

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

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Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026
3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2207, HD 2
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2207, HD2, relating to invasive species. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting, in the State to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The Department supports this bill.

The Department understands the need for more tools to mitigate the impacts of CRB due to the devastating damage the insect has caused within the State and in other parts of the world such as Guam. Proper netting has been proven to be an effective, nonchemical method that can enhance the repertoire of control methods for CRB. The Department will continue to encourage and provide support for the development of tools to combat CRB.

In addition to the use of netting, Act 236, SLH 2025, created HRS 150A-58, Government-industry agreements for readiness and response, which is an important tool that enables the Department to increase resource capacity to respond to pest outbreaks such as CRB. The goal of HRS 150A-58 is to enable industry partners to have a key role in biosecurity, particularly in providing manpower and equipment for rapid response efforts, which the Department does not currently have ready access to, and it is not cost effective to procure, house, and maintain a dedicated large workforce, equipment, and supplies solely for rapid response efforts. Many responses, particularly those involving incipient pest populations require the use of pesticides for control or

eradication measures. Industry partners already have the necessary equipment and trained staff for pesticide applications, minimizing risk and housing essentially an on-call, well-trained workforce. The Department believes that those participating in the agreements should have minimized liability for the required work, such as from the application of pesticides by the State or industry partners for control or eradication activities conducted during a rapid response effort. Additionally, the creation of a working group further enhances the Department's collaborative efforts with regulated industries by having them directly involved with biosecurity policy to create industry-wide standards to further minimize the risk of introducing and spreading pests such as CRB, into and within the State, further increasing biosecurity efforts across the State. The Department has included a proposed SD 1 detailing the specific changes necessary to effectuate this part of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the coconut rhinoceros beetle can have devastating impacts on palm species that are foundational to the State's agricultural economy, cultural heritage, and ecosystems.

The use of fine mesh nets can be an effective means of preventing adult coconut rhinoceros beetles from accessing vulnerable plants, effectively mitigating their impact on local plants and the environment.

The legislature further finds that even though Act 184, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, authorizes the department of agriculture and biosecurity to adopt rules for the use of banned monofilament netting, such power is only extended for bird keeping. The legislature is concerned that, due to this limiting authority, the ability of the department to adopt rules to allow for the sale of monofilament netting for coconut rhinoceros beetle interdiction may be thwarted.

The legislature further finds that Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025 (Act 236), authorizes the department of agriculture and biosecurity to enter into government-industry agreements, which are a critical component in the protection of the State's agriculture, people, economy, unique biodiversity, and environment from invasive species. The objective of government-industry agreements is to increase collaboration between private industries and the government by formalizing commitments to bolster the biosecurity network, increase capacity in the response to current pests, and enhance capability and readiness in response to future pests. The department of agriculture and biosecurity is required to provide education and training, supplies and equipment, and pest management programs to equip private industries that are signatories to the agreements in the decision-making process. These signatory private industries are then required to provide manpower, treatment equipment, surveillance, and response readiness.

However, the legislature further finds that, after the department of agriculture and biosecurity began discussions with private industry parties about the government-industry agreements, it became apparent that Act 236 should be refined to address certain issues.

Accordingly, the purposes of this Act is to:

(1) Allow for the use of monofilament netting for purposes of protecting plants against invasive species under certain conditions; and

(2) Require the department of agriculture and biosecurity to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including certain monofilament netting, in the State to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle; and

(3) Rename the agreements to biosecurity government-industry agreements to prevent confusion with a program with similar initials; and

(4) Protect the department of agriculture and biosecurity and the counties, including officers, employees, and authorized agents of the department and counties, from liability when entering private property to control or eradicate pests; and

(5) Create a working group of private industry signatories for joint decision-making.

SECTION 2. Section 141-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[~~§~~141-17~~]~~ Fine [~~meshed~~] mesh nets; invasive species; permissible; rules. (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fine [~~meshed~~] mesh nets, including monofilament netting of an appropriate mesh size, may be used for the protection of plants against invasive species, as determined by the department of agriculture and biosecurity; provided that the fine [~~meshed~~] mesh nets shall be applied in a manner that is unlikely to entangle birds, become dislodged and enter water, or entangle or disturb native and beneficial animals, including but not limited to pollinators, ladybugs or lady beetles, and net-winged insects.

(b) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to implement this section, including but not limited to establishing requirements related to filament diameter, color, and the inclusion of visual

cues to prevent non-targeted entanglement [~~and~~]; prohibiting the use of mist net material [~~that is used~~] designed for bird work[-]; and allowing the distribution and sale of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting of an appropriate mesh size, for the sole purpose of protecting plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle (Oryctes rhinoceros)."

