



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

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Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

**Friday, November 17, 2023, 1:30 PM, Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch
Conference Room and via Videoconference**

RE: Agenda item IV.3

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please **reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3**, which would no longer require infested plants and products with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests be quarantined and treated before intra-island sale. Removing these preventive administrative rules could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy, and quality of life.

Papa Ola Lōkahi supports efforts that ensure traditional and cultural practices remain available and accessible to Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practitioners, many of which include plants that will be threatened by LFA, CRB, hala scale, and other pests if we do not take action to mitigate their spread. Native Hawaiians hold a holistic view of health and well-being, in which the health of the people, land, and spiritual realms are interconnected. This perspective lends to envisioning policies that protect and provide access to resources supporting Native Hawaiian traditional practices and their holistic view of health and well-being, including connecting them to the land to engage in cultural practices. If we do not mitigate the spread of destructive pests to our native plants, there may be little to none of these resources for Native Hawaiians to access.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is a crucial step, this can already be done by the rules approved by the Advisory Committee eight months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

We urge you to tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on the Advisory Committee's February approval of rules that would rein in businesses who knowingly sell products infested with LFA and CRB. It has been eight months, and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day, the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may worsen exponentially.

Mahalo nui, for your consideration of this testimony.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Testimony to
Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals

November 17, 2023

1:30 PM

PQB Conference Room

In OPPOSITION to IV.3:

REQUEST FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, CHAPTER 4-72, ENTITLED "PLANT AND NON- DOMESTIC ANIMAL QUARANTINE PLANT INTRASTATE RULES"

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

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, on behalf of its 20,000 members and supporters, strongly urges the Committee to advise **AGAINST** the proposed amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rule Chapter 4-72, which would enable the continued knowing distribution of commercial products containing pests that could irreparably impact our environment, food security, and quality of life for generations to come. **The Sierra Club instead urges the Committee to reaffirm its prior recommendation of rule amendments to control the intra-island movement of pests like the little fire ant (LFA), that have been pending a public hearing since February of this year.**

The Hawai'i constitution requires the state and its agencies and entities, including the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the Advisory Committee, to take proactive action to protect our cultural and natural resources, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as the public's right to a healthful environment – all of which are being jeopardized by the ongoing lack of rules to regulate the intra-state sale and movement of commodities infested with invasive pest species.

However, despite having attorney general-reviewed rules to do just this, and despite at least one O'ahu nursery knowingly selling LFA-infested plants, HDOA has still not moved on rules that the Advisory Committee, the Board of Agriculture, and the Small Business Regulatory Review Board all fully vetted and approved for a public hearing eight months ago.

Now, the HDOA is putting forward rules that would continue to turn a blind eye to the obvious gaps in our invasive pest eradication and control policies. This is unacceptable.

The Sierra Club understands that certain industry interpretations may be driving the delay in promulgating the previously-vetted rule proposal. We emphasize that the further proliferation of pests such as the LFA and CRB will have wide-ranging and potentially devastating impacts to our agriculture and food security, native ecosystems and species, cultural practices, outdoor activities, even tourism and our overall economy. These impacts will not just impact our generation, but our children, grandchildren, and generations to come. In light of these threats, all detection and eradication tools – both community-based and regulatory – must be employed

now, before eradication becomes an impossibility and irreparable harms are inflicted on our islands and people. Any industry inconveniences can be dealt with in subsequent rulemaking actions if necessary. In any case, we must not wait until after the horse has left the stable, before closing the barn door.

While the Sierra Club does appreciate that the submittal here would make permanent the interim rule to stop the interisland movement of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), this can also be done, and done much more quickly, by utilizing the rules that were previously approved for public hearing. Notably, with CRB now being found on Hawai'i Island, the need for intra-island movement controls is critical to prevent the pest beetle from becoming established on that island.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges the Committee, as well as its individual members, to advise against the current proposed changes to HAR Chapter 4-72, and to instead urge HDOA to move forward with the much more robust proposal that has been languishing for more than half a year.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this matter.



Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals
November 17, 2023
1:30 p.m. Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Testimony in Opposition to the Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72

Aloha Advisory Committee Chair and Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) does not support the proposed changes made to chapter 72, Hawaii Administrative Rules, and provides comments for Advisory Committee consideration.

The changes proposed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to chapter 72, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), for your review today remove important authorities provided in the proposed revision of chapter 72 HAR your Committee reviewed on February 15, 2023. After amendment, this Committee unanimously passed that version, which was then unanimously passed by the Board of Agriculture on February 28, 2023 and by the Small Business Regulatory Review Board on May 30, 2023.

Chapter 72 HAR is the only chapter available to Plant Industry and its Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) to regulate the movement of pests within the State of Hawaii. There is no corresponding chapter for animal or microorganism pests (although in cases where importation or possession of a regulated animal or microorganism requires a permit, the permit could restrict its movement). However, unlike the earlier proposed revision, HDOA's new proposal does **not** contain any provisions that authorize HDOA to stop the movement of material for sale to the public and infested with a pest, such as LFA infested plants from a nursery, and it omits any requirements to stop the spread of CRB on Oahu.

The current draft also removes high impact pests from the list of pests in section §4-72-14. The omitted species are causing massive impacts to the agricultural and ranching community and should be contained and controlled. For instance, two-line spittlebug, the pest that causes citrus greening, and Hala scale are removed from the list of pests. These omissions are inexplicable and highlight that HDOA is not being careful to include provisions that will prevent the spread of pests, both within an island and within the State.

We urge this Committee to advise the Board of Agriculture to move forward with the version of chapter 72 that is ready for public meeting. That version includes the critical authority to prevent the movement of pest-infested merchandise, to require businesses that transport or process CRB host material on Oahu to use best management practices, and places the chapter's authorities with the State Plant Regulatory Official, who is appointed by the Chair of the Department of Agriculture and the correct officer of HDOA to carry out these duties. Our specific comments are provided below.

1. The omission of the section that authorizes HDOA to use discretion to stop the movement of pest infested merchandise puts unknowing businesses and consumers at risk.

