

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Ilana Stout <ilanastout@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 4:05 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

Aloha, I am writing to request that the interim rules restricting the movement of Coconut products be made permanent through proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Ch. 4-72.

I live in Puna , on a property that I steward with ~ 50 mature coconut trees that is surrounded by ancient Hala groves

. I am extremely concerned about the possible impacts of CRB contaminated material being brought into my neighborhood, especially as I live very close to the 2018 lava flow, and area where many malihini are now trying to rebuild soil and vegetation through the addition of mulch and planting of keiki niu.

I worry that moving mulch loads from Waikoloa to here or from Oahu to our island may significantly exacerbate the spread of this incredibly destructive species and create a situation where we are unable to eradicate it from our island, with disastrous consequences to both our agriculture and ecosystems.

Ilana Stout
Wa'awa'a, Puna, Moku o Keawe

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Heather Quintana <hcoad@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 10:25 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reinstate Interisland CRB Protections

Aloha,

I am writing to request that HDOA reinstate the recently expired interim rule restricting the interisland movement of live palms, mulch, and landscaping products that could harbor coconut rhinoceros beetle.

This rule is urgently needed to prevent the introduction of CRB to uninfested areas and protect agricultural and ecological resources on our outer islands.

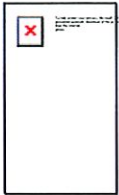
Mahalo Nui,

Heather Quintana
Ola'a, Hawai'i Island

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Mary Ann Kamalani Pahukoa <mpahukoa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:25 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants
Attachments: Testimony - RCB.pdf

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Ho, Jonathan K

From: Elaine Malina <craterpair@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:43 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Elaine Malina
2140 Awihi Place #2
Kihei, Maui, HI 96753

808-281-9297



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Chuck Chimera <cgchimera@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:50 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

As a Big Island resident, I am writing in strong support of Agenda Item 3, pertaining to the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is an invasive pest that threatens Hawai'i's ecosystems, agriculture, cultural heritage, and sense of place. It is well-documented that palm plants and decomposing organic materials are ideal breeding grounds for CRB, which has already caused significant damage on O'ahu. Detection of adult beetles and larvae on Kauai, Maui, and in Waikōloa (on my home island!!) are truly alarming.

Allowing the unrestricted inter-island movement of these materials without immediate and comprehensive restrictions risks further spreading this destructive pest to neighbor islands, where the impacts will be devastating.

The proposed interim rule is not only prudent but essential. It will provide an immediate safeguard while longer-term solutions, such as permanent inter- and intra-island quarantines, are considered. By restricting the movement of palm plants, mulch, compost, and other organic materials, we can prevent the further spread of CRB and protect our islands from the severe environmental, economic, and cultural consequences that this pest would bring.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recognize the emergency nature of this issue and to support the issuance of the interim rule. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Mahalo,

Chuck Chimera
Honoka'a, Hawaii

Ho, Jonathan K

From: CATHY LAU <jeremylau@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:57 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HDOA.PQ.Testimony

To the Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee:

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests. We are seeing it in the take down of the coconut palm trees that symbolize Hawaii all over the coasts.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively **limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread**.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to **promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules**. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Aloha,
Catherine Lau

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Danielle Frohlich <dsfrohlich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:37 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing in support of Agenda Item 3, which addresses the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant matter.

CRBs pose a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is already experiencing the severe impact of these beetles, and it is crucial to prevent their spread to neighboring islands, especially to vulnerable areas like Maui, where plant material transport is increasing due to Lāhainā's rebuilding efforts.

To protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language that directs the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on managing mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for CRB. Local cooperation is crucial to effectively limit CRB reproduction and prevent their spread.

While this interim rule is vital in the short term, more comprehensive measures are needed. I respectfully ask the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for establishing a permanent quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, alongside other biosecurity measures.

Mahalo for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Danielle Frohlich

Ho, Jonathan K

From: John Shockley <shockleyjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:49 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 3--The Coconut Rhino Beetle.