SECTION 3. Section 141-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§141-3.6 Entry of private property to control or eradicate any pests.

(a) The department of agriculture and biosecurity or applicable county shall give at least five days notice to the landowner and the occupier of any private property of its intention to enter the property for the control or eradication of a pest. Written notice sent to the landowner's last known address by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, shall be deemed sufficient notice. If certified mail is impractical because the department or county, despite diligent efforts, cannot determine land ownership or because of urgent need to initiate control or eradication measures, notice given once in a daily or weekly publication of general circulation, in the county where any action or proposed action will be taken, or notice made as otherwise provided by law, shall be deemed sufficient notice. The notice shall set forth all pertinent information on the pest control program and the procedures and methods to be used for control or eradication.

(b) After notice as required by subsection (a), any member of the department, employee of the county, or any agent

authorized by the department or county may enter at reasonable times any private property other than dwelling places to maintain a pest control or eradication program, being liable only for damage caused by acts beyond the scope of the person's authority, or the person's negligence, gross negligence, or intentional misconduct. If entry is refused, the department member, county employee, or any authorized agent may apply to the district court in the circuit in which the property is located for a warrant to enter on the premises to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. The district court may issue a warrant directing a police officer of the circuit to assist the department member, county employee, or any authorized agent in gaining entry onto the premises during regular working hours or at other reasonable times.

(c) In no case shall the department, the county, or any officer, employee, or authorized agent thereof be liable for costs in any action or proceeding that may be commenced pursuant to this chapter."

SECTION 4. Section 150A-58, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"~~[§150A-58]~~ ~~Government-industry~~ Biosecurity government-industry **agreements for readiness and response.**

(a) The department may enter into readiness and response agreements with businesses and representatives of businesses in the plant and animal industries of the State, including businesses that grow, harvest, or produce animals and plants or products from animals and plants.

(b) The agreements shall include:

- (1) Readiness activities that:
 - (A) Prevent unwanted organisms from entering the State; and
 - (B) Detect unwanted organisms; and
- (2) Response activities that:
 - (A) Facilitate the immediate investigation of an unwanted organism after detection, including timely reporting of the unwanted organism's detection to the department;
 - (B) Minimize the impact of the unwanted organism on natural and physical resources, human health, and overseas market access for Hawaii products;
 - (C) Control the spread of an unwanted organism;
 - (D) Reduce the geographical distribution of an unwanted organism;
 - (E) Eradicate the unwanted organism; and
 - (F) Include providing the department with relevant information for posting to the pest dashboard pursuant to section 141-3.5.

(c) A violation of an applicable readiness plan shall be subject to penalties under section 150A-14.

(d) The department shall establish a working group comprising members or representatives of private industry signatories to any biosecurity government-industry agreement, for joint decision-making pursuant to this section."

SECTION 5. Section 150A-58, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

§ Establishment of the biosecurity government-industry working group. There is established, the biosecurity government-industry working group, whose membership shall include the deputy chairperson for biosecurity, who shall be the chairperson, the dean of the college of tropical agriculture and human resilience, and representatives of the signatory industries in the biosecurity government-industry agreements. All members of the working group shall serve without pay but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the committee.

§ Powers and duties. The biosecurity government-industry working group shall:

1) Prepare recommendations to the chairperson of the board of agriculture and biosecurity policies which, upon approval, may serve as guidance for agricultural development in the State. The policies shall include but not be limited to objectives in the following areas:

- (A) Plant inspection and quarantine,
- (B) Pest management,
- (C) Import replacement,
- (D) Market access, and
- (E) Industry analysis.

2) Assist and provide technical expertise to the chairperson in developing programs, projects, and plans to promote optimal development of agriculture, including criteria to measure program effectiveness.

3) Conduct systematic analysis of all existing and proposed agriculture and agriculture-related programs.

4) Recommend to the chairperson programs including agricultural product promotion and agricultural development which represent the most effective allocation of resources for optimal development of agriculture.

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.