The previously proposed section 4-72-5 of Ch 72 HAR does not relate to pests found on farms, ranches, or agricultural production areas. That section 4-72-5 only applies to material "offered for sale, for barter, or by donation or otherwise to be given away **to the public.**" It is intended to apply to merchandise for sale at a store or nursery and discovered to be infested with a pest (the highest risk situation for pest spread). **It does not apply to landowners. There is no authority to inspect non-public areas of any property.**

The current situation is, now if a store or nursery is selling invasive pest infested merchandise (the highest risk situation for pest spread), HDOA's only option is to ask the business to **voluntarily** treat the merchandise or remove it from sale. A few instances from the last couple of years include a big box store selling fence boards found to be infested with an unknown wood-boring insect, a grocery selling firewood infested with pests, and nurseries selling plants infested with coqui frog and little fire ant. Proposed 4-72-5 gives HDOA the **option** to stop the movement of the infested material until it is treated if that is the way to prevent it from spreading across an island.

2. If HDOA did require a store or nursery to quarantine pest-infested merchandise, the store owner has the right of an appeal under existing law. Section 141-6 HRS provides that "Any person who feels aggrieved at any decision of any inspector of the department of agriculture shall have the right to appeal from the decision to the Board of Agriculture. The board shall give a prompt hearing to the appellant and the inspector upon the appeal, and decide the question at issue, which decision shall be subject to judicial review as provided in chapter 91." Section 150A-2 HRS defines "inspector" as "any employee or official of the department [of agriculture] authorized by the board to administer and enforce the provisions of this law." The appeal process is set out in the current law so the argument that store owner who could be prevented from moving their pest-infested merchandise will have no recourse is incorrect.

3. Suppression of CRB on Oahu is still possible to help the agriculture, horticulture, tourism, and other industries and residents.

The new chapter 72 HAR revisions remove the concept of compliance agreements for businesses that transport or process CRB host material on Oahu. Those compliance agreements simply require those businesses to know what CRB and its damage look like and require those businesses to use best management practices to prevent the spread of CRB to uninfected areas of

Oahu. All areas of Oahu are not lost causes and deserve protraction for native and ornamental palm species.

4. The State Plant Regulatory Official is a person appointed by the Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the correct official to carry out the responsibilities set out in chapter 72 HAR.

The former PI Administrator strongly advocated that the State Plant Regulatory Official be the official charged with the regulatory responsibilities under chapter 72 (which can be delegated if appropriate as provided in the definition (“SPRO’ means the State Plant Regulatory Official for Hawaii or a designee of the SPRO;”). Other States assign similar responsibilities to their SPRO as that person is the principal plant pest regulatory official of the State. Our understanding is that the Chair of the Department of Agriculture determines who is the SPRO, and it typically is the Administrator of the Plant Industry Division. It is curious that HDOA is so adamant that a civil service employee so far removed from the Chair has the final say in carrying out the chapter 72 responsibilities.

5. Restore the removed pests from the list of example pests. The Board of Agriculture does not have a process to designate a species as a pest. The last time the list of pests for control or eradication was updated was 2008. This list of pests is HDOA’s chance to add the current pests that are impacting agriculture and ranching. The pests that are omitted from this current draft are the following: *Giant salvinia - Salvinia molesta Mitchell*; *Water spangles - Salvinia minima Baker*; *Water lettuce - Pistia stratiotes L.*; *Fusarium wilt of banana – Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense W.C. Snyder & H.N. Hansen*; *Citrus huanglongbing – Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus Jagoueix, Bové & Garnier, responsible for citrus greening*; *Palm lethal yellows – Candidatus Phytoplasma palmae (16SrIV-A subgroup), responsible for lethal diseases of palm*; *Colocasia bobone disease associated virus – Cytorhabdovirus colocasiae, a lethal pathogen associated with alomae bobone disease of taro*; *Sweet potato virus disease – Sweet potato chlorotic stunt virus, a lethal disease of sweet potato*; *Hala scale – Thysanococcus pandani Stickney, a serious pest of hala, an environmentally and culturally significant indigenous plant*; *Macadamia felted coccid – Acanthococcus ironsidei (Williams, 1973), a detrimental pest to the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii*; *Acalolepta aesthetica (Olliff), an invasive longhorn beetle that attacks many plant species*; *Two-lined spittlebug – Prosapia bicincta (Say), a serious pest of range grasses*; *Citrus canker - Xanthomonas citri subsp. citri, a serious disease of citrus*; and *Citrus black spot – Phyllosticta citricarpa (McAlpine) Aa, a serious disease of citrus*.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Aloha,

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

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
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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FIRST DEPUTY
M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND

November 17, 2023

TO: Department of Agriculture
Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals

FROM: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

SUBJECT: Testimony on Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals Agenda Item 3

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife provides the following comments for Agenda Item 3, Request for Review and Recommendation on the Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72, entitled "Plant and Non-Domestic Animal Quarantine Plant Intrastate Rules".

The proposed changes to Chapter 72 regarding quarantine restrictions for the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) and CRB host materials is a necessary step to mitigating the continued spread of this high-impact pest in Hawai'i, but the submitted rule changes leave out key language to address the inter/intra island movement of materials that can harbor unwanted pests that was included when these draft rules were before the Plant and Animal Subcommittee earlier this year.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife supports the original rule changes that were approved by the Board of Agriculture and Plant and Animal Subcommittee in February (see minutes with approval of 10-0 on pages 8,9: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/February-Minutes-Approved.pdf> & Agenda with draft rules: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Agenda-2.28.23-FINAL.pdf>). The absence of language that would authorize the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to restrict the movement or quarantine infested commodities, and require that the infested commodities and/or area is treated to prevent infestation or spread from the infested location, continues to hinder the State's ability to prevent and manage the spread of high-impact pests.

Addressing the inter/intra island movement of materials that can harbor unwanted pests has been a major challenge to controlling the spread of pests that are continually being introduced to areas where they are not currently established. The 2017-2027 Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan, the State's comprehensive strategy for preventing and managing invasive species, identified the need for two high priority actions that would be accomplished by moving the draft rules from February into rule-making:

- PostBorder Policy 1.3: A comprehensive approach to minimize the interisland movement of plant pathogen and pests via the interisland transport of agricultural products.
- PostBorder Policy 1.5: Update HAR Chapter 4-72 to further prevent the interisland movement of pathogens and pests via soil as one of the highest priority actions.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) endorsed the plan and committed to its implementation. The HISC is an interdepartmental collaboration co-chaired by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture with representation from the Departments of Transportation, Business and Economic Development, Health, and the University of Hawai'i for the purpose of providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning among the state departments and agencies.