Aloha!

The CRB infestation with no obvious entomological enemy is at the critical level.

The Free Access Coalition supports the issue. We need to stop spreading this plague.

Mahalo for your time.

John & Rita Shockley. Free Access Coalition. www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Glenn Choy <choyhawaii@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:20 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda item 3-Unrestricted inter island movement of palm plants

I urge a crackdown on such unrestricted movement.

Also, I urge requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the counties to manage mulch, waste etc.

Finally I urge requiring the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt proposed Chapter 72, HAR changes on the above.

Sent from my iPhone

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Robert <robq68@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:36 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

Having been personally affected by the disastrous encroachment and infestation on O‘ahu, I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai‘i’s environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O‘ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai‘i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Robert Quartero

--
Mahalo Akua, ʻm/ - Shaka to all

Robert

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Ho, Jonathan K

From: Beppie Shapiro <beppie@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:37 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

I have lived at my Kaimuki home for 54 years. I have 7 beautiful niu in my yard and I love looking at them against the sky. I donate nuts to churches or Pacific Islanders who want them, when I can't find anyone to open them for me (i used to open them myself but I'm 82 now).

I'm terrified we'll lose our niu and other valuable species like loulu palms to the CRB. It's in your hands now: please, since you care about our aina, restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials. This is extremely urgent.

In addition, at this meeting, require the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential to limit CRB reproduction and to prevent further spread.

And you can do more - please do: advocate that the Department of Agriculture **promptly** adopt the proposed amendments (under consideration since February 2023) to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments are critically needed now to control the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials.

We are all in this together. Please as my representatives, act now!

Mahalo, Beppie Shapiro

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Mariko Whitenack <marikowhitenack@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:57 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I am a resident of Kalihi. I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials. Our communities on O‘ahu are working hard to protect niu, loulou, and other plant relatives threatened by CRB. Please do your part and help us protect these important relationships by stopping the spread of CRB to other islands, before they face the same impacts we are dealing with here on O‘ahu.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai‘i’s environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O‘ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai‘i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Mariko Whitenack

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Patricia Davis <energizedwellness9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:24 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invasive Species

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Patricia J Davis
Princeville. Kauai

October 9, 2024



Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

RE: Agenda Item #IV-3 for Subcommittee on Plants & Animals Meeting - Oct 11

Aloha,

I am writing to express the support of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee for the interim rule to restrict the inter-island movement of palms and materials that could host the destructive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

We believe these restrictions are critical to help stop the spread of CRB. During a previous lapse in restrictions, both the Big Island and Maui had their first detections of CRB. Our farmers, conservationists, and homeowners on the Big Island have expressed deep concern over the movement of mulch and compost to our island. Social media is rife with photos of CRB grubs being found in soil, mulch, and even potted plants on Oahu, and it is a real danger that these materials moving interisland may unintentionally move this pest.

We urge the committee to pass the rule and give HDOA time to complete the process of updating the Ch. 4-72 rules that will make these restrictions and interventions permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Franny Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Sarah Woo <sarahwoo@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 1:54 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha ,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. I've seen CRB already destroy parts of our island and heard first hand from coworkers who are struggling in keeping them away from their farms. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

All the best

Sarah

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Harvey Arkin <harveyarkin9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 2:09 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Harvey Arkin
Manoa Hnl

Ho, Jonathan K

From: eduardo gandolfo <gandolfsea@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 3:57 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

mahalo nui loa,

Eduardo A. Gandolfo

Principal Broker
Maui Houses and Condos Realty
"excellence with aloha"
Certified Short sale and Foreclosure Resource Specialist
Green Realtor
GRI
Cell: 1.808.264.4733
gandolfsea@hotmail.com
2824 Ohina St., Kihei, HI 96753, USA

"IF WE WAIT FOR THE MOMENT THAT EVERYTHING IS READY, WE SHALL NEVER BEGIN" Ivan Turgenev

My clients deserve my undivided loyalty and priority scheduling. Therefore, I exclusively serve buyers and sellers with whom I have signed representation agreements.