Report Title:

DAB; Rules; Fine Mesh Nets; Monofilament Netting; Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle; Biosecurity Government-Industry Agreements; Liability; Costs; Working Group

Description:

Allows the use of certain monofilament netting for the protection of plants against invasive species. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting, in the State to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Clarifies that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and the counties, including officers, employees, and authorized agents of the Department and counties, shall not be liable for costs relating to the entering of private property to control and eradicate pests. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish a working group that comprises signatories of the biosecurity

Testimony of Sharon Hurd

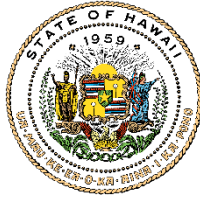
March 18, 2026

Page 11

government-industry agreements for joint-decision making.
Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026
3:30 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2207 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 2207, House Draft 2 allows the use of certain monofilament netting for the protection of plants against invasive species; subjects fine mesh nets, including certain monofilament netting, to certain federal and state requirements; requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish rules permitting the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting, within the State to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as long as its passage does not replace or negatively affect priorities outlined in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is a significant pest throughout the Pacific Region. Its main host is the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), which helps stabilize soil, prevent coastal erosion, serve as a food source, and is an important cultural symbol in Hawai'i. However, these beetles can also damage native forest species such as the native palm loulu (*Pritchardia spp.*), which are already threatened or endangered. They may also attack hala (*Pandanus tectorius*), a vital component of native lowland wet forests. Hala was historically used to weave sails for Hawaiian voyaging canoes and to create practical items like baskets and mats, making it an essential resource in Hawaiian culture.

According to Hawai'i CRB Response, one of the most effective non-chemical methods to protect palm trees (and other CRB target species) from CRB is using a physical cover of monofilament,

fine mesh nets (with 1-3-inch holes) to wrap the crowns of palm trees and to cover breeding materials like mulch piles and compost.

The Department supports this bill and its provision for netting to limit the spread of CRB to palm trees and potential breeding materials. Although netting with 2-3-inch holes is currently permitted, this bill would approve smaller mesh sizes for use in protecting against invasive species. Smaller-holed netting is more effective at preventing CRB from passing through.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2207 HD2

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka ‘Oihana Mahi‘ai a me ke Ao Kūlohelohe
(Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment)

Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 18, 2026

3:30PM

Lumi 224

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB2207 HD2**, which responds to the devastating impacts of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on niu across ka Pae ‘Āina Hawai‘i by giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) the clear authority to establish rules that allow the use of monofilament netting to protect plants against the CRB.

Niu is part of a network of pilina (relationships) between Native Hawaiians and ‘āina that sustained communities since time immemorial. Unfortunately, CRB has had a devastating impact on our niu trees. Additionally, in managing CRB, many niu trees have been treated with toxic pesticides, rendering their niu unsafe for human consumption. The loss of our niu to CRB comes with the loss of an essential source of food and water as well as traditional and customary practices. Monofilament netting is one method to protect niu and other trees from CRB without the use of harsh chemicals. Research indicates that the deployment of fine-mesh monofilament nets can effectively serve as a physical barrier to prevent the CRB from encroaching upon our vulnerable plant populations.

HB2207 HD2 provides clear authority to DAB to make rules to allow the responsible use of fine mesh monofilament netting to protect niu and other plants from the CRB, while also ensuring netting does not entangle birds, become dislodged and

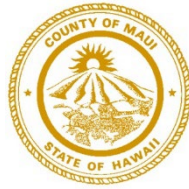
enter water, or disturb native and other beneficial species such as pollinators. Providing lawful access to fine mesh monofilament netting allows us to protect our precious niu without sacrificing their important role as a food and water source.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HB2207 HD2.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: March 3, 2026

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB2207, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure.

HB2207 allows the use of certain monofilament netting for the protection of plants against invasive species. Subjects fine mesh nets, including certain monofilament netting, to certain federal and state requirements. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting, in the State to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Maui County Department of Agriculture supports HB2207 because it provides growers with effective, science-based tools such as fine mesh and certain monofilament netting to protect crops from invasive species like the coconut rhinoceros beetle, reducing pesticide reliance and crop loss.
2. HB2207 establishes clear rules for the sale and use of these protective nets, ensuring that they are regulated for safety and proper application while still being readily accessible to farmers who urgently need practical defenses against invasive pests.
3. By improving on-farm pest management options, HB2207 directly supports Maui County's food security and agricultural economy, helping farms remain productive, lowering the risk of invasive species damage, and aligning with statewide invasive species management goals.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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March 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2207, HD2
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2207, HD2, which allows the use, sale, and distribution of fine-mesh nets, including monofilament netting, for protecting plants from the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB).

Invasive species continue to pose one of the most serious threats to Hawai'i's agricultural economy and environment. The coconut rhinoceros beetle has the potential to cause significant damage to palm species that are important to agriculture, landscapes, and cultural resources across the State. Farmers and land managers need access to effective, non-chemical tools to prevent the spread and impact of this pest.

