

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**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 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1929, HD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

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

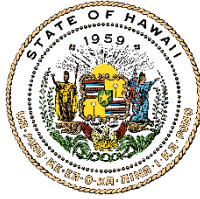
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1929, HD1. This measure requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) to develop a Molokai Biosecurity Plan to prevent the spread of invasive species found elsewhere in the State to the island of Molokai; authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for a plants and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Molokai and facility staffing; and is effective 7/1/3000. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

The Department is supportive of this measure to increase biosecurity capacity on Molokai and agrees that the lack of Departmental staff on Molokai is the biggest biosecurity gap for Molokai. As biosecurity involves animals as well as plant products, the Department suggests Section 3 be amended to allow the funds to also include in the plans, design, construction, equipment and appurtenances, the ability for the facility to also manage livestock and other domestic animal inspections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

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

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1929, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

House Bill 1929, House Draft 1, mandates and allocates funds for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to create a Molokai Biosecurity Plan aimed at preventing the spread of invasive species from elsewhere in the state to Molokai; authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and allocates funds for a plant and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility on Molokai; and allocates funds for staffing the facility. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or negatively affect priorities outlined in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department supports creating a Molokai Biosecurity Plan. The process that developed from the coconut rhinoceros beetle interim rule highlighted the importance of having such a plan on every island. The Department suggests that this plan refer to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's statewide biosecurity plan and be customized to Molokai's specific conditions.

The Department also supports funding for a DAB inspection facility on Molokai and for its permanent staffing. The Department advocates for each island to have at least one biosecurity inspection facility to check goods that might contain pests.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1929 HD1

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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 HB1929 HD1**, which appropriates funds to establish a plant and plant materials quarantine facility on Moloka‘i and develop a Moloka‘i biosecurity plan.

Across Hawai‘i, invasive species such as the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, Little Fire Ant, Coqui Frog, and Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death fungi damage our native forests, degrade watersheds, reduce agricultural productivity, and diminish the quality of life for residents. The introduction of these invasive species threatens food security and increases economic strain on the island’s residents.

On Moloka‘i, subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering remain integral to daily life, compounding any harms by invasive species. The current interisland inspection system leaves Moloka‘i vulnerable. Continuing to allow Moloka‘i to remain without a plant and plant materials quarantine facility places an undue burden on a community that has explicitly asked for stronger protection of their home from the disastrous impact of invasive species. The detection of CRB on Lāna‘i in previously inspected plants highlights the importance of secondary inspection for Moloka‘i.

As invasive species continue to spread across Hawai‘i, islands like Moloka‘i that remain free from certain invasive species can serve as pu‘uhonua (refuge) for native species. Protecting Moloka‘i preserves biodiversity and safeguards subsistence and

traditional and customary practices. Creating a biosecurity plan as this measure contemplates is key to preventing spread of invasive species. Prioritizing community engagement in the development of a Moloka'i biosecurity plan ensures its implementation reflects local knowledge, subsistence priorities, and cultural values. This community-driven model can serve as a model for strengthening biosecurity across ka Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HB1929 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1929, HD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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 1929, HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to develop a Molokai Biosecurity Plan and authorizes funding for a plant and plant materials quarantine and inspection facility and staffing on the island of Molokai.

Molokai remains free from many invasive species that have caused significant environmental and agricultural damage elsewhere in the State. As an island state, Hawai'i has a unique opportunity and responsibility to protect non-invaded islands from the spread of pests such as the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, Little Fire Ant, Coqui Frog, Coffee Berry Borer, Queensland Longhorn Beetle, Rapid 'ōhi'a Death, and Miconia. Preventing introduction is far more cost-effective than managing or eradicating invasive species after they are established.

The development of a Molokai Biosecurity Plan and the establishment of a dedicated inspection and quarantine facility will strengthen secondary inspection capacity, enhance interisland safeguards, and provide an added layer of protection for Molokai's agricultural economy, natural resources, and community well-being.