Referrals are greatly appreciated. Please call me if a friend, family member or a neighbor is in need of my help.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Earl Kim <mothra246@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 4:44 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Earl J. Kim

Ho, Jonathan K

From: steven hyer <stevenhyer1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 5:35 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 3

Sent from my iPhone

I'm in support of inter island ban of palm trees I have personally lost a beautiful 20' coconut tree due to this beetle

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Mark Wasser <mark.w.wasser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 6:28 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extend / make permanent interim rules to prevent spread of CRB

Aloha,

Please immediately extend (and eventually make permanent) the interim rules that recently expired on Oct 4, 2024 designed to prevent the spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB). These rules restrict the movement of palm plants, decomposing plant material such as compost, wood or tree chips, mulch, potting soil, and other landscaping products that may harbor CRB. They require material to be chipped, heated, or fumigated within 48 hours then stored in a container and inspected by HDOA before being moved.

Allowing these rules to expire and CRB to spread is a criminally negligent failure by HDOA. Please get out of bed with the nursery industry and start taking meaningful steps to protect Hawai'i's agriculture and natural resources. It should have been done a decade ago, but do it now. Please. The damage CRB has wrought on O'ahu and its subsequent spread in recent years to other islands (again, when interim rules were allowed to expire and material freely moved) should be a wake up call. Please act decisively and reinstate these interim rules immediately and then make them permanent.

Mahalo,
Mark Wasser
Hilo, HI

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Matthew Lopp <mattlopp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 7:08 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rhinoceros Beetle

Aloha

My wife and I have killed 4 Rhinoceros Beetles that we found on our property. We are afraid of loosing our beautiful palm trees.

We live at West View in upper Makakilo Kapolei.

Please do something this is getting out of control on our island.

Matthew Lopp



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Testimony to
Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals

October 11, 2024

1:30 PM

PQB Conference Room

In SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS of IV.3:

REQUEST FOR: (1) A FINDING THAT THE UNRESTRICTED INTER-ISLAND MOVEMENT OF PALM PLANTS IN THE GENERA *COCOS*, *LIVISTONA*, *PHOENIX*, *PRITCHARDIA*, *ROYSTONEA*, AND *WASHINGTONIA*; DECOMPOSING PLANT MATERIAL SUCH AS COMPOST, WOOD OR TREE CHIPS, AND MULCH, PLANT PROPAGATION MEDIA; AND OTHER ITEMS COMPRISED OF DECOMPOSING ORGANIC PLANT MATERIAL SUCH AS LANDSCAPING MATERIAL OR EROSION CONTROL SOCKS, TO PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE, *ORYCTES RHINOCEROS*, FROM THE ISLAND OF O'AHU, CONSTITUTES AN EMERGENCY JUSTIFYING ISSUANCE OF AN INTERIM RULE; AND (2) A FINDING THAT THE ISSUANCE OF AN INTERIM RULE TO RESTRICT THE INTER-ISLAND MOVEMENT OF PALM PLANTS IN THE GENERA *COCOS*, *LIVISTONA*, *PHOENIX*, *PRITCHARDIA*, *ROYSTONEA*, AND *WASHINGTONIA*; DECOMPOSING PLANT MATERIAL SUCH AS COMPOST, WOOD OR TREE CHIPS, AND MULCH, PLANT PROPAGATION MEDIA; AND OTHER ITEMS COMPRISED OF DECOMPOSING ORGANIC PLANT MATERIAL SUCH AS LANDSCAPING MATERIAL OR EROSION CONTROL SOCKS, IS REQUIRED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE, *ORYCTES RHINOCEROS*, FROM THE ISLAND OF O'AHU TO UN-INFESTED AREAS WITHIN THE STATE.