Fine-mesh netting has proven to be an effective tool for preventing CRB damage. HB 2207, HD2 provides the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity with clear authority to establish rules governing the responsible use of these nets, while incorporating safeguards to protect birds, native species, and aquatic environments.

Providing farmers with lawful access to effective pest control tools is critical to protecting agricultural operations and supporting the State's broader biosecurity efforts. HB 2207, HD2 represents a practical and targeted response to an urgent invasive species threat.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

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Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB2207.**

HB2207 is an essential measure to address the persistent threat posed by the coconut rhinoceros beetle to Hawaii's agriculture. The bill empowers the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish rules that allow the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting. This measure will provide an effective and environmentally friendly method for farmers to protect their plants from the destructive impact of these invasive pests. Fine mesh nets serve as a physical barrier, significantly reducing the likelihood of beetle infestation without the need for chemical interventions.

The economic ramifications of unchecked coconut rhinoceros beetle infestations are significant, threatening the livelihoods of local farmers and the broader agricultural sector. By safeguarding plants with readily available and efficient netting solutions, the bill supports not only the immediate crop yields but also the long-term viability of Hawaii's agricultural industry. Moreover, it represents a commitment to ensuring that farmers have access to necessary tools and resources, better enabling them to effectively manage pests. This legislation reinforces the collaboration between government agencies and the farming community towards shared goals of protecting Hawaii's ecosystem health and food security.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

BIISC
23 E. Kawili St.
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 933-3340
www.biisc.org



March 17, 2026

RE: HB2207

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

On behalf of BIISC, I would like to express our strong support for HB2207, which would require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution of monofilament netting in Hawai'i to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle.

Fine-mesh netting is a practical, non-chemical tool that acts as a physical barrier, helping to reduce beetle damage to tree crowns and breeding in mulch and green waste piles. This technique originated with local fishermen on Guam, who used small gill nets to capture adult beetles emerging from compost. The University of Guam later studied and refined this approach for CRB management, and it has since informed control recommendations here in Hawai'i. Netting can intercept a substantial portion of beetles leaving infested material while also trapping incoming beetles attempting to lay eggs.

Limited access to netting creates barriers for residents, farmers, and landowners who want to implement this technique on their own properties, leaving a critical gap in community-level defense against CRB. Expanding access empowers communities to take immediate action to protect valued trees, agricultural resources, and landscapes.

BIISC is committed to pairing increased access with outreach and education to support responsible and effective use of this material. We urge the committee to pass this measure, which provides residents with a safe, practical tool to help reduce the spread and impacts of CRB. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Franny Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu



Date of Hearing: 18 March, 2026

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: HB2207 HD2, Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy is writing in **support** of HB2207 HD2. This measure allows the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to establish rules permitting the sale and use of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting, for the purpose of protecting plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

Amendments made by the House have removed adherence to certain federal and state requirements however, in order to ensure proper acquisition of netting, registration or approval may be beneficial at the point of sale for those managing the response to this invasive species.

CRB continues to pose a serious threat to Hawai'i's agricultural economy, cultural resources, and ecosystems, particularly palm species that are foundational to both food production and cultural landscapes. Expanding access to effective, non-chemical tools is an important step toward strengthening Hawai'i's integrated pest management strategies.

Physical exclusion and trapping methods like monofilament netting have been demonstrated as effective tools in Hawai'i's integrated pest management for CRB. University of Hawai'i Cooperative Extension guidance notes that monofilament netting of approximately 1/2" mesh and ~0.33 mm thickness can effectively catch or deter adult CRB when wrapped around palm crowns or mulch piles, helping to prevent feeding damage and reduce local beetle populations when combined with other practices. The amendment added to include adherence to federal and state requirements for fine meshed nets is appreciated and we hope state research may inform this requirement.

We also want to emphasize if monofilament netting is improperly used or discarded, it could pose potential risks to wildlife and non-target species. Ensuring accurate labeling, consumer education, and retailer accountability will help protect both the public and Hawai'i's environment while maintaining access to an effective CRB control tool.

With strong regulation and oversight, HB2207 HD2 can achieve an appropriate balance between effective invasive species control and environmental protection. For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass HB2207 HD2 with suggested recommendations that reinforce clear limitations, accountability, and ecological safeguards while supporting timely action against CRB.

Mahalo,
Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

[1] Joshua Silva. (2023). Netting for Physical IPM of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. University of Hawai'i Cooperative Extension Service. https://cms.organictransition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/HanaiAi_CRB_Netting_Aug2023.pdf

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

HB-2207-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:41:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT! MAHALO!