CRB has now been found on Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i, likely due to the movement of infected materials between islands. Dead larvae were found in bagged soil at a Maui hardware store highlighting the need for rules that would allow Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to stop the movement of infested materials. Last month the O'ahu Army Natural Resource Program reported the confirmed death of endangered loulu (native fan palm) from CRB predation in the Waianae Mountains on O'ahu, demonstrating the increasing impact on native ecosystems. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife supports the original rules that were approved by BOA and the HDOA Plant and Animal Subcommittee, and recommends that the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture move to public rule-making using the original draft of the ammended rules.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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2023-2024 Advocacy Committee

Marcus Kāwika Iwane, MD
President

Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD
Vice-President & Advocacy Chair

Mahealani Lum, DO
Secretary

Kara Wong Ramsey, MD
Treasurer

Kapua Medeiros, MD

Natalie Young-Albanese, MD

November 16, 2023

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON PLANTS & ANIMALS
Helmuth Rogg PhD. Chair

Group Testimony in opposition to Agenda item IV.3

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We are deeply concerned about the recent spread of invasive pests throughout the pae 'āina o Hawai'i, and we urge you to do everything you can to rein in the spread of these pests emerging as threats to our food security,

native ecosystems, culture practices, economy, quality of life and health. Specifically we ask you to reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests.

We are frankly astonished by the number of our hui members and our patients who have been personally harmed with prolonged and diffuse skin welts lasting over a week and infestations of homes by little fire ants. These experiences have heightened our sense of urgency about this issue, and we hope you are similarly compelled to take aggressive action to prevent their spread.



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

November 16, 2023

State of Hawai'i
Department of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819-3100

RE: Testimony in Opposition of Agenda Item IV.3. at the Meeting of the Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch, November 17, 2023, 1:30pm online via Zoom

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals,

I ask that you **reject agenda item IV.3. to prevent the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that threaten our state's food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.**

Since 1997 Partners in Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity has served over 140,000 at-risk children and families through its ten programs across the state. PIDF programs serve in focus areas of multi-generational education, strengthening families and communities, and island resiliency.

Our purpose at our island resiliency program Kupa 'Aina is in our name, which translates roughly to indigenous foods for the people of Hawai'i. We seek to restore thriving island resiliency by providing a sustainable alternative to transform Hawai'i's food system through a multifaceted approach of education, demonstration, and implementation.

Currently 80% of Hawai'i's food is imported, making our islands particularly vulnerable to global natural disasters and other events that could disrupt the availability of food supplies for our people. Historically, Native Hawaiians were able to cultivate food to sustain large populations, estimated at nearly 1 million, and they did so using traditional ecological knowledge and practices passed down through generations and based on a keen sense of kilo, observation and indigenous science.

Recognizing the need to be part of the solution, PIDF began the Kupa 'Aina pilot project in July 2018, focused on natural farming as a path towards sustainability, reconnecting with traditional Hawaiian practices and educating the community. Located on the grounds of the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center and the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility, the farm also is a piko, or center, providing a platform for youth healing and restoration and for 'āina-based education.

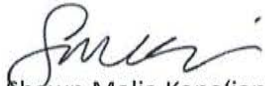
Serving Hawai'i's Families, Living Hawaiian Values

Allowing pests from other parts of the world or country to enter our fragile state's ecosystem is adding another layer of difficulty for Hawai'i's residents to overcome. Agriculture is already a challenging industry in which many fail. The state government and agencies need to put in place regulations to protect our island state.

Some of our own staff have personally experienced the effects of the infestation of little fire ants. In Waimanalo, an elderly parent of a staff member was working in her yard and she was bitten by the little fire ants. These bites from working in her yard resulted in swelling to her face and body as well as welts all over her body which required immediate attention due to an allergic reaction, itch, and pain. Please help us protect our kupuna and keiki!

We ask for your support in instituting stringent requirements to guard our state against these invasive and dangerous pests.

Me ke aloha a me ka mahalo,



Shawn Malia Kana'iapuni, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.597.6550
www.papaolalokahi.org

Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

**Friday, November 17, 2023, 1:30 PM, Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch
Conference Room and via Videoconference**

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While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is a crucial step, this can already be done by the rules approved by the Advisory Committee eight months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

We urge you to tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on the Advisory Committee's February approval of rules that would rein in businesses who knowingly sell products infested with LFA and CRB. It has been eight months, and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day, the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may worsen exponentially.

Mahalo nui, for your consideration of this testimony.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.

16 November 2023

Hawaii Dept of Agriculture
Plant & Animal Advisory Committee



Re: Nov 17th Meeting Agenda Item #IV 3 – Request for Review and Recommendation on the Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72

Aloha Advisory Committee,

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is very supportive of any rule changes that increase the ability of our regulatory agencies to prevent and stop the spread of invasives. However, in reviewing this new version of Ch 72, we find that there are a number of issues that make it much weaker and less effective than the version of Ch. 72 that was approved by this committee in February 2023. We would like the committee to consider restoring the previous version of Ch. 72.

The new version does not allow for HDOA to stop the movement of infested materials on-island, which would be a missed opportunity to ensure this authority is available as a tool. Coconut rhinoceros beetle has proven to be a very formidable foe, hiding in bagged and packaged mulch, potting soil, and other very mobile materials. On the Big Island, we have had only one detection of coconut rhinoceros beetle, and have found no established populations. However, should more detections occur, it will be critical that there is a way to prevent the movement of infested materials around the island and to keep the population contained so that eradication measures can be effective. The new revision of Ch. 72 does not include this authority, while the Feb 23 version does.

Additionally, the new version has dropped some important pests that were included in the Feb 23 version, like the twolined spittle bug, which is at this time only present on the Big Island and has been devastating to our ranching industry. It is critical that as the agency with regulatory authority over potentially infested material, HDOA is able to intervene to stop the movement of any TLSB infested material to other islands.

The Feb 2023 was prepared with significant stakeholder input from professionals with decades of invasive species work in Hawai'i, and prepared through months of work with the State AGs office and former HDOA officials. It was a strong revision, and we ask that this draft be restored in place of the Nov 2023 draft.

Thank you for your consideration.

Franny Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu
(808) 933-3340



November 16, 2023

Subject: Testimony to the Advisory Committee for Plants and Animals regarding proposed rule changes to Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72

Aloha mai kakou-

I am submitting testimony to strongly encourage that language be included to authorize the State (Hawai'i Department of Agriculture) to be able to stop the movement of products (e.g. plants sold from nurseries infested with little fire ant (LFA) aka *Wasmania auropunctata*) that are infested with pests. If a nursery is not properly treating for a pest like LFA, the movement of products off property should not be permitted until the products can be properly treated. We are dangerously close to being inundated with LFA on O'ahu, and the most important missing component of a satisfactory response is regulation.