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, on behalf of its over 20,000 members and supporters, submits this testimony in SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS of the interim rule proposal recommended for adoption today. **The restriction of movement of high-risk coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) vectors to the neighbor islands is desperately needed, particularly with the expiration of the almost identical interim rules last week, and the ever-worsening proliferation of CRB across O'ahu.**

In light of the detection and spread of CRB on Kaua'i, and repeated and recent detections on other neighbor islands notwithstanding the prior interim rule, the Sierra Club urges the Committee to strengthen this current proposal to address the spread of CRB within and between islands other than O'ahu.

Most notably, there is an urgent need for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to work with the mayors and invasive species committee of each county where CRB may be present, to develop a plan to manage mulch, compost, wood chips, green waste, and other decomposing plant material that could contribute to the rapid and irreversible establishment of CRB on our neighbor islands. Sample interim rule language to address this need may read as follows:

"For any island where coconut rhinoceros beetle, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, has been or is detected, the department shall work with the invasive species committee and mayor of that county to develop and implement a plan to manage, treat, and/or restrict the movement of palm plants in the genera *Cocos*, *Livistona*, *Phoenix*, *Pritchardia*, *Roystonea*, and *Washingtonia*; decomposing plant material such as compost, wood or tree chips, and mulch, plant propagation media; and other items comprised of decomposing organic plant material such as landscaping material or erosion control socks."

Should the attorney general advise that the above language cannot be included in the proposed interim rules without an additional meeting, the Sierra Club urges the Committee to approve the interim rules as presented today, and to urge the Department to return with a proposal to include such language at the Committee's next meeting.

The impacts of CRB on our environment, native species, cultural integrity, food security, economy, and overall ways of life in Hawai'i – potentially for generations, if not indefinitely – require us to take immediate and drastic action to stop the continued spread of this pest. While communities across O'ahu and throughout our islands are mobilizing to prevent our present and future generations from suffering the consequences of CRB and other invasive pests, such efforts simply cannot succeed without the support of agencies with unique and critical resources and authorities, including, in particular, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.¹

Accordingly, the Sierra Club urges the Committee to **adopt** the proposed interim rules **with the amendments** described above.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this matter.

¹ The Sierra Club notes the continued failure of the department to adopt proposed amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72, concerning the "stop movement" of infested plants and commodities, and the implementation of a compliance agreement program for businesses to adopt best practices to prevent the spread of invasive pests, among other critical provisions. The Committee, as a whole or in your individual capacity, may accordingly wish to once again urge the Department to finalize the adoption of these rule amendments, which were approved for public hearing in February 2023, and overwhelmingly supported during a public hearing held in January of this year.



Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals
October 11, 2024
9:00 a.m. Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Testimony Regarding Agenda item IV. 3, Plant Quarantine Interim Rule and Emergency Finding to Restrict the Movement of Certain CRB Host Material from Oahu to Other Islands

Aloha Advisory Committee Chair and Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) supports actions by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to slow the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). We understand the urgent need for additional tools to stop the movement of CRB infested material and slow the spread of CRB. However, we believe that the proposed interim rule, which appears to be identical to the interim rule adopted on October 4, 2023, will not be effective by itself to address the CRB emergency. We urge the Committee to consider modifying the proposed interim rule so that it will be an effective rule to slow the spread of CRB in Hawaii.

First, we ask the Committee to consider adding language to require HDOA, in cooperation with the mayor of each county where CRB has been detected, to regulate the movement of mulch, compost, and other greenwaste. Regulating the movement of this CRB breeding material could be effective in slowing or preventing the spread of CRB within those counties. Language proposed to be added is as follows:

“The Department, in cooperation with the mayor of each county in which CRB has been detected, shall develop a plan to regulate the movement of mulch, compost, and other greenwaste within the county to slow or prevent the movement of CRB within the county.”

