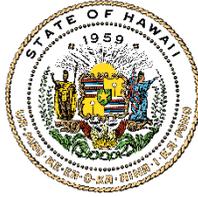


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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 HB1929 HD1**

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā  
Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i

Malaki 3, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 308

---

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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.

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**

**2:00 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1929, HD1, relating to biosecurity. 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. 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.



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

March 3, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1929, HD1**  
**RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, 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.



House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
2:00 PM Conference Room 325  
State Capitol

**SUBJECT: Testimony – In Support of HB1929 HD1 “Relating to Biosecurity”**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The O’ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) **strongly supports HB1929 HD1, Relating to Biosecurity.**

Moloka’i remains free of several highly damaging invasive species that are established on other islands. Preventing their introduction is far more effective and significantly less costly than attempting eradication after establishment. As experts in early detection and rapid response, we know that once invasive species gain a foothold, impacts to ecosystems, agriculture, cultural resources, and communities can be severe and long-lasting.

This bill takes proactive and practical steps to reduce risk by requiring a Moloka’i-specific biosecurity plan, funding construction of a plant and plant materials quarantine and inspection facility, and providing staffing to support those operations. Establishing on-island inspection capacity and clear response protocols will significantly strengthen interisland biosecurity and help close existing gaps.

Investing in prevention now will protect the natural, cultural and agricultural resources of Moloka’i and avoid far greater costs in the future. OISC respectfully urges the Committee to pass this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nate Dube  
Manager  
O’ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC)

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 9:16:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB1929.A

The devastation caused by the Coconut Rhino Beetle is obvious. What we need is a comprehensive plan to control this and other invasive species that are ruining our fragile ecosystem.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:48:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1929 HD1**

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 HD1.**

HB 1929 HD1 would provide funds for a plan to keep the coconut rhinoceros beetle 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, a kīpuka of Hawaiian cultural practices and values that may be the key to our islands’ and planet’s future resilience.

**SUPPORT and PASS HB 1929 HD1.** Mahalo.



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 3, 2026

2:00 PM

Conference Room 308

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

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Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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.

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:06:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 5:57:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Ho'olehua Homesteader's Assn.	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strong support as a homesteader on Molokai. Much needing on island inspection facility

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:24:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is horrific what is happening to farms on Kauai with the spread of CRB. Something the State was aware of for over 10 years but allowed it to go unaddressed and now we pay the price. Protect Molokai before it is too late. Molokai is the future

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB1929 HD1, Relating to Biosecurity  
Committee on Finance  
March 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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.

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*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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House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
2:00 PM Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB 1929 HD1**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB 1929 HD1**, *Relating to Biosecurity*, which provides funds to develop a biosecurity plan and inspection and quarantine staff and facilities for the Island of Molokai.

As noted in the bill, at this time, Molokai is free from the State's highest-impact invasive species, including coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), little fire ant (LFA), coqui frog, the pathogen that causes Rapid Ohia Death (ROD), and Miconia. The establishment of any one of these invasives could cause severe and possibly irreparable damage to Molokai's economy, natural and cultural resources, and way of life. Unfortunately, there is no Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) inspector or facility on Molokai, and no specific plan to prevent the introduction of these and other invasive species to the Island.

In 2025, Molokai residents successfully petitioned DAB for an interim administrative rule to protect Molokai from the introduction of CRB. The interim rule prohibits the movement of CRB host material to the Island. That rule will expire in September 2026, leaving Molokai vulnerable to CRB introduction.

The funds made available in HB 1929 will allow DAB to develop a biosecurity plan for Molokai's unique needs that prioritizes community and interagency engagement and provides the staffing and facilities needed to inspect and monitor high-risk commodities and pathways. Without specific action to protect Molokai from high-impact invasive species, it is likely only a matter of time until these species are introduced to the Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and to support Molokai's biosecurity and HB 1929 HD1.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Martin'.

Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P.S. Easley'.

Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



March 1, 2026

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

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

Aloha mai, my name is Jonnetta Peters, Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH), a non-profit environmental and conservation organization who serves to protect and save native species and their habitats. CCH is also the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of PASS HB1929 HD1**.