If we become inundated with LFA, our island and all those who live and visit will suffer substantially. Tourism dollars and agriculture yields will decrease, costs to treat public spaces to maintain them for use by residents and visitors will skyrocket, and the way of life on this island will be detrimentally changed forever. The painful sting from LFA will not only impact our residents and tourists as they can thrive within homes, hotels, and vehicles, but these ants also target the eyes of pets. LFA attacks on pets often lead to corneal clouding and blindness. An island full of LFA will be dire for our animal communities.

The previous draft of proposed changes to Chapter 72 that did include this language and other important components of invasive species control appears to be abandoned for unknown or unreasonable rationale. This previous draft was already approved by this committee and recommended to the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of Agriculture voted unanimously in favor of the proposed changes in February 2023. The proposed changes were approved by the Small Business Regulatory Review Board for public meetings in May and at those three public meetings there was no opposition, only constructive and favorable comments.

It is unclear why these proposed changes are being abandoned, despite being so far along in the process, for another draft of proposed changes that are frankly inadequate when compared to the previous draft that has already passed so many hurdles. The most recent proposed revisions are nowhere near what is needed to prevent the severe harm posed to the community and economy of this island and state whereas the previous draft that is much farther along gets us much closer to where we need to be to protect our state.

In addition to the implications for LFA inundation across O'ahu, the implications for coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) spreading across the state are also dire. The previous draft of proposed Chapter 72 changes would have made permanent the interim CRB rule that was intended to stop the spread of CRB to other islands as well as reducing the spread of CRB within O'ahu. After the interim rule expired, the interim rule that is fully made permanent in the previous draft of proposed revisions, is when neighbor islands began detecting CRB. Restarting this process will cause further delays and there will likely be more detections without sufficient regulation that is contained within the previously proposed changes to Chapter 72 but not fully in the newly proposed changes to Chapter 72. We are so far along with a much



more effective draft, why are we stopping and restarting now with fewer components to help stop the spread of these injurious pests in this newer draft?

As we continue to see LFA and coqui frogs introduced to nurseries on this island who purchase stock from Hawai'i island, it is evident that managing the CRB outbreak here will help limit introductions of CRB from O'ahu to our neighbor islands. The new proposed draft does not include the interim rule stipulations to help manage the spread on this island and only focuses on interisland spread, including removal of requirement for compliance agreements for businesses moving green waste and mulch to receive awareness training in order to operate.

The fact is that the previous draft of proposed changes to Chapter 72 already includes the language in this current draft as well as some crucial proposed changes for invasive species management that this current draft leaves out. We have been hearing resoundingly from members of the public, including nursery owners and workers, who are overwhelmingly in favor of holding the few bad actors accountable (e.g. nurseries who continue to sell products infested with LFA) and who cannot fathom why the previous draft of proposed Chapter 72 changes is being abandoned. Leaving out the key aspects of proposed changes to Chapter 72 that have previously been approved and are detailed in this testimony will irreparably sever invasive species management throughout the State and will do little to prevent further expansion of LFA, CRB, and other high priority invasive species that threaten our economy, agriculture, and way of life.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration

Nate Dube

Manager, O'ahu Invasive species Committee



Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth Project

November 16, 2023

State of Hawai'i
Department of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819-3100

Board Officers

President

Ka'anapu Jacobsen

Vice President

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Vanessa Stewart

Rich Vermeesch

RE: Testimony in Opposition of Agenda Item IV.3 at the Meeting of the Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch, November 17, 2023 1:30 PM online via zoom.

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals,

I ask that you reject agenda item IV.3. Although preventing the inter-island movement of materials infested with Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB) is an essential step to protecting Hawai'i's rich natural and cultural resources, the current proposed rule change is ineffective, incomplete, and a waste of taxpayer resources.

KEY Project is a Community Center located in Waihe'e and Kahalu'u, serving the Windward Coast from Kane'ohē to Kahuku. Our youth program works to deepen pilina to place through hands on 'āina enrichment activities. Many of these activities are severely threatened by the rapid spread of both CRB and Little Fire Ant.

In February, a Rule 72 change passed through committee that would carry all of the CRB protections addressed in the measure on today's agenda. However, it also included measures to address on-island proliferation of these pest species and gave authority to HDOA to take action against nurseries and other businesses operating in bad-faith and actively threatening O'ahu's public interest in agriculture, recreation, conservation, cultural restoration, and business development.

We urge the HDOA to reject today's agenda item IV.3 while bringing the previously approved Rule 72 amendments to public hearing. As community works tightly with agencies such as HAL and OISC, Rule 72 amendments to provide strict oversight of infested materials are required to prevent further spread and re-infestation.

We also write in support of the testimony submitted by OISC and CGAPS.

Nou ke aloha 'āina,
Joseph Wat
KEY Project Community Development Coordinator



7370 Kuamo'o Road • Kapa'a • Hawaii • 96746 • 808-821-1490 • www.kauaiisc.org

Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals
November 17, 2023
1:30 p.m. Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Testimony in Opposition to the Agenda Item IV. 3. Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72

Aloha Advisory Committee Chair and Members,

Kauai Invasive Species Committee does not support the proposed changes made to Chapter 4-72, Hawaii Administrative Rules. The changes proposed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to Chapter 4-72 HAR for your review today fail to include important language that would enable HDOA to enact their authority to address the on-island movement of a pest. I strongly disagree with these proposed changes as written.

In February 2023, HDOA proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 72 HAR. That revision was recommended by your Committee and the Board of Agriculture in February 2023 and approved by the Small Business Regulatory Review Board in May to go to public meetings. I urge this Committee to advise the Board of Agriculture to move forward with the February 2023 revision.

The revisions proposed for review today are inadequate and neglect to include necessary authorities to prevent the movement of pests and protect the public's interest.

Regarding proposed amended §4-72-4 (b) "Prohibiting transportations." As written, the proposed section only addresses transporting a commodity that is infested with or infected with a pest **between** islands of the State. The proposed amendment neglects to address transportation **within** islands.

Additionally, as written, any store on Kauai (or in Hawaii) can sell a bag of mulch infested with coconut rhinoceros beetle larvae to local buyers and not be compelled by HDOA to treat or quarantine the products. Similarly, stores could knowingly sell little fire ant or coqui infested plants. This has already happened on Hawaii Island and is currently happening on Oahu, it is only a matter of time before it happens on Kauai. The revisions proposed today do not authorize HDOA to prevent this.

