

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1482

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2025

RE: H.B. No. 643  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 643, H.D. 2, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish short-term initiatives for the coconut rhinoceros beetle response program; and appropriate moneys to support the coconut rhinoceros beetle response program's activities and positions.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; University of Hawaii; County of Maui; Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Division, County of Kauai; Office of Economic Development of the County of Kauai; Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC; Hawaii Farm Bureau; Hawaii Farmers Union; Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands; The Nature Conservancy; Windward Coalition; and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State must be protected from invasive species such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle. The beetle's damage to coconut palms and other vegetation may lead to significant economic loss, especially in agriculture and tourism,

HB643 SD1 SSCR LRB 25-1588.docx



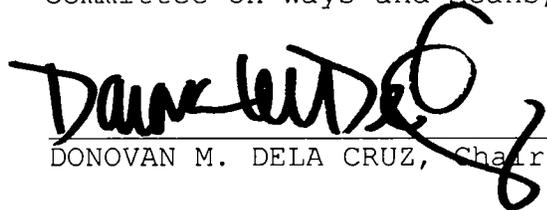
and disrupt the State's delicate ecological balance. Moneys appropriated by this Act will address and mitigate the negative impact of the coconut rhinoceros beetle's presence in Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to specify that appropriated moneys shall be expended by the Department of Agriculture on the condition that the department contracts with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and
- (2) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 643, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 643, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

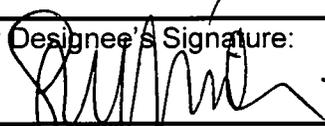
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB643 HD2</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HRE/AEN, WAM</b>	Date: <b>3/28/25</b>		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris				X
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes