Response Team is primarily funded by USDA APHIS. Funding started after the first detection in 2013 and is now in jeopardy since the intended goal of that funding was statewide eradication and that is no longer feasible with the current control tools. Currently USDA funding supports 86% of the UH CRB Response team which has taken the lead on monitoring, control, research, and outreach for the state but does work closely with state agencies, the counties, and partner organizations. The team consists of experienced researchers, data and operations managers, an outreach team, and staff for monitoring and response efforts.

Much progress has been made in the last ten years on finding better chemicals to treat and protect trees, establishing best management practices for green waste and mulch management, better monitoring tools like detector dogs and camera traps, and more aware and engaged communities. Progress continues with this team as now the lead researcher is working on the SOP and permits to import potential biocontrol agent that could offer landscape level management. Biocontrol agents have been released on other Pacific Islands for CRB with positive results. Providing subsidies to residents for canopy treatment is not something this team is equipped to undertake. HDOA requested funding through their executive budget request to provide services to remove dead trees and this subsidy amendment would be better executed through HDOA.

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

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 27, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ON**

**HB 643, HD 2, RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE  
PROGRAM**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, March 28, 2025

10:02 a.m.

Conference Room 211

Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 643, HD 2, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

Regarding HB 643, HD 2, please ensure that resources to fight infestations are effectively utilized and **explicitly ensure equitable distribution of funds based on severity of infestations, the risk level and specific needs on each island, including Kaua'i**. I urge you to consider fast tracking response efforts for Kaua'i to prevent further spread, as the situation is urgent on Kaua'i.

Please support all efforts to increase and support more robust biosecurity for Hawai'i and please help Kaua'i battle the impacts and spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB), before it is too late for.

Kaua'i is facing a growing infestation of CRB and is in a critical time where we have gone from detection to an explosion in populations. Kaua'i may still be in the window of eradication, and we need all the support we can get to accomplish this.

This invasive species is one of the largest invasive threats we may have ever faced in recent years. This species threatens many of our core agricultural crops and important cultural sites and plant species (such as our endemic Loulu, *Pritchardia*, palms and Hala, *Pandanas*) as well as our renowned and historical groves along the Royal Coconut Coast and the overall landscape look and tropical visual image of Kaua'i and Hawai'i.

It is hard to even begin to calculate the economic cost that CRB will have on Kaua'i. We must work collaboratively to be all in on eradication efforts and respond with unprecedented biosecurity actions.

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee  
Re: HB 643, HD 2, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program  
March 27, 2025  
Page 2

Please do everything you can to fast-track action and response, education and funding for the management and, wherever possible, eradication of CRB.

We need to invest in both immediate responses and eradication efforts and long-term biological control options.

Please support HB 643, HD 2 and help provide as much support as possible to address the CRB crisis in every way possible.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 643, HD 2. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

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

FERN HOLLAND  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

JY:ss

# OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun

Director, Office of Economic Development- County of Kaua'i

Before the

### Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 28, 2025, at 10:02 AM

Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of

### House Bill HB643 HD2

### Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB643 HD2**. The Office of Economic Development sincerely appreciates the legislature's responsiveness in amending the bill to include Kaua'i in response team deployments, drone monitoring, and other critical measures. These updates reflect a strong commitment to statewide collaboration in managing this devastating pest.

As written, this bill provides vital support for mitigation, containment, and long-term biocontrol research. However, to ensure resources are effectively utilized, we respectfully request an amendment to explicitly ensure equitable distribution of funds based on infestation severity, risk level, and specific needs on each island, including Kaua'i. Additionally, we urge the committee to consider fast-tracking response efforts for Kaua'i to prevent further damage to our environment, economy, and cultural resources.