Regarding proposed §4-72-14 "Examples of regulated pests" The proposed amendments make technical changes. The summary of the proposed changes Section II. (15) states that the amendments also add new examples of regulated pests. This new amendment neglects to include examples that were included in the February 2023 proposed amendments. For example: Two-lined spittlebug – *Prosapia bicincta*, a serious pest of range grasses; Citrus huanglongbing – *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*, responsible for citrus

greening; and 12 other pests. Why has the Department removed these from this new proposed amendment?

Regarding proposed §4-72-22 “Quarantine restrictions on coconut rhinoceros beetle and host material...” While I support prohibiting the interisland movement of CRB host material except by permit, this proposed section neglects to address **intra-island** movement on a designated infested island or CRB restricted island. Additional subsections would need to be added to require permits, compliance agreements, or other mitigating measures for the movement of CRB and CRB host material within a designated CRB infested island. These subsections were included in the February 2023 revisions. The impacts of CRB on Oahu will be exponential in 10 years compared to today if CRB infested material is transported around the island unrestricted.

High-risk pests have already evaded previous inter-island prevention measures, as seen with the detections of CRB, coqui, and little fire ants across the state. Some of these pests are in the early stages of invasion, a crucial time period for successful eradication or containment. Eradication and containment will not be successful if the intra-island movement of these pests is not mitigated. The current revisions to Chapter 72 do not address this, the February 2023 revisions did. I urge this committee to reject the current revisions and recommend the Board of Agriculture to move forward with the February 2023 revision that is ready for public input.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tiffani Keanini', written in a cursive style.

Tiffani Keanini

Manager - Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Nathan Leo Braulick <braulick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:27 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals:

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (*LFA*), coconut rhinoceros beetles (*CRB*), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (*and the costs of controlling new infestations*) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Nathan Leo Braulick

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:38 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV.3

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo mai,

Diane Ware
808-967-8642
P. O. Box 698
99-7815 Kapoha
Volcano HI 96785

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Alexandra Grutter <a.grutter@uq.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:46 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

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Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Lexa Grutter

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Chelsie Counsell <chelsiew12@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:25 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy, and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Prevention of the spread of these pests to new places is the best way to minimize their negative effects on our islands. We need to move efficiently and effectively to prevent these pests from becoming insurmountable problems.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Chelsie Counsell, PhD

>< >< ><

Dr. Chelsie Counsell (she/her)
Honolulu, HI, USA 96813

Ho, Jonathan K

From: lulu 21 <millan.lourdes1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:11 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV.3 please protect our ecosystem , agriculture, and economy form invasive pest

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

(feel free to add your own stories about these pests and how they may impact your daily life).

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Lourdes Millan
Member of the waimanalo neighborhood board 32 and concerned citizen

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Heather L. McMillen <heather.l.mcmillen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:15 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, economy, and sense of place from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

I urge you to please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that are threatening our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life. We do not want to live in a Hawaii that is deprived of the essential elements that make it Hawaii --- coconut, banana, hala, loulu are just a few of the things at risk. Can you imagine a Hawaii with no palms?

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

I urge you to please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. Just because others are doing it is no reason to normalize or accept this. People's health and well-being are on the line.

It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse. My friends who are farmers, horticulturalists, and landscapers are devastated daily with the horrible impacts CRB and LFA are having. The time to act was 10 year ago! Each day that goes by feeds the tsunami of a problem that is about to wash over us. Please do not delay!

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Heather McMillen

Mother, educator, arborist, gardener, and Palolo Resident

Ho, Jonathan K

From: John Naylor <jdancer@kula.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 4:41 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

I'm an amateur gardener. I grow many vegetables, fruits and flowers and I know first hand the destruction an insect, virus, fungus or other pest can wreck overnight. And it can be expensive in time, energy, and cash. And on my small scale, I've proven to myself that immediate action can indeed stem the spread.

That's why I'm writing to ask you to please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Most Sincerely,

John Naylor Makawao

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Cheryl Ku'uilei <joelypop@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:09 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Aloha Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals;

This is urgent as our islands are being infested with invasive pests that will be here for good if something is not done now. Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

What are we doing to Hawai'i nei? This is a problem citizens of Hawai'i should have great input in as we and our keiki will live with the consequences. We cannot kick the can down the road and ignore the ramifications to our islands; this is our chance to get it right. Respectfully, the proposal in agenda item IV.3 is short-sighted and will have costly impacts on Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Cheryl Reeser

Ho, Jonathan K

From: DeborahWallace <1happygyrl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:18 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fire ants and invasive insects

And please do everything you can to protect us from fire ants, and other invasive insects.
It is crucial that we find solutions for this now, and not wait until it is a critical islandwide problem.

Thank you for your attention

Deborah Wallace

Oahu

Sent from my iPad

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Asta <nalehua@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:49 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3 : Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) grows exponentially worse.

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Asta Miklius

PO Box 1003, Volcano, HI 96785

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Ann Kobsa <ann.kobsa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:00 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Let's get serious about invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

I am writing as someone who has had to live with an invasion of LFA in my neighborhood for over 10 years, and I devote way too much time and resources to keeping LFA off my property. I use toxic chemicals to do so, as do many other people who used to swear they would never use chemicals. This is just one of many invasive species we are dealing with, and while I know it is impossible to keep every one of them from coming here and becoming established, we can do way better than we've been doing.

I've been subsistence farming in Puna for 24 years, and in that time I have seen new infestations of coqui frogs, little fire ants, stinging nettle caterpillars, semi-slugs, banana weevils, rapid 'ohi'a death, coffee berry borer, coffee leaf rust, Queensland longhorn beetle, onion thrips, avocado lace bugs, citrus tristeza virus. This is in addition to what was already here when I started out: black twig borers, mosquitoes of many species, crab spiders, centipedes, American cockroaches, arboreal rats, mongooses, pigs, coconut crown rot, 'ohi'a rust, just to name a few.

The HDOA has new rules ready and waiting for a public hearing but has delayed for 8 months, due to special interests they are trying to placate. This is unconscionable! It is imperative that the new rules be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. LFA and other pests are growing exponentially and each day of delay compounds the problem. If HDOA had acted decisively and with the urgency the situation deserved, LFA could have been eradicated when they were detected on Hawai'i Island, and as a result of inaction, LFA are costing the island (in 2013 \$) an estimated \$170 million each year, and growing.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

I urge you to demand that a public hearing be held on the rule proposal for HAR Chapter 4-72 immediately if not sooner!

