

CRB Response Update

June 9 – June 20, 2014

- The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Project has hired 26 new field workers to boost CRB surveys. The CRB project still has 6 positions open for hire and is accepting applications. The first group of 15 hires started the week of 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 46 adult beetles – all in traps. Of the 46 beetles found in traps, 45 were on JBPHH property (41 in and around Mamala Bay Golf Course, 3 at the Navy Marine Golf Course and 1 at Iroquois Point), and 1 at Honolulu International Airport. There were 2,141 total traps serviced both on and off JBPHH property, as well as 6 mulch surveys.
- On June 19, field crews removed 8 second instar CRB larvae from a mulch pile on JBPHH property at Iroquois Pt. Further intensive inspections of this site as well as mitigation steps are underway. Known breeding sites are still limited to JBPHH.
- Both the CRB project and JBPHH are in the process of purchasing air curtain burners to mitigate infested mulch.
- The CRB project is field testing (scheduled for June 23rd) an insecticide for possible use on infested soil and mulch material.
- Treatment of infested material on JBPHH with the in-vessel compost system that heats the material to temperatures that all stages of the beetle cannot survive is on-going.
- **Beetle Fact:** Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults may be attacked by various predators, including pigs, rats, ants, and some beetles. They may also be killed by two important diseases: the fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae* and the *Oryctes* virus disease. Field observations on Oahu indicate some bird species (Cattle Egret and Common Mynah) as well as mongoose are feeding on CRB.

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.