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** and keep the island of Moloka'i environmentally safe, food source secure, and the cultural integrity intact.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,



Jonnetta Peters  
Executive Director

**Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org)**

**web: [www.conservehawaii.org](http://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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Emily Sarasa |**

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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***

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:42:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CRB is having devastating impacts across the Ko‘olau Coast and throughout O‘ahu. We see how quickly its unmanaged spread has damaged a key resource used for cultural practices and food. Preventing CRB spread to Moloka‘i is an essential investment in a Hawaiian kīpuka where our local varieties of coconut can be maintained while we wait for a long term solution.

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:14:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 like all the other  
islands have been?**

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

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:52:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is [your name], and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1929 HD1, which provides critical resources to protect Moloka‘i from invasive pests—most urgently, the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

---

## **1. Moloka‘i’s Unique Cultural and Ecological Importance Is Widely Recognized**

Moloka‘i is the only major inhabited Hawaiian island where the coconut rhinoceros beetle has not yet been detected, according to the Hawai‘i Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

[\[staradvertiser.com\]](http://staradvertiser.com)

Cultural practitioners and invasive species experts emphasize that niu (coconut) is central not only to Hawaiian culture, but also to Moloka‘i’s identity, serving as a symbol of abundance, unity, and spiritual continuity.

Historic groves—including Hawai‘i’s oldest royal coconut groves planted by King Kamehameha V—are at risk should CRB become established. [\[staradvertiser.com\]](http://staradvertiser.com) [\[kpua.net\]](http://kpua.net), [\[oniwire.com\]](http://oniwire.com)

Experts affirm that the loss of coconut palms would be a “botanical, ecological devastation,” undermining food systems, cultural practice, and community identity. [\[staradvertiser.com\]](http://staradvertiser.com)

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## **2. CRB Represents a Severe and Well-Documented Threat to Moloka‘i’s Food Security and Way of Life**

CRB has already decimated palms on O‘ahu, spread to Kaua‘i, Maui, Hawai‘i Island, and most recently Lāna‘i, and now threatens Moloka‘i as the last uninfested island. [\[civilbeat.org\]](http://civilbeat.org),

[\[staradvertiser.com\]](http://staradvertiser.com)

The beetle does not only kill coconut trees—it also attacks crops essential to Moloka‘i’s food security, including kalo, banana, sugarcane, papaya, and pineapple, according to the U.S. Forest Service. [\[civilbeat.org\]](#)

Given Moloka‘i’s small population and high cost of food imports, residents rely heavily on locally grown and gathered food. In community testimony, residents emphasized that food is extremely expensive on Moloka‘i, and survival is closely tied to the health of local natural resources. [\[hawaii publ...cradio.org\]](#)

If CRB reaches Moloka‘i, it would not only devastate agriculture but permanently alter cultural practices tied to niu and other canoe crops that anchor the island’s identity. [\[kpua.net\]](#), [\[oniwire.com\]](#)

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### **3. Community Leaders Have Repeatedly Sounded the Alarm and Implored the State for Stronger Action**

Moloka‘i community advocates—including Lori Buchanan, Kunani Nihipali, and Ipo Nihipali—have made clear, urgent requests for the state to restrict movement of mulch, green waste, and other CRB host materials to the island. They warned that such materials pose a direct risk of introducing the beetle. [\[civilbeat.org\]](#), [\[hawaii publ...cradio.org\]](#)

Community petitions, hearings, and public testimony have repeatedly emphasized that state action to date has been insufficient to match the scale of the threat. [\[civilbeat.org\]](#), [\[hawaii publ...cradio.org\]](#)

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### **4. The Board of Agriculture’s Recent Emergency and Interim Rules Show Both the Severity of the Threat and the Need for Long-Term Solutions**

In 2025, the Hawai‘i Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity:

- Agreed that existing CRB protections for Moloka‘i were inadequate, concluding that conditions constitute an emergency. [\[hawaii publ...cradio.org\]](#)
- Advanced and later approved unprecedented rules restricting movement of plant material, mulch, soil, compost, and other CRB-host materials to Moloka‘i for one year. [\[themolokai...spatch.com\]](#), [\[kpua.net\]](#)
- Implemented protections described as “historic” by invasive species program leaders, given that such prohibitions are typically applied only to off-island imports—not between islands. [\[kpua.net\]](#), [\[oniwire.com\]](#)

These actions underscore that state officials recognize the seriousness of the threat but currently rely on temporary, piecemeal measures.