Second, we ask the Committee to consider adding Kauai as a designated infested area. CRB was first detected on Kauai in May 2023, and it is now distributed in a number of areas on the island. Preventing infested CRB host material from moving from Kauai to uninfested areas of the State could effectively prevent CRB from spreading to islands that are not widely infested. This change could be made on page 1 of the proposed interim rule, by amending the second to last

sentence to read as follows (text proposed to be added is underlined; text proposed to be deleted is ~~struck through~~):

“The entire island of Oahu and the entire island of Kauai ~~are~~ is designated as a CRB infested areas.”

Third, we request that HDOA remove references to “inter-island movement” and “interisland movement” from the submittal (except in the first paragraph under the heading “IV. Authority), and replace it with simply “movement.” The “infested area” in this interim rule could be expanded by the Board of Agriculture to include a part of an island under the authority in section 4-72-4.5 Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). In that case, it would be “intraisland” movement that is restricted. We note that proposed interim rule does not include references to “interisland movement.”

Additionally, we hope this interim rule will not impact the progress of the proposed amendments to chapter 72, HAR, that were unanimously moved forward by this Committee on February 15, 2023, the Board of Agriculture on February 28, 2023, and the Small Business Regulatory Review Board on May 30, 2023. Oral public testimony at a public hearing on the amendments held on January 30, 2024, was also overwhelmingly in support. Section 150A-9.5 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), authorizes HDOA to adopt an interim rule for a period of up to one year if this Committee makes a finding that “the importation or movement of any flora or fauna, in the absence of effective rules, creates a situation dangerous to the public health and safety or to the ecological health of flora or fauna present in the State which is so immediate in nature as to constitute an emergency.” (§150A-9.5(b) HRS emphasis added) The proposed amendments to chapter 72 HAR, in their current form, will restart the CRB compliance agreement program. That program prohibits a person from transporting CRB host material from a CRB infested area to a CRB restricted area or from transporting, receiving, processing, selling, giving away, or exporting CRB host material within a CRB infested area without an HDOA permit or entering into a compliance agreement that requires the person to use best management practices to slow the spread of CRB. When this program was in effect on Oahu from July 2022 to June 2023, it was well executed by CRB Response, well received, and effective. We understand the Board of Agriculture may consider the proposed amendments to chapter 72 later this month. We urge the Board to approve the proposed amendments and restart the CRB compliance agreement program on Oahu and to take action to expand the compliance agreement program to Kauai.

Finally, we urge HDOA to work with the Office of the Governor to seek an emergency proclamation relating to CRB. As CRB continues to spread across the State and the Department of Parks and Recreation has begun removing infested trees on the North Shore of Oahu, it is past time to seek a state-wide emergency declaration for CRB under chapter 127A HRS. An emergency declaration would authorize county and state agencies to enable planning and implementation of CRB management strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this interim rule and for your consideration of our comments.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

Ho, Jonathan K

From: M & C Johnson <mjohnson@hevanet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:33 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HDOA October 11, 2024 meeting testimony Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals.

Dear HDOA Chair Sharon Hurd and Advisory Committee,

We are writing in support of reinstating temporary rules that expired Oct. 4, 2024 to restrict inter-island movement of palms and host materials that may contain Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles or their larvae. However, permanent rules for all islands not just Oahu would be the best option by revising Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Ch 4-72. The ever increasing presence of invasives is a wake up call. The rapid increase in affected locations for the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) is staggering. The impacts to all of us who live or visit here are already affecting our livelihoods and quality of life in just eleven short years.

We are grateful to have at least had temporary rules. The thought of how much worse this can get is VERY concerning.

Various agencies and news media have done a good job and it needs to continue. People need to be educated and involved about the harmful larvae.