As this measure moves forward, HFB encourages timely implementation and adequate staffing to ensure these resources are used effectively. Investing in prevention now will help avoid much higher costs down the road.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



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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 HB1929.**

HB1929 is an essential initiative for safeguarding Molokai's agricultural landscape against the threat of invasive species. The development of a comprehensive Molokai Biosecurity Plan by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity will play a crucial role in protecting local farms, ecosystems, and the broader community from the adverse impacts of invasive species proliferating across other regions of Hawaii. By tailoring specific strategies to Molokai's unique environment, this plan will ensure that our island is shielded from potentially devastating ecological and economic consequences, thereby supporting the sustainability and productivity of local agriculture.

Moreover, the establishment of a dedicated inspection and quarantine facility on Molokai presents a proactive measure to manage and monitor the movement of plants and plant materials. While quarantine restrictions can sometimes hinder access to necessary plant materials for farmers, a localized facility ensures that these critical checks are balanced with the timely availability of supplies essential for farming operations. By ensuring proper staffing and facilities for inspection and quarantine, HB1929 maintains the delicate balance between safeguarding agriculture from invasive threats and supporting the operational needs of local farmers, thereby fostering a secure and thriving agricultural community on Molokai.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



P.O. Box 1662
Honolulu, HI 96806

Mālama Learning Center is a non-profit organization based in West Oahu. Our mission is to inspire communities to care for Hawai'i by perpetuating conservation, culture, and sustainability through education.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1929 HD1

Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026 at 3:30 pm
Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference

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

Aloha Kākou. My name is Pauline Sato and I serve as the Executive Director of the Mālama Learning Center, a private, non-profit environmental education organization founded in 2004. I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB1929 HD1, which aims to provide the people and environment of Moloka'i protection from biosecurity threats.

While the Mālama Learning Center's roots are in West O'ahu, our commitment to Moloka'i spans years of partnership with local teachers and students. Our work includes biosecurity education, specifically the looming threat of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB)—a pest that has already devastated O'ahu. Moloka'i is home to unique coconut (*niu*) varieties and the endemic *loulu* palm; these are not just plants, but cultural and ecological treasures that could be entirely lost if the beetle establishes a foothold on the island.

The Moloka'i community recently demonstrated its resolve by successfully advocating for an emergency rule from the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to ban the importation of CRB host materials. While this was a monumental victory, it is only a temporary, one-year reprieve. More critically, the island still lacks the necessary infrastructure and support to screen incoming materials for CRB or other invasive species. Without a comprehensive, long-term strategy and sustained funding, Moloka'i remains in a state of constant vulnerability. We must move beyond temporary fixes to ensure the permanent protection of the island's fragile ecosystem.

This measure would provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island. And it appropriates funds for plants and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Moloka'i and facility staffing. These are incredibly important actions that are needed now. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pauline Sato", written in a cursive style.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 1:04:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoʻolani Warrington	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1929 HD 1

Protect Molokai Nui A Hina

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1929 HD 1.**

HB 1929 HD 1 would provide funds for a plan to keep the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and other invasive pests not found on Moloka‘i from devastating the food security, ecological integrity, cultural practices, and ways of life of this beloved island.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

SUPPORT and PASS HB 1929 HD 1. Mahalo.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:48:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB1929.

The scourge of the Coconut Rhino Beetle is well known. We must do anything possible to prevent spread. If the bug has not entered Molokai, we must be sure that it doesn't infect that island.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:35:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice K T Shiira	Testifying for Shimanchu Mamuyaa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB1929 HD1, Relating to Biosecurity
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 18, 2026 at 3:30 pm
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports HB1929 HD1, which requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to develop a Moloka'i Biosecurity Plan to prevent the spread of invasive species found elsewhere in the State to the island of Moloka'i and authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for a plants and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Moloka'i and facility staffing.

TNC has worked to protect ecosystems across Moloka'i since the 1980s, including at our preserves at Mo'omomi, Pelekunu and Kamakou, as well as through the leadership of the East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership. As long-time stewards of these special places, we understand the grave threat that invasive species pose to native ecosystems, food security, cultural practices, public health, fire safety, climate resiliency, economy, and overall quality of life.