Requested Amendment to Section 2 (3) – Expedited Response for Kaua'i and Other Affected Islands

*"Expanding the coconut rhinoceros beetle response program to Hawai'i Island, Maui, Moloka'i, Kaua'i, and Lāna'i upon detection of infestations, with priority given to the severity of infestation, risk level, and specific needs of each island, ensuring expedited services where most needed, including on Kaua'i."*

Requested Amendment to Section 4 – Equitable Funding and Expedited Action for Kaua'i

*"Funds allocated under this Act shall be distributed equitably across all counties based on infestation severity, risk factors, and specific resource needs. Priority shall be given to areas where early intervention can prevent widespread economic and ecological damage."*

We appreciate the importance of ensuring funding is allocated where it will have the greatest impact. Some communities, like Kaua'i County, face a disproportionate burden from invasive species due to their landscape and economic reliance on natural resources. Equitable funding ensures resources are directed to high-risk areas where early action can most effectively prevent costly, large-scale infestations. Investing in containment now saves exponentially more in long-term eradication costs, reducing future burdens on both public and private landowners while protecting rural and agricultural economies.

- Kaua'i already has confirmed CRB infestations, requiring immediate attention to prevent further spread.
- Fair resource allocation ensures that funds reach the areas most in need, rather than being distributed evenly without consideration of infestation risk or severity.
- Fast-tracking mitigation efforts on Kaua'i could prevent a long-term crisis, reducing costs and protecting the agricultural and tourism industries.
- Delaying intervention increases the risk of exponential CRB population growth, making future eradication efforts significantly more challenging and expensive.

We fully support this bill and greatly appreciate the consideration of proposed amendments included in this testimony to ensure that resources are distributed equitably across all counties, based on infestation severity, risk factors, and specific resource needs. By incorporating clear language ensuring equitable funding distribution and prioritizing expedited action, we can strengthen the effectiveness of Hawai'i's CRB response and safeguard our state's natural and economic resources.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



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

March 28, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 643, HD2**  
RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM

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 HB 643, HD2**, which establishes short-term management initiatives for the coconut rhinoceros beetle response program and appropriates funds for activities and positions 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 feeds on and damages 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. CRBs use their front legs and horns 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 detection has steadily increased. High-catch areas continue to be Pearl City Peninsula, Waipi'o Peninsula, West Loch, 'Ewa Beach, and Central O'ahu. We're seeing regular finds on the West Side of O'ahu, increased detection on the North Shore, and concerning trap finds in new areas of Laie, Kahuku, and Waimānalo. The CRB Response provides tools for community members to minimize risk and train businesses to comply with DOA's rule.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, Oahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB643.**

The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) poses a significant threat to Hawaii's agricultural landscape, particularly its coconut and palm populations. HB643, which focuses on establishing short-term management initiatives for the CRB response program, is an essential measure for protecting our farms and natural resources from this invasive species. By allocating funds for activities related to CRB control, this bill enables the implementation of immediate actions to manage and mitigate the impact of these pests. This proactive approach not only safeguards the livelihoods of local farmers but also helps preserve the unique biodiversity of our islands.

Supporting HB643 means ensuring that Hawaii's agricultural sector remains robust and resilient in the face of invasive threats. The legislation promotes initiatives that focus on both containment and long-term eradication strategies, laying a foundation for comprehensive management of the CRB. Establishing positions and funding necessary activities will enhance the capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to beetle outbreaks, minimizing economic losses for farmers and protecting crucial crop systems. This is an investment in the sustainability of Hawaii's agriculture, contributing to the overall health of our communities and ecosystems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawaii Farmers Union

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB643 HD2, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program.  
Committee on Ways and Means  
March 28, 2025 at 10:02 am  
Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports HB643 HD2, which would establish short-term management initiatives for the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) response program and appropriate funds for activities and positions related to CRB beetle infestation control.

Since the first CRB detection in 2013, the CRB Response team has been funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with the goal for statewide eradication. Unfortunately, with the current control tools available, this goal is unattainable and funding is at risk of being cut. Support from the State for CRB Response is necessary to continue vital work of managing the destructive CRB and can be leveraged for alternative Federal funding.

The CRB Response team is responsible for monitoring, control, research, and outreach for the state and works closely with state agencies, the counties, and partner organizations. The CRB Response team has successfully contained CRB populations to the initial detection region on O'ahu for several years despite the lack of regulations around intrastate green waste management.