Scent dogs have proven to be very effective in finding invasives including the CRB on Oahu, Hawaii Island and Kauai. These programs need increased funding and expansion through grants to support the providers of these scent dog services. There are at least two organizations in the state: Hawaii Detection Dogs, LLC on Hawaii Island and Conservation Dogs of Hawaii on Oahu.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Carol Johnson
Mark Johnson
969 Ainako
Hilo, HI 96720

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:09 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of Agriculture Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals Hearing

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai‘i’s environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O‘ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai‘i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since

February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

--

Pete Wilson
13-927 Kahukai Street
Pahoa HI 96778
808-557-8108

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Meredith Buck <aloha@meredithbuck.studio>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:29 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

My name is Meredith Buck, lauhala weaver and resident of Kailua Kona, Hawai'i Island.

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

My perspective as a kumu ulana lauhala is that the CRB is a primary threat to the long-term viability of Hawaiian cultural practices, including weaving. These practices rely on thriving populations of the plants and trees required to sustain them — including niu, loulu, hala, and many others. Weavers have watched as the hala scale decimated the hala of Maui, Molokai, and now O'ahu. As cultural practitioners we are working within our reach to stop the spread of the scale, but there's only so much we can do without support from governments, institutions, and industries. Add to this struggle the rapidly spreading and devastating CRB, and the need for support only intensifies.

Please do everything in your power to help us stop the spread of CRB (and other pests), so that our plants — and the cultural practices that rely on them — will stand a fighting chance in this ever-changing climate.

I will copy in below the sample testimony I received from the Sierra Club, for the sake of adding my voice to its message.

> CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

>

> To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

> While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Meredith Buck

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Boisvert-Jorgensen <infofordenise@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 2:48 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony October 11, 2024 Agenda Item 3

Aloha,

This is testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Item 3, Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants, for the committee hearing on Friday, October 11.

Considering that many of the islands are also dealing with out-of-control coqui frogs, little fire ants, mongoose, feral cats, axis deer, rats, apple snails, to name just a few 'invited and uninvited' invasives enjoying life in Hawaii Nei, **wouldn't passing this interim rule be a no-brainer?**

Thank you for your kind consideration of protecting the environment,
Denise Boisvert
Honolulu

Ho, Jonathan K

From: J. B. Friday <james.b.friday@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 2:59 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item #IV-3 for Subcommittee on Plants & Animals Meeting - Oct 11

Aloha Hawai'i Department of Agriculture,

I am writing to support the implementation of another interim rule to restrict movement of palms and materials that could host the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

I am currently in the Northern Marianas, headed to Guam tomorrow. That beautiful island has been devastated by the loss of thousands of coconut palms because of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. It seems that half of the palms on the island are dead. Please give Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Hawai'i a break by restricting movement of materials that could bring Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles to those islands.

Sincerely,
JB Friday, PhD (agriculture)

--
J. B. Friday
1416 Kilikina St
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Life is like riding a bicycle - in order to keep your balance, you must keep moving.

- Albert Einstein

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Waikiki - Hawaii Condo <hawaiiicondo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 3:12 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Agenda Item #3, 10/11/24 Committee Meeting

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Item 3 that would place quarantine rules on the coconut rhinoceros beetle.

It is very disturbing that certain unnamed plant nurseries put their quest for profit over the safety of the environment when they willingly sold and shipped contaminated products. What equally disturbing is that it is taking a stunning amount of time for the state to permanently do something to prevent the CRB from spreading.

These interim rules are urgently needed because of corporate greed; and should become permanent amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules - - before it is too late for all the islands.

We can't give future generations yet another reason to ask, "What were they thinking?" !

Mahalo,
Kim Jorgensen
Honolulu

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Anna <annafriedman.af@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 8:54 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CRB Testimony

Aloha HDOA,

My name is Anna and I'm an O'ahu resident writing in with my testimony about CRB.

I support a permanent ban on the inter-island, domestic, and international movement of any materials that may harbor CRB, including palm plants and decomposing plant material such as: compost, wood or tree chips, mulch, potting soil, and other landscaping products that may harbor CRB. I would support an exception that allows native Hawaiian plants to be moved inter-island in Hawai'i only when they have been meticulously examined for CRB and any other invasive species that damage the natural ecosystems here. Another temporary ban could be helpful but a permanent ban would really protect the fragile health our islands.