Mahalo for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Ann Kobsa, PhD Biologist

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Ryan Chang <ryanschang@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:54 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72 entitled, "Plant and Non-Domestic Animal Quarantine Plant Intrastate Rules"

Dear Plant & Animals Advisory Committee,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB.

We are at a tipping point. Do what is right for the broader interests of the community and not just the "industry".

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Ryan Chang

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Mariko Whitenack <marikowhitenack@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:12 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Mariko Whitenack

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Lory Ono <kealelani@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:58 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals:

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

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Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Lory Ono

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:09 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

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Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

--

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

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Choon James <choonjameshawaii@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:26 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

What: Testimony to the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals

When: Friday, 1:30 p.m. (oral testimony)

Thursday, 1:30 p.m. (written testimony deadline)

Where: Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81277187310>

(submit written testimony to: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV)

Why: To stop the spread of LFA, CRB and other pests through the knowing sale and distribution of infested plants and other merchandise.

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB.

It has been eight months and **no public hearing has been held**; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Prevention is better than cure as there may be no cure.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIUre6lz2GJ>. 2014

<https://stoptheant.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHWQZsLxjac>

I was staying at a home in Hilo and our friends had to provide us with ear-plugs at night because the sound of the coqui frogs was so loud. It was horrible.

Our islands are beyond the education stage. **We must be on a warpath. We have to win this war.** Otherwise, we will lose our quality of life and natural resources. Coconut trees, palms, our farms, open space and even animals will be severely impacted by these invasive species. What is Hawaii without coconut trees?

We need to have more social media where people can report sightings and problems of specific locations and addresses. Once that's known, immediate action must be dispatched to attack and decimate these spots. Understaffing and lack of capital resources to go to war on this most urgent threats cannot be the cause for not winning.

Thanks for all you do!

Choon James

[US02WEB.ZOOM.US](https://us02web.zoom.us)

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Ka'ano'i W <kaanoiwalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:46 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV.3: Protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests

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

Please affirmatively reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please direct the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help to oversee noncompliant businesses that continue to knowingly sell products that are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) continues to grow exponentially worse.

As a Kanaka, it is essential for me to maintain an active and healthy relationship with our 'āina. These invasive pests continue to threaten that intimate relationship and we must put "all hands on deck" to mitigate their spread and damage to our island environments and cultural connections to our home.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of my testimony.

Na'u,
Na Ka'ano'i Walk

Ho, Jonathan K

From: philipki@hawaii.edu
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:27 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Request for Review and Recommendation on the Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-72, entitled "Plant and Non-Domestic Animal Quarantine Plant Intrastate Rules"

Dear Plant & Animals Advisory Committee,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB.

If CRB & LFA are not reigned in, what little we have for food security will be destroyed and severely impacted, hindering a diversification of our economy. Furthermore, the spread of CRB & LFA will impact endangered species as it spreads. These species could destroy all invertebrates and loulu (our native palm species), where the state could potentially be held liable for negligence to stop the spread of a threat for these endangered species.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

E mālama pono,
Philip Kitamura

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Uilani Naipo <uilani.naipo@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:43 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Cc: U'ilani Naipo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Aloha Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Hawai'i's lifestyle and treasures have been and continue to be tragically impacted due to these pests. No longer can children and pets run carefree in our forested yards that are plagued with little fire ants. My dog has fallen victim to little fire ants with keratophy to one of her eyes. My husband and I are limited to the amount of time we work in the yard, harvesting from our 'ulu, avacado, lychee, and niu trees, or trimming our flower bushes and trees. Our time in our yard is limited to when we can no longer tolerate the little fire ant bites that is unavoidable. My hala trees are infested and this impacts my ulana lauhala practice. I pray the hala scale does not make it to my property. I can no longer safely give and receive plants from friends as so many pests are a constant threat. Stores such as Home Depot are now freely moving some of these pests into our neighborhoods and throughout Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

U'ilani Naipo

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Beppie Shapiro <beppie@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:50 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Friday Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals

I live in Kaimuki and have 6 coconut trees on my property. My extended family owns property in Hauula and when I'm staying there I enjoy the freedom of coming up from the beach and walking barefoot around the yard - a freedom I never considered as threatened until the recent news of little fire ants established in that area. I speak for many if not most Hawaii residents who would be horrified to find the pleasures of our climate, public parks, and if we are lucky enough our own yards, made unavailable by lfa infestation.

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to ignore the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA) and coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB). Hawaii has for far too long allowed the nursery industry to continue to sell plants infested with these extremely harmful insects.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is important, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been EIGHT MONTHS during which costs of controlling new infestations have probably grown exponentially worse, without the required public meeting.

Please move immediately to set a date for this meeting! Every week without the regulations and enforceability in place are a major setback for us, the taxpayers and residents.

Mahalo for your attention,
Beppie J Shapiro
4118 Pakolu Pl.
Honolulu HI 96816

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Linda <lindae808@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:52 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV.3: pls Protect Hawaii from invasive pests!!!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

I have personally written to businesses that are selling invasive and contaminated plants to the Hawaiian people asking them to take action to protect Hawai'i. Unfortunately they have chosen to ignore their responsibilities to protect Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Linda Elliott
Hāwī, HI

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Pua Akamine <puafromkoolauloa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:08 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3 - please protect our ecosystems, agriculture & economy from invasive insects

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

I am a resident of Kahalu‘u in Windward O‘ahu and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of little fire ants and other invasive insects on our island and across the archipelago.

My understanding is that multiple infestations of LFA have already been found on Windward O‘ahu from Kahuku to Waimānalo – including near Key Project in Kahalu‘u which is very close to where I live.

In addition to the existential threat this poses to our community’s food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life – on a personal level, as a homeowner, I worry about the safety of my grandchild playing in our backyard as well as the safety of my four dogs. Not to mention the health of the crops I grow on my property: kalo, banana and papaya.

Please REJECT the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests!

While making your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB permanent is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved eight months ago.

Those rules would also allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture they must follow through with and enforce your February approval of rules that would stop rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with LFA and CRB.

It is irresponsible and outrageous that these unscrupulous businesses would be allowed to continue practices for their own profit that place our entire community and our ‘āina at risk.

It has been eight months, and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) grows exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Puanani Akamine

Ho, Jonathan K

From: David Mulinix <ourrevolutionhawaii@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:08 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please direct the Department of Agriculture to follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the little fire ants (LFA) and coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB). It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) grow exponentially worse.