Moloka'i is fortunate to remain free from many destructive invasive species that have become widespread on other islands, such as miconia, rapid 'ohi'a death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, and others. These pests have devastated natural and cultural resources elsewhere, and their introduction to Moloka'i would irreversibly alter the island's ecological and cultural landscape. The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) provides a clear and urgent example. CRB has already caused significant impacts across five main Hawaiian Islands. Moloka'i is now the final island without an established population. Yet despite this vulnerability, Moloka'i has extremely limited on-island capacity to detect, contain, or eradicate new arrivals of CRB or other high-risk pests.

For more than twenty years, the Moloka'i Maui Invasive Species Committee (MoMISC) has been the island's frontline defense, conducting early detection and rapid response, intercepting numerous invasive species, and preventing many potential introductions from taking hold. Their success reflects extraordinary effort and a vigilant community. CRB alone now consumes about half of MoMISC's time. Dedicated inspectors and a quarantine facility would shift protection of Moloka'i from luck to practice and augment the work of all in the conservation community. For many invasive species, the cheapest, and often the only, solution is prevention. This bill treats biosecurity for Moloka'i with the seriousness it deserves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1929 HD1.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 18, 2026

3:30 PM

Conference Room 224

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1929 HD1**: RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB1929 HD1**, which would provide critical funding for the development of a biosecurity plan for the island of Moloka'i – a critical need in light of the devastating impacts that invasive pests may have on its ecological integrity, cultural practices, agricultural activities, and ways of life.

Last year, the people of Moloka'i and their supporters from across Hawai'i convinced the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to adopt historic, interim protections against the import of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material to the island. As a result, Moloka'i remains free of CRB, which is otherwise devastating Hawaiian communities on O'ahu and Kaua'i, and spreading rapidly in West Hawai'i Island. Notably, the Moloka'i effort recognized the devastating impacts that CRB could have on Moloka'i, a kīpuka of Hawaiian practices, values, and lifestyles that define our islands and our host culture, and that can provide key lessons to Hawai'i and the planet about the value of indigenous knowledge in navigating the climate crisis.

However, the interim protections adopted for Moloka'i are just that – a temporary interim intervention while longer-term solutions are explored and developed. **This measure would provide the follow-up support necessary to develop a long-term, comprehensive strategy to protect Moloka'i, and by extension, our islands' cultural heritage and key to a resilient future, from the threats of CRB and other invasive pests.**

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



March 16, 2026

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Jonnetta Peters, Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH), a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to protect and save native species and their habitat, with members locally and on the mainland. CCH is the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, with 51 other US state and territorial affiliates. **CCH STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1**, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka'i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka'i is known as a "kīpuka" island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and 'āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka'i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka'i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka'i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai'i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka'i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka'i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island. Please protect Moloka'i and it's people from the destructive CRB and other invasive pests.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director

Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: info@conservehi.org

web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802

President: Bret Nainoa Mossman | **Vice President:** Les Welsh | **Secretary:** Colleen Heyer

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National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague

National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
IN SUPPORT OF HB1929 HD1
March 18, 2026, 3:30 p.m., Room 224 via Videoconference

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) over 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA strongly supports HB1929 HD1 as a step toward ensuring 'āina momona.

This measure helps strengthen the 2025 establishment of an interim rule prohibiting movement of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) host materials to Molokai, which KUA also supported. HB1929 HD1 would allocate the necessary funds to develop a Molokai Biosecurity Plan and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility and staffing on the island.

We acknowledge the strong advocacy and leadership of Molokai community members for getting the 2025 interim rule passed, and are also supporting similar proposed rulemaking for Hawai'i Island. Many communities we work with are intimately familiar with the impacts that invasive species can have on every aspect of life in Hawai'i — jeopardizing native ecosystems, food security, cultural practices, public health, fire safety, climate resiliency, economy, and overall quality of life. Devastation caused by the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) on O'ahu and Kaua'i alone is hard to ignore, and the impacts may also be irreversible once CRB are established. Loss of a significant cultural and food resources like niu (coconut), ulu (breadfruit), mai'a (banana), kalo (taro), hala (pandanus), and others would erode cultural practices and resources that Native Hawaiian and local communities cherish, perpetuate, and regenerate in furtherance of cultural integrity, food self-sufficiency, and connections to 'āina and each other.

