

CRB Response Update

May 24 – June 6, 2014

- The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Project has hired 28 new field workers to boost CRB surveys. The new crews will begin work on the project in two phases: the first group of 17 hires will start June 16 and the second group of 11 hires will start on or about June 23. These are temporary USDA hires that will support the CRB project through the end of the Federal fiscal year (September 30, 2014)
- During the 2-week reporting period the infestation area did not expand. Field crews found 91 adult beetles (63 in traps and 22 in an infested mulch pile on base). Of the 63 beetles found in traps, 57 were on base, 4 were at the Navy Marine Golf Course, 1 at Sand Island, and 1 at Iroquois Point. There were 167 additional traps deployed outside of JBPHH and 801 traps serviced.
- Regarding the above infested mulch pile on base, crews found CRB breeding at Hickam's Base X site and removed 14 larvae, 1 pupae and 22 adults. The infested material was moved on base to the Kuntz Gate site for treatment by in-vessel composting. Known breeding sites are still limited to JBPHH.
- In addition to the three groups of trained Navy and Air Force personnel that are now assisting with trap checking and servicing on base, HDOA/USDA trained base personnel in Green Waste Clearance Protocol to assist with inspections of green waste leaving JBPHH.
- Mitigation of CRB breeding sites by the US Navy continued. Infested material is being treated with an in-vessel compost system which heats the material to temperatures the beetle cannot survive. The treatment of infested material is occurring on JBPHH.
- **Beetle Fact:** Public reports of CRB usually end up being the Oriental Flower Beetle (*Proteatia orientalis*). Oriental Flower Beetles are smaller, about an inch long, and have mottled white patches on their backs. They have been present in Hawaii since at least 2002 and are wide spread on Oahu. The Oriental Flower Beetles are active primarily during the day and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles are active primarily at night.

This report uses the best information available at the time of writing and is not an official record of the project. Its purpose is to update partner agencies and concerned individuals about project progress. Questions regarding information in the report can be addressed by calling the project command post at 832-0585. Mahalo.