Also please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, which would turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with LFA, CRB, hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While this new proposal makes permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB and is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

I am personally very concerned about the spread of little red fire ants here on Oahu. I live in Ahuimanu, and right behind my house is a very popular hiking trail where scores of locals and tourists hike the trail every day. These little red fire ants have already been found across the highway from this popular hiking trail. If little red fire ants infest this hiking trail, it will make hiking this trail impossible, affecting the enjoyment of our natural resources by locals and tourists alike. This would be a huge loss to our community. I also volunteer at Yogarden, a local organic farm in Waimanalo. If these little red fire ants get established and spread unchecked on Oahu, they will seriously harm crops and farms like this one, which jeopardizes Oahu's ability to provide locally grown food to the people of Hawaii.

Finally we had a presentation at our local neighborhood board meeting on how devastating the little red fire ant infestations can be. It will be unconscionable for the Department of Agriculture to not make and enforce the strictest rules possible to prevent the further spread of these vicious little red fire ants on Oahu. Please ensure that the Department of Agriculture does its job and holds a public hearing on the rules you approved in February that will protect the people and businesses on Oahu from this dangerous pest.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Dave Mulinix, Cofounder, Greenpeace Hawaii

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Anne Marie Matsuzaki <anniemarialani@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:15 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Cc: jp@conservehi.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

My staff of 10 and I work with 25+ Hawaiian community partner organizations on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i in managing thousands of acres of land and their natural, cultural and agricultural resources continually under siege from invasive pests that could be better managed by stronger enforced rules and regulations. Our plants, animals, food systems and ability to make a living and enjoy life in Hawai'i are threatened by these infestations—not to mention the additional expense caused by or related to these pests.

What will it take for lawmakers to take this seriously? Will it take scores of tourists choosing another destination where palm trees are picture perfect and not disfigured? Or hiking amongst the lush, tropical foliage results in red, stinging welts? It is only a matter of time until these pests will threaten the tourism industry; by then it will be too late.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Mahealani Matsuzaki

Sent from Annie's iPhone

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Soo Sun Choe <soosunc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:20 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV 3: Please reduce the risk to our islands from invasives!!

Aloha e Chair Rogg and Advisory Committee Members on Plants & Animals

I am deeply concerned about the proposal in Agenda Item IV.3, which disregards concerns about the intra-island sale of products potentially infested with coqui frog, little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and such pests that pose a hazard to our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

Making permanent the prohibition on inter-island movement of CRB is critical, this can already be accomplished by rules put in place 8 months ago. These same rules would allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

In our neighborhood in Palolo we already experience the constant threat of an exploding coqui frog population from the import of inter-island products. The neighbors always have to keep vigilant for the sound of coqui multiplying again. People are also fearful for the health of our palms with the rapidly spreading CRB. Please help stop the spread of invasives while we can.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this letter,

Soo Sun Choe

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Jonee Peters <jp@conservehi.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:27 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item IV.3 for the Advisory Committee Meeting Friday 11/17/2023

Aloha mai e Chair and Committee Members,

I'm testifying today to ask you to reject the proposal in the agenda item IV.3. Our islands continue to be plagued with the invasion, economic and environmental hardships, and health issues due to the influx of invasive species. Hawai'i is the endangered and extinction capital of the world, and on the brink of a environmental crisis, with imported nursery plants, soil, and other nursery items infected with invasive species and other contaminants. We shouldn't place our people and our environment in jeopardy because of the influence of private corporate interests. HDOA need to take actions to require quarantine and treatment of infested items before they are moved and sold to the public to prevent further harm to our environment, native species, economy, and our people. This action needed to be in place years ago, and we cannot delay any longer.

Our islands, our livelihood, our communities, and our future generations are depending on you to make the pono decision.

Mahalo nui,

--

Jonnetta "Jonee" Leina'ala Peters
Executive Director



Ho, Jonathan K

From: Tom Wallace <tomwallace@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:31 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3:

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Ho, Jonathan K

From: kailua5@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:31 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding agenda item IV.3

TESTIMONY on IV.3:

Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests. Stop rogue businesses from selling products infested with little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetles.

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, that turns a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

I live close to areas with serious fire ant infestations. I live in Kailua around the corner from Lanikai where several areas, including a beach access there are infested. There are several other problem areas in Kailua. The effect on daily life on people living in these areas has been alarming. Pets getting bitten and injured, and children and adults getting painful bites. Everything possible should be done to prevent the spread and importation of little fire ants and other pests that threaten our food security and native ecosystems.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Beth Anderson

Ho, Jonathan K

From: mak221@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:32 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WE'RE SUFFERING FROM THE INVASIVE SPECIES RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW. PLEASE DO YOUR JOB, DON'T CAVE IN TO MAINLAND INDUSTRY. MAHALO MARK KOPPEL UMAUMA

Ho, Jonathan K

From: kimeona kane <kimeonakane@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:57 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests. TESTIMONY on IV.2

Aloha nui e Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

I have had first hand experience with purchasing plants from a nursery, who KNEW they had an LFA problem. Who KNEW that they were selling plants that had LFA in them. Who CHOOSE to endanger the community and their very own industry with their negligence. They threaten themselves and the livelihoods they commonly advocate for. We cannot trust them to act on their good will anymore. They must be regulated. HDOA must do their part to safeguard the community FIRST, then we can work on Commerce. Celebrate those who are doing their part and taking proactive means and work on those who are lying to our community.

Additionally please reject item IV.2, we have so many poor examples like this where we are unable to truly understand the impacts. We must protect native species and ecosystems. Importing sports fishing species into spaces, even in what some call controlled areas do not stop people from dumping them into freshwater systems, which then exacerbate the challenges of our native 'O'opu and others. Stop creating the access points.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

'O wau nō me ka ha'aha'a a me ka mahalo,

Kimeona Kane (he/him)

Chair- Waimānalo Neighborhood Board

808 398 8989

kimeonakane@gmail.com

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Ho, Jonathan K

From: davidsher@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:57 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect us from invasive pests - reject proposal in agenda item IV.3 and move forward with the original rules approved in February!

Aloha Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals;

Please instruct the Department of Agriculture to ***follow through on your February approval of rules*** that would help us in the critical fight against the spread of harmful invasive pests. These rules would address shameful practices currently allowed by businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with little fire ants (LFA) and coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB).

It is crucial you reject the wholly inadequate alternative proposal in agenda item IV.3. This proposal would continue to allow intra-island sale of merchandise infested with LFA, CRB, and other pests, and as a result, have a catastrophic effect on Hawai'i's economy, environment, and quality of life.