We all know that Molokai is especially vulnerable with little on-island resources to detect and eradicate CRB and other invasive species. Organizations and initiatives in our networks have long dedicated considerable energy and resources to educate the public to act in defense of our islands from invasive species. Several leading Molokai voices among them. 'Āina Momona is not achievable without prioritizing the urgent protection from these invasive pests to protect our precious biocultural resources and those that intimately love and care for them.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe protecting our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about sustained long-term commitments toward achieving 'āina momona abundance once again.** To get there requires maintaining protections for greater biosecurity, including through this bill. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki's keiki's keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. Please **PASS** HB1929 HD1.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:58:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is time for Hawai'i to stop rolling out the red carpet to invasive species!

Are you going to let Moloka'i be devastated the way all the other islands have been, thanks to years of legislative and state department board and committee delays and inaction?

This bill needs to pass...like, *yesterday!*

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 5:20:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WITH MUCH NEEDED CRITICAL AMENDMENTS, I strongly support this bill.

The NAVY must be completely accountable for the purity of our water NOW!

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:03:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A wise frog (not a coqui) named Kermit once sang, “It’s not easy being green”. He may have been talking about his looks, but his statement was far-reaching, and even all the way to the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

It is not enough to simply recycle, and to not waste water, and to stop polluting the air and water around us. It takes courage and conviction to battle extremely fierce opponents such as the formidable coconut rhinoceros beetle, and little fire ants, and coqui frogs, and the far too many other invasive species and noxious weeds that have been thriving in Hawai’i for decades upon decades.

Please have the courage and conviction to pass this bill - - for Moloka’i’s sake.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:59:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support HB1929 HD1 to keep invasive pests out of Moloka'i. We need to save at least one island from pests that destroy food, ecosystems, and culture.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:21:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is U‘ilani Naipo and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

U‘ilani Naipo

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:43:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján,

1L Law Student, William S. Richardson School of Law

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:02:47 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for HB1929 HD1

My name is Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, and **I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1**, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:53:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Malia Lum-Kawaihoa Marquez and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Lum-Kawaihoa Marquez

[Your name]

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:33:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support** of HB1929, which provides critical resources for the development of a comprehensive biosecurity plan to protect Moloka‘i from the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and other invasive pests. This bill is not just about pest control; it is about preserving a way of life, safeguarding a cultural kīpuka, and securing knowledge that may prove essential to humanity's collective future.

Moloka‘i Is a Kīpuka of Resilience

Moloka‘i is known throughout Hawai‘i and beyond as an island where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between people and ‘āina continue to thrive. Despite the profound changes these islands have experienced over the last two centuries, Moloka‘i has remained a place where indigenous wisdom is lived, not just remembered. It is a reservoir of traditional knowledge, cultural practice, and community connection that has been eroded elsewhere.

Climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike recognize that places like Moloka‘i may hold keys to our future resilience. As humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate, the time-tested, place-based wisdom maintained by Moloka‘i's communities offers insights that no laboratory or computer model can replicate. How do you feed a community when global supply chains fail? How do you steward resources across generations? How do you maintain social cohesion in the face of crisis? These are questions Moloka‘i has been answering for centuries.

To lose that knowledge—or the ecological systems that sustain it—would be a tragedy not only for Hawai‘i but for the world.

The Threat Is Real and Present

The coconut rhinoceros beetle is not a hypothetical threat. It has already devastated palm populations on O‘ahu and is spreading to other islands. If CRB establishes on Moloka‘i, the consequences would be immediate and severe:

- **Food security:** Coconuts are not merely ornamental; they are a traditional food source, a cultural material, and an economic resource. The loss of healthy palms would ripple through local food systems.

