

CRB Response Update

May 12 – 23, 2014

- The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Project is working to hire up to 32 new field workers to boost CRB surveys. The new crews will begin work on the project in early June.
- During the 2-week reporting period, the infestation area expanded significantly due to an adult beetle trapped in Kapolei approximately 1/3 of a mile west of the area's former border. In total, surveyors found 36 beetles in traps including the one caught in Kapolei. Two more beetles were trapped at Navy Marine Golf Course. Intensive surveys are being conducted to locate potential breeding sites around new beetle finds and in the expanded area.
- As of May 23, more than 1200 traps have been deployed island-wide, but most beetles have been trapped on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).
- Crews found CRB breeding in a mulch pile located at Hickam's Kuntz Gate near the composting treatment operation and removed 9 larvae. Known breeding sites are still limited to JBPHH.
- Additional Navy personnel were trained to check traps located on JBPHH. The three groups of trained Navy and Air Force personnel will help alleviate workloads of the USDA/HDOA crews.
- 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 is occurring on JBPHH.
- **Beetle Fact:** Adult coconut rhinoceros beetles are active at night, taking flight just after sunset. They are attracted to bright lights that emit ultraviolet light such as metal-halide lamps. The traps used by the project are outfitted with an LED UV light that, in combination with a chemical pheromone lure, draws beetles into traps. During the day, beetles hide in dark places.

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.