stand. com. rep. no. (240

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 14 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 746

S.D. 2 H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred S.B. No. 746, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a two-year Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Pilot Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide community-based incentives to eradicate the coconut rhinoceros beetle in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui; Hawaiii Farm Bureau; Hawaiii Reef and Ocean Coalition; Hawaiii Forest Industry Association; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that the coconut rhinoceros beetle is one of the most destructive invasive species threatening Hawaii's agriculture, environment, and cultural resources. The coconut rhinoceros beetle has since spread across Oahu and to Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii Island, causing severe damage to coconut, royal, date,

and fan palms, as well as other crops such as taro, banana, pineapple, and sugarcane. To combat this growing threat, this measure establishes a two-year, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Pilot Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, encouraging public participation in government-led eradication efforts to protect Hawaii's natural and cultural landscapes.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Pilot Program shall only be conducted in areas where there are established infestations of coconut rhinoceros beetles within counties with a population of five hundred thousand or more;
- (2) Clarifying language to ensure that community members are compensated for the collection and submission of coconut rhinoceros beetles and larvae that are captured and not bred;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 746, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 746, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

IRSTIN KAHALOA, Chai

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 1240

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

SB 746, SD2 Committee AGR	Referral:	FIN Date	3/12	125
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	Х			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)				
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	K	38.0000 C 12.00 (19.0000)	ALEX CONTROL PROPERTY OF THE P	Co. Committee of the Co.
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	X		7-11 Marin 1990	
TWAND C				
6. WARD, Gene				X
				_
		-		
TOTAL (6)	5			1
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, Committee acronym(s) Adopted did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				