- **Ecological integrity:** Palms play vital roles in coastal ecosystems. Their loss would impact birds, insects, and other native species.
- **Cultural practices:** Coconuts are central to Native Hawaiian culture—for food, for weaving, for ceremony, for the countless ways they appear in tradition and daily life. The beetle threatens to sever these connections.
- **Ways of life:** Moloka‘i’s communities live in relationship with their environment. An invasive pest that transforms that environment transforms life itself.

While Moloka‘i has been able to secure temporary rules restricting movement of CRB host material, temporary is not enough. A comprehensive, long-term biosecurity strategy is urgently needed.

What HB1929 Does

This bill provides the resources to develop exactly that strategy. It funds the planning, coordination, and infrastructure necessary to protect Moloka‘i from CRB and other invasive pests—not just for this year, but for the long haul. It recognizes that biosecurity is not a one-time intervention but an ongoing commitment.

What Is at Stake

Moloka‘i Nui A Hina is not just another island. It is a place where Native Hawaiian culture persists with unusual strength. It is a place where relationships between people and ‘āina remain intact. It is a place where the future may learn from the past.

If we allow CRB to establish there, we do not just lose palms. We lose food sources. We lose cultural materials. We lose ecological function. We lose a way of life. And we lose the opportunity to learn from a community that has maintained resilience across centuries of change.

A Matter of Kuleana

We have a kuleana to protect Moloka‘i. Not as an act of charity, but as an act of recognition—recognition that the knowledge and practices maintained there may hold answers we will desperately need in the decades ahead. Recognition that the people of Moloka‘i have stewarded these islands with care and wisdom that deserves our support. Recognition that biosecurity is not just an agricultural issue; it is a cultural, ecological, and intergenerational imperative.

HB1929 is a down payment on that kuleana. It says that we will not wait until the beetle arrives to act. It says that we value what Moloka‘i holds and will invest in protecting it.

I urge you to pass this bill and help safeguard Moloka‘i for the people who call it home and for all of us who depend on the resilience it represents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:47:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D. I am a resident of Kaimukī, O‘ahu, a retired federal biologist who led my agency's invasive species branch, and President of a nonprofit dedicated to Native Hawaiian cultural education. I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1929 HD1.

My support is grounded in direct professional experience. I led my agency's response to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) in Guam, where I witnessed firsthand the devastation this pest inflicts — the collapse of niu populations, the destruction of bird habitat, and the unraveling of food security that communities had depended on for generations. I was also part of the team that detected CRB's first arrival in Hawai‘i at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in December 2013. I know what this pest does, and I know the difference between catching it early and catching it too late.

For Native Hawaiians, the niu is not simply a landscape tree. It is a primary Canoe Plant — a source of food, water, fiber, and cultural continuity. The ‘aha braided from coconut husk was so sacred to Hawaiian navigation and governance that its making was governed by kapu. To lose the niu on Moloka‘i to CRB would be to lose not just a tree but a thread of living culture.

Moloka‘i has remained free of many invasive species that have already caused significant damage elsewhere in the State. That reflects the island's deep commitment to caring for its ‘āina. But that protection is fragile. The island has no dedicated biosecurity inspection facility and no on-island inspection staff. When CRB arrived on Lāna‘i through previously inspected plant material, it was only detected because Lāna‘i had a private quarantine facility. Moloka‘i has no such safety net.

This bill would change that. A comprehensive biosecurity plan, a quarantine and inspection facility, and dedicated staff are the proactive investments that prevent the kind of catastrophic, exponentially more expensive management crises I have seen play out on other islands and in other jurisdictions. Moloka‘i is a kīpuka — a refuge of biological and cultural health that holds lessons the rest of Hawai‘i and the world will need. We have a rare and time-limited opportunity to protect it.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Kaimukī, O‘ahu

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:41:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Plowman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:49:01 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:06:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is [your name] and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:27:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support 100% we need coconut trees.

Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB-10

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:44:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is John Kawamoto, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this bill.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:32:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Irene and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Irene Kloepfer

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:35:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Roberta Foster and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka'i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

As someone who sees the devastation that is happening on Oahu, I believe that Moloka'i needs funds to provide resources to prevent CRB from destroying the island's economy. We waited too long to try and deal with the problem on Oahu. Moloka's still has a chance to winning the battle, if they are funded now.