This situation also presents a unique opportunity for each Hawaiian island to become more resilient and self-sufficient by creating our own mulch and plant material instead of relying on mulch to be imported from other places outside of Hawai'i. I see a huge opportunity to create this material from existing invasive species such as haole koa, kiawe, albizia, etc...

Perhaps this shift could also boost the local economy by creating jobs for residents, lower carbon emissions from transport, and build a much needed economical and ecological resilience.

I work at Hāmākua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary on O'ahu, which is part of the largest remaining wetland in the state. We have planted many native loulu palms to restore the native environment and honor fossil records that suggest the area used to be an abundant loulu palm forest. We're hoping our efforts to protect the palms from CRB with synthetic netting around the palm crowns is sufficient but we are still worried. It's been heartbreaking seeing coconut trees and other palms being cut down around the island. I feel very passionate and concerned about stopping the spread of CRB and other invasive species in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Mahalo,
Anna

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Roarke <roarkeclinton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:07 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CRB testimony

Aloha HDOA,

My name is Roarke Clinton, and I am an O'ahu resident writing to share my testimony on the issue of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB).

I strongly support a permanent ban on the inter-island, domestic, and international movement of any materials that may harbor CRB. This includes palm plants as well as decomposing plant material such as compost, wood chips, mulch, potting soil, and other landscaping products that could harbor the beetle. I believe an exception could be made for native Hawaiian plants being moved inter-island, but only if they have been thoroughly inspected and certified to be free of CRB and other invasive species that threaten our natural ecosystems. While a temporary ban would help, a permanent ban is essential to truly protect the fragile health of our islands.

This challenge also presents an opportunity to enhance each Hawaiian island's ecological and economic resilience by producing our own mulch and plant materials locally, rather than relying on imports. We could turn invasive species such as haole koa, kiawe, and albizia into valuable resources, producing mulch and reducing the threat they pose to native environments. This shift could also boost the local economy by creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions from transport, and building much-needed ecological and economic resilience.

As a volunteer at Hāmākua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary on O'ahu, I've seen firsthand the importance of protecting native species. We have planted many native loulou palms to restore the ecosystem and honor the area's history as an abundant loulou palm forest. We're doing our best to protect these palms from CRB with synthetic netting, but the threat remains. It has been heartbreaking to see coconut trees and other palms cut down across the island. I am deeply concerned about stopping the spread of CRB and other invasive species in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your dedication to this critical issue.

Mahalo, Roarke Clinton

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Debbie Ward <cordylinecolor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:33 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

October 10, 2024

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am farming ten acres on the island of Hawai`i. I have had to alter my crops and destroy some due to Erythrina gall wasp, Banana Bunchy Top Virus, stinging nettle caterpillar, little imported fire ants (LFA), Plumeria Longhorn Beetle, Queensland Longhorn Beetle, Puccinia Rust, Rapid `Ohi`a Death (ROD) and more. **Imported pests and diseases severely affect my ability to provide nutritious food to my community.**

MUCH MUCH more must be done to prevent the introduction of pests to our islands!!!!

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai`i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O`ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent my island from facing the same fate.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai`i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Deborah Ward

P.O. Box 918 Kurtistown HI 96760

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Frecia Cevallos
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

October 9, 2024

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

Re: Agenda Item #IV-3 for Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals Meeting

Dear Committee members:

We support the re-issuance of an interim rule to restrict the intra-state movement of decaying organic plant material and palm plants to prevent the distribution of the destructive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to un-infested areas.

CRB on Hawai'i Island threatens our landscape plant industry, scenic views of coconut palms that attract tourists, our local canoe plant industries and the valuable palm collections, including endemic species. We have expended considerable resources to deal with CRB grubs since their discovery on our island over a year ago. Continued importation of favorable breeding materials and palms will increase the opportunities for the CRB to be unintentionally brought to our island and establish a population that will no longer be eradicable. Restricting the movement of materials and palms needs to be a permanent rule and issuing this interim rule will give the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture the time to update Chapter 4-72 rules to make these restrictions permanent.

