

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1245

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025

RE: H.B. No. 643
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 643, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish short-term management initiatives for the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Program; and
- (2) Appropriate funds to support the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Program's activities and positions.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; University of Hawai'i System; Office of Economic Development of the County of Kaua'i; two members of the Kaua'i County Council; Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui; Hawaii Oil Seed Producers; The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra; Big Island Invasive Species Committee; Carol Kwan Consulting LLC; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Hawaii Island Palm Society; Windward Coalition; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and nine individuals.



Your Committees find that the coconut rhinoceros beetle poses an existential threat to the State's agricultural industry and food security and self-sufficiency. Your Committees further find that the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Program is a coordinated partnership that investigates new control methods and best practices to mitigate the effects of coconut rhinoceros beetle infestations and prevent them from occurring elsewhere in the State. This measure ensures that the important work of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Program will continue.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 643, H.D. 2, and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 643 HD2	Committee Referral: HRE/AEN, WAM	Date: 3/17/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes