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## 5. Why HB1929 HD1 Is Critical Now

Despite the new temporary rules, experts and community groups agree that Moloka'i needs a comprehensive, long-term biosecurity plan to prevent CRB introduction and respond quickly if detection occurs. Temporary measures alone cannot:

- Maintain continuous monitoring,
- Address newly identified host materials,
- Strengthen community-based response capacity,
- Update rules as CRB behavior evolves across islands, or
- Offer long-term stability for agriculture, culture, and ecosystems.

HB1929 HD1 provides the structure, funding, and planning capacity necessary to build this long-term defense for Moloka'i.

Statewide leaders have acknowledged that the situation with CRB is “growing more dire” as infestations continue to spread across the islands.

Moloka'i's window for prevention is rapidly closing—and this measure fills a critical gap before the island faces irreversible harm. [\[staradvertiser.com\]](#), [\[kpua.net\]](#)

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## Conclusion

The evidence is overwhelming:

- CRB is spreading rapidly and has destroyed coconut populations across the state. [\[civilbeat.org\]](#), [\[staradvertiser.com\]](#)
- Moloka'i is uniquely vulnerable, both culturally and ecologically. [\[kpua.net\]](#), [\[oniwire.com\]](#)
- Community leaders have urgently petitioned for stronger protections. [\[civilbeat.org\]](#), [\[hawaiipubl...radio.org\]](#)
- State officials have implemented unprecedented emergency rules, yet long-term planning remains absent. [\[themolokai...spatch.com\]](#), [\[kpua.net\]](#)

For these reasons, HB1929 HD1 is necessary, timely, and grounded in both scientific evidence and community need.

I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'āina,

J. Kēhau Lucas

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:02:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Soo Sun Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 1929 and respectfully ask that you pass this bill.

Over the past few years on the North Shore of Oahu, CRB has gone from an occasional cause for curiosity in the compost pile to finding them every time we apply compost at the farm. The devastation of the dead coconut trees along the road by Dillingham Ranch should be fair warning to everyone that the presence of CRB utterly wipes out niu from the foodscape. If Moloka'i can stay CRB free it will be of benefit to the whole state, as a safe repository of niu.

Mahalo,

Soo Sun Choe

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:11:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Marshall Hung and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1.

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: 3/2/2026 9:21:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lana Brodziak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1.**

Moloka‘i is known as a “kīpuka” island, where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between and among people and ‘āina continue to persevere.

Cultural practitioners 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.

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.

A 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.

I urge the Committee to pass HB1929 HD1.

Respectfully submitted, Lana Brodziak

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:39:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Keala Fung and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Keala Fung

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:47:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Bo Breda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Bo Breda

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:48:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Peter Wilson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Peter Wilson

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:37:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is William Reese Liggett and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
William Reese Liggett

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:37:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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: 2/28/2026 7:35:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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: 3/1/2026 8:12:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Diane Ware and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Diane Ware Volcano 96785

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 12:13:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Irene and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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: 3/1/2026 10:20:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Mahalo for the opportunity to support strongly this effort to keep invasive species from traveling along our ignorance. We must provide communities with every leverage they can, or many more will fall to unending pathways of dealing with invasive species. My community, Waimānalo, is currently under siege from almost all of the major impacting invasive species, including Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles, Litter Fire Ants, Coqui Frogs and even Nettle Caterpillar. These are just a few of the species that we are actively combatting and losing ground to. Help Moloka‘i hold onto their homes, as they know and remember it, because their way of life, will change if we fail to protect them. Pass this bill and make the necessary changes including addressing the agencies who are failing our communities.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:10:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Keri Zacher and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Keri Zacher

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:21:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madison Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Madison Owens, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1926 HD1.