We strongly urge the Advisory committee to issue the interim rule to restrict the intra-state movement of decaying organic plant material and palm plants to prevent the distribution of the destructive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Very Respectfully,

Douglass S. Adams
Director

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

October 11, 2024

TO: Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Branch

FROM: David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Testimony In Support of Agenda Item #3

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) supports the proposed interim rule that would prevent the movement of material that could harbor the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle from O'ahu to uninfested areas within the State.

DOFAW has witnessed the spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) into natural areas on O'ahu. The O'ahu Army Natural Resource Program reported the first death of a critically endangered loulou palm (*Pritchardia kaalae*) in 2023 from CRB in the Wai'anae Mountains. More damage to native palms has since been reported. Efforts to find a control method to treat and protect threatened palms have proven ineffective, and the only option is managing infestations in surrounding areas.

This interim rule will extend the necessary biosecurity measures to prevent and manage materials that can harbor CRB. Last year, the first non-Oahu detection of CRB was found at the Lihue Airport on Kaua'i. Subsequently, CRB was found on Maui and Hawai'i Island that same year. Several breeding sites have been found on Kaua'i, making eradication no longer an option with current tools. However, Hawai'i Island, Maui, and the other islands can still prevent the establishment of CRB if pathways can be adequately managed. This interim rule would allow management of that pathway.

This will be the third year this interim rule has been submitted to the P&A Subcommittee and the BOA for approval. HDOA needs more permanent and expanded rules to carry out its biosecurity authority. Those rules exist under Chapter 4-72, and amendments brought before the P&A Subcommittee and BOA in 2023 addressed efforts to clarify the regulatory authority and address high-risk pathways. A Public Hearing for the amendments was held at the beginning of this year, but no officer's report on the summary of testimony has been released.

DLNR/DOFAW Testimony In Support of Agenda Item #3

DOFAW supports this agenda item and asks that the list of infested islands include Kaua'i. DOFAW encourages the Department of Agriculture to continue the public rule-making process for Chapter 4-72, which would better address high-risk pathways for CRB and other pests like little fire ants and coqui frogs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith
Administrator

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Bobbie Foster <hawaiiibobbie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 4:18 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

I volunteer at a variety native plant restoration sites on Oahu , and so frustrating to find the CRB and the damage they are doing. Important to keep this from spreading to the other islands

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Roberta Foster

Bobbie

Stay Calm, Safe, Healthy and Sane

Bobbie Foster
hawaiibobbie@gmail.com

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Ewa <ewa.moscicka@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 4:25 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ewa Moscicka

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Ryan Chang <ryanschang@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:36 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re: Agenda Item 3 - Unrestricted Inter-Island Movement of Palm Plants

Aloha Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee,

I am writing today in support of Agenda Item 3, regarding the urgent need to restrict the inter-island movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host materials, including live plants and decomposing plant materials.

CRB are a serious threat to Hawai'i's environment, climate resilience, cultural heritage, food security, economy, and overall well-being. O'ahu is experiencing the widespread devastation these beetles cause, and we must prevent neighbor islands from facing the same fate—especially in vulnerable places like Maui where plants and materials are being transported at a higher rate while Lāhainā rebuilds and reforests.

To further protect our communities, I urge the Advisory Committee to include language requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with each county on a plan to manage mulch, compost, and green waste—key breeding materials for the CRB. Local cooperation is essential for effectively limiting CRB reproduction and preventing further spread.

While this interim rule is essential in the short-term, more must be done. I respectfully urge the Advisory Committee to advocate for the Department of Agriculture to promptly adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 72 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. These amendments, which have been under consideration since February 2023, are crucial for controlling the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants by implementing a permanent inter- and intra-island quarantine on pest-infested plants and materials, along with other biosecurity measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chang

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