This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Roberta Foster

a volunteer for native plant restoration work and Little Fire Ant surveys on Oahu.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:55:50 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1929_HD1 to provide the necessary resources to keep Moloka'i environmentally secure in the face of ever-present and poorly managed state biosecurity threats.

More must be done to address biosecurity threats state wide.

Keith Neal,

Carbon Cashback member

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:53:25 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Christy Shaver and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Christy Shaver



Restore the Commons

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 3:30 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

HOUSE BILL 1929 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

HB1929 requires and funds the Department of Agriculture a Molokai to create a Biosecurity Plan to prevent the spread of invasive species found elsewhere in the State to the island of Molokai. It authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for a plants and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility, with staffing, on the island of Molokai.

The State has failed to prevent the influx of destructive alien species to the major islands of Hawaii, which have incurred environmental and economic damage in each case. Belatedly, the Legislature has responded to these threats with moderate success; unfortunately, the dangers have only multiplied, with relatively easy access to the world's species that out-compete local species in our initially benign environment.

Moloka'i has become somewhat infamous for discouraging a similar plight for itself, fending off developments seen locally as betraying its island values. To their credit, they have succeeded for the most part, not without some sacrifice, but it is a tribute to the island community's strength that much of what is lamented elsewhere has not penetrated Moloka'i's defenses.

It is appropriate and salutary that the Legislature now take this important step to honor the community's integrity and to protect one of Hawaii's proudest communities with essential service to intercept and eliminate alien species that all-too-easily may be transmitted without intent.

While it is our position that Government Obligation Bonds are an unnecessary drain on taxpayer dollars to pad private pockets with compounding interest, preferring a public banking system that accommodates sensible terms, lowers public costs, and benefits the public treasury itself without adding to taxpayer expense, it seems that the Legislature is dependent upon private banking interests. While a high priority should be to serve the public without this additional burden, the immediate concern for protecting an island community culture must be accommodated. Please support HB1929 in its present form, or modified as necessary to strengthen its effect.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina, Waimalu, O'ahu;

retired Hydrologist, Commission on Water Resource Management (25 years) and Planner at DHHL (10 years); former OEQC Executive Secretary, House legislative staffer, and intern at DoH and DPED.
former Chair of O'ahu Democratic Party Region 5 ('Aiea-Pearl City);

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:35:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nathan Leo Braulick

96826

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:36:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Virginia Tincher

Honolulu

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:01:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Keri Zacher and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

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Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Keri Zacher

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:52:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges, Maui, Hawaii

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:40:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracey Contreras	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Tracey Contreras and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka'i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka'i is known as a "kipuka" island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and 'aina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate

scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka'i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Molokai remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Molokai and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawaii and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage

maintained by Molokai Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka'i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more

comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Tracey Contreras

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:28:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1929 HD1 is a critical measure that would help to keep the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and other invasive pests not found on Moloka'i from devastating the food security, ecological integrity, cultural practices, and ways of life of this island.

The state needs to take responsibility and protect non-invaded islands from invasive species. Previous failure to take decisive action has already led to ecosystems being decimated in other areas of the State. This is shameful.

It is time for the state to take serious action to prevent the further spread of invasive species. Please PASS this very important legislation.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:54:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:50:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I respectfully submit testimony **in support of HB1929 HD1**, which provides funding to develop a plan to prevent the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and other invasive pests not currently present on Moloka‘i from spreading to the island.

Moloka‘i remains one of the few places in Hawai‘i where certain invasive species, including the coconut rhinoceros beetle, have not yet taken hold. Protecting the island from these destructive pests is critical to safeguarding **food security, ecological integrity, cultural practices, and the way of life that Moloka‘i communities have worked so hard to maintain.**

Invasive species like the **coconut rhinoceros beetle** can cause devastating damage to coconut palms and other important plants, threatening agricultural systems, native ecosystems, and culturally significant landscapes. Preventing their introduction is far more effective and far less costly than attempting to control or eradicate them after they become established.