In recent months, we have seen continued efforts by the Navy to evade public scrutiny and community accountability, regarding its monitoring and clean-up of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This includes a refusal to explain countless “irregularities” in its water sampling and reporting, to properly maintain water samples needed to understand what may have poisoned its water system as well as O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, to answer questions posed at Fuel Tank Advisory Committee meetings, and most recently, to meet with the Red Hill Community Representation Initiative. Most concernedly, there also has been no meaningful investment in proactive remediation research that can actually clean the contamination within O‘ahu’s sole-source aquifer.

Clearly, we need much greater state-level investments in remediation research, independent groundwater modeling and environmental testing, objective expert assessments of Navy water testing procedures and data analyses, and public engagement, to protect our children, grandchildren and future generations from having to live with the constant threat of water insecurity and contamination. HB1926 HD1 would provide for these necessary investments, while making clear our expectation that the federal government will reimburse us for any expenses Hawai‘i incurs in cleaning up the Navy’s mess.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1926 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Madison Owens

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:47:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Michele Nihipali and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717



**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:46:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 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: 3/1/2026 1:05:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laila Moire-Selvage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Laila Moire-Selvage and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Laila Moire-Selvage, 96771

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 2:28:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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: 3/1/2026 3:03:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. CRB requires resources to address and if we commit to acting on this issue, we can defeat the infestation just like little red fire ants.

In our homestead community, we were able to use fire ant resources to address an infestation and we're really grateful. But now a CRB has begun to infest the community and the few niu and lolu left are under threat.

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 1, 2026

RE: House Bill 1929 HD1  
Measure Title: RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.  
Report Title: Molokai; Biosecurity; Quarantine Facility; Molokai Biosecurity Plan;  
DAB; GO Bonds; Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 1929 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:27:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANE CHOY FUJIMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

/Cmd+V

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Diane Choy Fujimura and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Diane Choy Fujimura

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 3:25:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Chuck Chimera, and I am a resident of Honoka‘a on Hawai‘i Island. I am writing in strong support of HB1929 HD1.

Living in Honoka‘a, I see every day how closely our well-being is tied to the health of our landscapes. In my own yard, I have planted loulu palms—Hawai‘i’s only native palm—as well as coconut palms. I think often about how vulnerable these and other culturally and agriculturally important plants are to invasive insects, plant diseases, and other introduced pests. We have already seen across the state how quickly a single species—like the coconut rhinoceros beetle—can spread and how difficult and costly it is to contain once established. But CRB is just one of many threats. New pests continue to arrive, each with the potential to disrupt food production, native ecosystems, and the everyday lives of our communities.

Moloka‘i remains one of the last islands without many of these damaging species. Protecting it should be a priority for all of us, regardless of which island we call home. Preventing the introduction of invasive species is far more effective and far less expensive than attempting to control or eradicate them after they become established. The loss of crops, native species, cultural plants, and the increased burden on local families and farmers would have ripple effects felt statewide.

HB1929 HD1 would provide the resources needed to create a coordinated, long-term biosecurity strategy tailored to Moloka‘i’s unique circumstances. Investing in prevention now helps safeguard agriculture, native biodiversity, cultural practices, and local food security for generations to come.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1929 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Chuck Chimera  
Honoka‘a, Hawai‘i

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 3:18:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Sharde Freitas and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1.

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,

Sharde Freitas

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:01:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:55:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Stankis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Christopher Stankis , and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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 developing 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,  
Christopher Stankis

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:45:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am writing today in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1929 HD1.

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 share testimony.  
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:36:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sydney Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Sydney Chung and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1.

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,

Sydney Chung

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:54:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Christy Shaver and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1.

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

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:51:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 for this bill 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 irreversible devastation this pest inflicts — the collapse of niu (coconut) 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 (sennit cordage) 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 remarkably free of many invasive species that have already done significant damage elsewhere in the State. That is not an accident — it reflects the island's deep commitment to caring for its ‘āina. But that protection is fragile. The island currently 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 represent the proactive investment that prevents 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: 3/1/2026 9:15:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donelle Sawyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Donelle Sawyer and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Donelle Sawyer

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:38:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:01:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Kite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Richard Kite and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Richard Kite

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:14:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1.

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,  
Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**HB-1929-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:12:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Seuta'atia Cochran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo,

Seuta'atia Cochran

Ewa Beach, 'Iolani Schools