

CRB Response Update

February 10 - 14, 2014

- After a week of trouble shooting by the Navy and its contractor, grinding of infested mulch began at the Mamala Bay Golf Course on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Friday. Double grinding of the material will kill adults and large grubs reducing the risk of beetles spreading until the mulch is destroyed. Safely transporting the ground mulch to H-power for incineration is being pursued for final destruction of the mulch.
- A steam sterilizer was ordered from Hilo to sterilize soil that is underneath infested mulch piles. The project is still seeking technical guidance on using the sterilizer to kill any beetles that might remain in the soil. If this method is effective it will eliminate the need for treating soil with pesticides in sensitive areas.
- Trapping and visual surveys continued in the core infestation area and at high risk areas around the island. Each day between 5 and 8 crews were deployed. Crews were made up of agency personnel from USDA, HDOA, DLNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oahu Invasive Species Committee. About 350 traps have been deployed, and 39 square miles have been systematically surveyed for damaged coconut trees. 14 beetles were recovered from traps this week, all in the general vicinity of the known breeding site. No new breeding sites were found.
- A coconut tree with suspect CRB damage was found at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe. Honolulu City and County Parks and Recreation staff and the Oahu Invasive Species Committee inspected the crown using a mechanical lift. Although the damage strongly resembled CRB damage, no bore holes were found. After consulting experts in Guam we determined that it likely was not CRB. Follow up surveys are in place to confirm that the site is negative.
- Trapping continued at all ports statewide with no beetle detections. Department of Agriculture Plant Pest Control staff from Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii islands visited Oahu to see the infestation and get trained to monitor on their islands. Additional traps were sent to the neighbor island to be quickly deployed in responding to beetle detections there. Traps deployed at neighbor island ports continued to be monitored.