What is being proposed in agenda item IV.3, (making permanent the prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB), can already be done by the rules you approved last February. Missing from this new proposal are the critically important steps to allow the Department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved. Bottomline, this new proposal is grossly insufficient and should be denied.

Living on the Windward side, my neighbors and I are particularly concerned to learn of the alarming proliferation of LFA infestation sites on Oahu, including multiple areas not far from our own community. Hawai'i Island has already been suffering because of these extremely harmful invasive pests and the lack of action to effectively address them. We need to eradicate LFA throughout the state, and not allow them to continue to spread. Failure to take timely action on LFA will only make it harder and more expensive to address this serious problem.

Any further delays by the Department of Agriculture towards the actions needed to address this critical issue is both unconscionable and unacceptable. Please ensure the Department of Agriculture upholds its responsibility to take effective action to eradicate invasive LFA and other pests from our islands and moves forward on the original rules you approved in February. They must do their job and **hold a public hearing on those amendments to HAR Chapter 4-72 before it is too late.**

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Sherry Pollack
Ahuimanu

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Mark Thorne <thornem@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:14 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV.3 Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests.

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, Twolined Spittlebug and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Additionally, the February approved rules included Twolined Spittlebug, among other known pests, in the list of "Example Regulated Pests". The list in the February approved rules was significantly more thoughtful and thorough than the version being considered on November 17. Twolined spittlebug needs to be included as a regulated pest as it presents a significant threat to the livestock industry in Hawaii. Therefore, I encourage the committee to reject the version being considered in agenda item IV.3 and instead follow through with the February approved rules.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Mark Thorne

Mark S. Thorne, Ph.D.
State Range Extension Specialist
Kamuela Extension Office
67-5189 Kamamalu Road
Kamuela, HI 96743
Phone: (808)887-6183
Fax: (808)887-6182
e-mail: thornem@hawaii.edu

Marianas Grazing and Livestock Management Academy

<http://marianasgrazingacademy.org/index.htm>

Hawaii Rangelands

<https://rangelandsgateway.org/states/hawaii>

Cooperative Extension Service

<https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ce>

Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences Department

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/hnfas/>

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/>

University of Hawaii at Manoa

<http://www.hawaii.edu/>

"I am not influenced by the expectation
of promotion or pecuniary reward.
I wish to be useful, and in every kind
of service necessary for the public good,
become honorable by being necessary." --- Nathan Hale

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Anna Ezzy <annaezzy@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:16 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect Hawai'i from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please **reject** the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Anna Ezzy

--

Anna Nalani Ezzy

Master of Science Student

Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Email: annaezzy@hawaii.edu

Pronouns: she/her

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Chasity Bae <ckbae@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:17 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

Dear Plant & Animals Advisory Committee, Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life. Please tell the Department of Agriculture to follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony. [Chasity Bae] bit.ly/paac-1117 SIERRA

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Andrew Hood <ahood@srgii.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:19 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

(feel free to add your own stories about these pests and how they may impact your daily life).

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Andrew P. Hood
Sustainable Resources Group Intn'l. Inc.
111 Hekili Street, Suite A373
Kailua HI 96734
Direct (808) 261-0862
Mobile (808) 372-1462
Office/Fax (808) 356-0552

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Jolie Wanger <joliewanger@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:20 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

As a local grower and restoration steward, the biosecurity of plants is an issue of top concern for me and my community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Jolie Wanger

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Mahinaokalani Robbins <mahinaok@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:23 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Mahinaokalani Robbins

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Kacie Kajihara <kaciekaj@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:24 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

In addition, insects such as little fire ants can be dangerous to human health, for those allergic to ant bites like my older sister. For these pests to gain a larger foothold on other islands could be debilitating for people and places.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Kacie Kajihara, Graduate Student in Botany at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Debra Tang <tangdebra@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:35 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our islands from invasives!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

I was alarmed by a recent news story on the spread of little fire ants (LFA) to O'ahu on the windward side. And then I learned that eight months ago rules have already been approved that would help address the problem of these and other invasive species, but have not yet been enacted.

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to disregard the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent the temporary restriction on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, the rules you approved eight months ago go farther to protect everyone by allowing the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help stop those businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Thank you for your consideration and your service,
Debra Tang

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Dorothy Bowers <dorothy.bowers1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:34 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

I can't believe that bio security is not a higher priority with our elected leaders. I have been fighting little fire ants and other invasive species in my yard and in my community on Hawaii Island for years as a volunteer. It does not have to be this way and it will only get worse unless you take decisive action. Don't waste the treasure we have in Hawaii, PLEASE! Everyone will be sorry when it's too late.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Dorothy Bowers
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Rick Gaffney <rick.pacific@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:47 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on IV.3--Invasive pests

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

The DOA should also be reminded that some of the mulch and compost products which is being distributed and sold both inter-island and on seach island, is produced on DOA Agricultural Park lease land. Stopping LFA, CRB and other pests from distribution could also be regulated at the source, particularly if the source is State leased land.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Rick Gaffney
808 960-6767

Ho, Jonathan K

From: O'Malley <omalley@xmission.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:24 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3 which turns a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten the Hawai'ian islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life. I am a resident of Utah but visit as often as possible and believe that the integrity of the island health must be protected over temporary business profits.

Rules you approved 8 months ago would already have made permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB, and would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, while also requiring that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of those rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Lauren O'Malley
Park City UT

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Wainani Traub <Wainani.Traub@swca.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:54 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Regulate intra-island sale of LFA infested plants

Dear Plant and Animals Advisory Committee,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and other pests that could threaten our island's food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to follow through on your February approval of rules that would help reign in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB.

Mahalo,
Wainani

Wainani Traub, M.S. | she, her, hers
Assistant Project Anthropologist - APM

SWCA Environmental Consultants

1200 Ala Moana Boulevard #380

Honolulu, HI 96814



Celebrating 20 Years of Doing Business in the Pacific Islands

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Ho, Jonathan K

From: Danielle Frohlich <dsfrohlich@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:57 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: agenda item IV.3

Dear Plant and Animals Advisory Committee-

I'm writing to request that you please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3 which would effectively allow the continued intra-island sale of plants and materials infested with little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other harmful invasive species that threaten our agriculture, cultural practices, ecosystems, and way of life in these islands.

Please tell the HDOA to follow through with your rule approval from February 2023 and regulate businesses that sell infested materials and plants. We can't afford to delay this process any longer.

Thank you,
Danielle Frohlich
Invasive Species Ecologist