Moloka‘i represents a **kīpuka of Hawaiian cultural practices and values**, where ‘ike kūpuna, mālama ‘āina, and community-based stewardship continue to guide the relationship between people and place. Protecting the island from invasive pests helps preserve not only its ecosystems, but also the cultural knowledge and practices that are vital to Hawai‘i’s resilience and future.

Funding a proactive plan to keep Moloka‘i free from the coconut rhinoceros beetle and other invasive species is a responsible and necessary investment in the health of our islands and the protection of future generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **PASS HB1929 HD1.**

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:43:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keili McEvilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Ke‘ili from Kaneohe and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ke'ili

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:17:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Van Eps	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Robin and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Robin Van Eps

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:17:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is J. Kēhau Lucas, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1929 HD1.

Moloka‘i remains one of Hawai‘i’s most intact cultural, ecological, and agricultural landscapes—a true kīpuka of traditional food systems and Native Hawaiian practices. The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) and other invasive pests pose a severe threat to food security, native ecosystems, traditional livelihoods, and cultural practices across the pae ‘āina.

Hawai‘i’s experience with invasive species shows that failing to invest in early detection and rapid response leads to exponentially greater environmental and financial damages. The State’s own reporting on biosecurity infrastructure identifies invasive species management as one of Hawai‘i’s most urgent needs. While CRB has caused severe ecological and agricultural damage on O‘ahu, Moloka‘i has so far remained free of established infestations—and must be protected proactively to avoid irreversible harm.

HB1929 HD1 would fund a scientifically grounded prevention and control plan, helping ensure that Moloka‘i’s ecosystems, cultural heritage, and food systems remain resilient for future generations.

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1929 HD1.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:44:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marshall Hung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Marshall Hung, and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marshall Hung

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:36:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:56:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support:)

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:24:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Lindborg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka'i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka'i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka'i and its people.

While Moloka'i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Sincerely,

Eric Lindborg, member of Hawaii Carbon Cashback and Citizens Climate Lobby

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:10:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise south	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Louise South and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Louise South

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Helen Cox and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka'i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka'i is known as a "kīpuka" island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and 'āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka'i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka'i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka'i and its people.

We have seen the devastation caused by the CRB on other islands. While Moloka'i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, we need a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Helen Cox

Kalaheo Kauai

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:11:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paolo Vidali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Paolo Vidali and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paolo Vidali

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:52:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Bo Breda and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bo Breda

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:45:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lorenzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka‘i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka‘i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai‘i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka‘i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Anne M. Lorenzo

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:15:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1929 HD1, to provide the resources needed to protect Moloka‘i from invasive species such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

Moloka‘i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to enact temporary rules restricting the transport of CRB host material to the island, but a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to reliably prevent invasive pests from establishing themselves. This measure would provide critical resources for the development of a comprehensive biosecurity plan for the island.

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:03:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of HB1929 HD1, which provides the resources needed to keep Moloka'i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Moloka'i is known as a "kīpuka" island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and 'āina continue to persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries. Notably, climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike agree that places like Moloka'i, still steeped in time-tested, indigenous wisdom, may hold the key to our future resilience as humanity contends with an ever-destabilizing climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka'i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of such invasive species on the island may permanently impact the ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and ways of life for Moloka'i and its people. This in turn may not only rob all of Hawai'i and the world of the unique beauty and cultural heritage maintained by Moloka'i Nui A Hina, but also inhibit us from learning and applying the knowledge and insight that has been maintained by its communities in the highly uncertain decades to come.

While Moloka'i has been able to get the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to promulgate temporary rules to restrict the movement of CRB host material to the island, a much more comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed to truly protect the island from the devastating impacts of CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui,

Paul Bernstein

Honolulu

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:32:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-1929-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:21:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in favor of HB1929. I believe whatever scientific method we can use to enhance our biosecurity in these times of climate change should be financed, researched and implemented. Mahalo for your consideration.