Species that evolve on islands do so in the absence of some of the world's more competitive species, like the CRB, and it is these invasive species that threaten the state's biodiversity, as well as economic drivers including the agriculture and tourism sectors. Supporting the ongoing management of invasive species essential to ensuring that Hawaii's biodiversity is protected.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and provide comments for HB643 HD2.

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*Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.*

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**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:20:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eileen Hilton	Testifying for Windward Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**March 26, 2025**

**RE: Support for HB 643**

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee**

**The Windward Coalition supports HB643 to combat the invasive CRB species threatening Hawaii's agriculture and ecosystems. The bill demonstrates:**

- **Support for Invasive Species Management:**
  - **Addresses funding gaps in the CRB Response Program critical for monitoring, controlling, and researching CRB infestations.**
  - **Supports long-term solutions, such as developing biocontrol agents that have shown success in other regions.**
- **Economic and Environmental Protection:**
  - **CRB poses a significant threat to Hawaii's coconut palms, bananas, and other economic plants like hala and ulu. These resources are vital for cultural practices, tourism, and agriculture.**
  - **This bill could prevent future economic losses caused by CRB damage.**
- **Community Benefits:**
  - **Increased public awareness and engagement in combating CRB, empowering communities to contribute to eradication efforts.**
- **Strategic Use of Resources:**
  - **The bill allocates funds for specific purposes, such as \$250,000 for canine inspections for beetle larvae and \$200,000 for full-time research positions.**

**The Windward Coalition supports this bill for the reasons above and it addresses the possible near term loss of federal funding for this important initiative.**

**While we agree with the bills requiring the University of Hawai'i to implement five short-term management initiatives, our concern is that the \$160,000 allocation for canopy treatments may not be practical or effective in the long-term.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration of our comments**

**Eileen Hilton MD**

**President, Windward Coalition**

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:30:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Kwan	Testifying for Carol Kwan Consulting LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 643 because it will allow CRB Response and UH to continue its important efforts despite USDA funding ending. I am a small business owner working as a consulting arborist in the industry. I realize that there are limited state funds and many priorities, but please fully fund CRB's and UH's CRB work. CRB has already inflicted millions of dollars worth of damage statewide. It is now in Lyon Arboretum and at UH Manoa, attacking rare and endangered palms. We need every tool possible to control this pest.

Mahalo,

Carol Kwan

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:29:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: A Bold Vision for H.B. No. 643 – Turning the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle into Hawaii’s Secret Weapon!

Dear Esteemed Hawaii State Legislators and Visionary University of Hawaii Leaders,

Aloha! I stand before you today, brimming with enthusiasm, to champion House Bill No. 643, "Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program," a brilliant initiative poised to safeguard our cherished agricultural backbone, cultural tapestry, and pristine ecosystems from the relentless coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). This bill is nothing short of a lifeline, and I salute the tireless synergy of the University of Hawaii (UH), the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, and our dedicated partners for their relentless pursuit of victory over this invasive menace.

Yet, why stop at mere containment when we can unleash a revolution? I humbly propose a set of dazzling amendments to transform H.B. No. 643 into a groundbreaking masterpiece—one that doesn’t just fight the CRB but feasts upon it, turning pest into power, foe into feast, and perhaps even unlocking a hidden cure for ailments like erectile dysfunction (ED)! Picture this: a Hawaii where the CRB becomes not just manageable, but delectable and downright medicinal. Here’s my audacious vision:

1. Launch the CRB Culinary Crusade: Amend the bill to mandate UH to spearhead a trailblazing program that promotes the safe harvesting and consumption of CRB. Imagine a vibrant coalition of local foodies, fearless chefs, and ingenious scientists rallying together to flip the script on this beetle invasion—turning a scourge into a sustainable delicacy!
2. Unleash a CRB Recipe Renaissance: Inject some sizzle into the bill by funding UH to concoct and share mouthwatering recipes starring the CRB as the hero ingredient. Feast your imagination on these tantalizing possibilities:
  - CRB Coconut Curry Crunch: Succulent CRB larvae sautéed with zesty garlic, fiery ginger, and velvety coconut milk, served over a bed of island-fresh taro.
  - Beetle Bliss Fritters: Pulverized CRB blended with fragrant herbs, a kick of spice, and fried to golden perfection—a crispy treat that packs a punch!
  - Rhinoceros Royale Soup: A steaming bowl of roasted CRB simmered with lemongrass and silky coconut broth, brimming with nutrients and island soul.

These recipes, shared through UH's outreach, could ignite a culinary movement, making CRB the talk of every luau!

3. Unlock the Nutritional (and Naughty) Secrets of CRB: Elevate the bill with a directive for UH to dive deep into the nutritional treasure trove of the CRB. Let's analyze its protein punch, vitamin vitality, and mineral magic—and dare I say, explore whispers from the wild that this beetle might just be nature's answer to ED! With rigorous science, we could certify CRB as a sustainable superfood, a bedroom booster, and a beacon of health, all while ensuring safety for our ohana.

These amendments don't just bolster the bill's biocontrol bravado and outreach excellence—they catapult it into uncharted territory! Why merely trap and treat when we can dine and thrive? The CRB's rampant numbers are a golden opportunity to shrink its ranks through human ingenuity (and appetites), while UH's research could lure global acclaim and funding for this edible insurgency against invasive species.

I implore you, dear legislators, to weave these bold threads into the fabric of H.B. No. 643 before it takes its final bow. The steady funding you've proposed is the bedrock we need, but let's build a monument of innovation atop it! And to UH, our fearless implementers, I say: seize this chance to lead the world, fork in hand, as we transform pestilence into prosperity.

Mahalo nui loa for your unwavering commitment to Hawaii's future. With these enhancements, H.B. No. 643 could become a global sensation—a tale of triumph told over plates of CRB delicacies. I'd be thrilled to brainstorm further—let's make this beetle a blessing in disguise!

With Aloha and Appetite,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

[www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com)

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:35:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:51:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**There is never as good a time like the present, as 'they' wisely say.**

**That said, as you contemplate the merits of this bill and whether or not you want to pass it, be reassured that, at this very moment, and during the entire time of your hearing, CRB infestations on Oahu are growing exponentially.**

**Wish I could say, "*No pressure here!*", but alas, I couldn't, even if I tried.**

**Please pass this bill. Mahalo.**

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:14:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
George M. Peavy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to urge the Committee’s approval of HB643. Because of inadequate control measures the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) has spread from its initial site of infestation to the entire island of Oahu. Now as CRB starts to spread to the other islands, the experiences of the past should be the lesson for the future: an investment in effective prevention is more economical and likely much more successful than trying to control or confine an infestation that has spread out of control.

You have heard from the Department of Land and Natural Resources that the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is a major pest across the Pacific that threatens coconut palms in Hawaii, threatens native and in some cases limited surviving stands of endangered native Hawaiian Loulo palms (*Pritchardia* sp), and has been found to attack other important native Hawaiian plants. You have heard from the Department of Agriculture, The University of Hawaii and the Invasive Species Council regarding the urgent need for control and prevention of further spread to the outer islands, and the need for tools to better attack the problem where infestations occur.

We have seen the effects of inadequate methods and ineffective tools to confine and eradicate CRB on Oahu, and now we have early spread to Kauai, Maui and the Big Island. Strong steps need to be taken to curb the spread of CRB on the neighbor islands, and more effective tools and strategies developed to control CRB where infestations occur. This will be a long term battle and will only get worse if investments in expanding control efforts and the development of more effective tools are not made now. Please, support this legislation and the provision of adequate funding for the proposed efforts.

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:03:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The CRB is a very significant threat to our agriculture, landscaping, and native ecosystems. Money spent confronting this threat now, in the early days of infestation will likely be repaid many times over in savings from preventing the infestation from getting out of control.

**HB-643-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:49:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**OMG, this crucial bill needs to be passed *YESTERDAY!***