



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1929 HD1 SD1

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai
(Senate Committee on Ways and Means)

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

‘Apelila 8, 2026

10:02 AM

Lumi 211

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1929 HD1 SD1**, which appropriates funds to establish a plant and plant materials quarantine facility on Moloka‘i as well as a Moloka‘i biosecurity advisory board to 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.

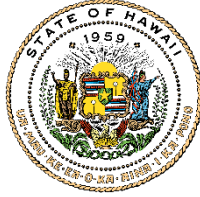
As invasive species continue to spread across Hawai‘i, islands like Moloka‘i that remain free from certain invasive species can serve as pu‘uhonua (refuge) for native

species. Protecting Moloka‘i preserves biodiversity and safeguards subsistence and traditional and customary practices. Establishing a Moloka‘i biosecurity advisory board to develop a biosecurity plan is key to preventing spread of invasive species. Prioritizing community engagement in the development of the Moloka‘i biosecurity plan ensures its implementation reflects local knowledge, subsistence priorities, and cultural values. This process 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 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
10:02 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

House Bill 1929, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 establishes a Moloka'i Biosecurity Advisory Board (MBAB); requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), in consultation with the Advisory Board, to develop a Moloka'i Biosecurity Plan (MBP) to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species present elsewhere in the State; and authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the construction and staffing of a biosecurity inspection and quarantine facility for plants, plant materials, livestock, and other domestic animals on Moloka'i. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department supports efforts to strengthen Moloka'i's biosecurity protections and to establish the MBAB to advise DAB on the development of the MBP. The Department recommends that it be included as a member of the MBAB, and that representation from the Moloka'i/Maui Invasive Species Committee (MoMISC) also be included.

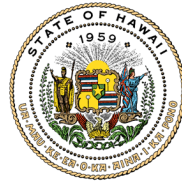
The interim rule developed in response to the coconut rhinoceros beetle on Moloka'i underscored the importance of having island-specific biosecurity plans. The Department recommends that the MBP align with the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's statewide biosecurity plan, while being tailored to the unique conditions of Moloka'i.

The Department also supports funding for a DAB biosecurity inspection facility on Moloka'i, along with permanent staffing. The Department further advocates for each island to have at least one biosecurity inspection facility to screen incoming goods for potential pests.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
10:02 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1929, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1929, HD1, SD1. This measure establishes a Molokai Biosecurity Advisory Board; requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department), with the advice of the Advisory Board, 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, plant materials, livestock, and other domestic animals inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Molokai and facility staffing; establishes positions; appropriates funds; and is effective 7/1/2050. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

The Department is supportive of the changes to this measure that ensure community participation when creating a biosecurity plan unique to Molokai. As the island that is currently the least impacted by many of the current pests and invasive species elsewhere in the State, an island specific plan with community support will further enhance implementation of the Department's biosecurity efforts to prevent the further spread and introduction of pests and invasive species into Molokai. The creation of positions will alleviate the biggest biosecurity gap for Molokai, which is the lack of on-island Departmental biosecurity staff. The Department is appreciative of the amendments to enable the proposed facility to also manage livestock and other domestic animal inspections, as these are key components to biosecurity on Molokai.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
IN SUPPORT OF HB1929 HD1 SD1
April 8, 2026, 10:02 a.m., Room 211 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 SD1 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 SD1.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB1929 HD1 SD1, 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 SD1, which establishes a Moloka'i Biosecurity Advisory Board, requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), with the advice of the Advisory Board, 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. Additionally, this bill authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for a plants, plant materials, livestock, and other domestic animals inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Moloka'i and facility staffing, establishes positions, and appropriates funds.

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 SD1.

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 WAYS AND MEANS

April 8, 2026

10:02 AM

Conference Room 211

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1929 HD1 SD1**: RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB1929 HD1 SD1**, which would provide critical funding for the development of a community-informed 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, and community-informed 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 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
10:02 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1929 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB 1929 SD1**, *Relating to Biosecurity*, which provides funds to establish and operate the Molokai Biosecurity Advisory Board, and 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 SD1.

Aloha,

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

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

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

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



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April 8, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1929, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:02 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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, SD1, 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.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:47:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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 Coconut Rhino Beetle is a plague on Hawaii's palm trees. We cannot afford to let this and other pests continue to invade our islands. Molokai is one of the last CRB free islands.

Funding is needed to maintain that freedom.

[HB1929 HD1 SD1](#) would provide funds for a community-informed 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 island – a kīpuka of Hawaiian cultural practices and values that may be the key to our islands' and planet's future resilience.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:38:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support funding for bio security. There is such a lack of inspections and enforcement we are overrun with invasives.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:42:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1929 HB RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:01:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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, deferments, and complete inaction?

On March 30, just a few days ago, Hawaii News Now reported that a Waialua woman found over 60 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle grubs in a new bag of soil purchased at the Lowe's in Waipahu!

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2026/03/31/horrifying-oahu-woman-finds-crb-newly-purchased-bag-soil/>

Take away the red carpet! This bill needs to pass...like, *YESTERDAY!*

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:06:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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 - 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:33:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:13:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:20:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Kau'i Young and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929 HD1 SD1, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kau'i Young

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:42:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Christy Shaver and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Christy Shaver

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:54:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is JJ Wassell and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
JJ Wassell

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:25:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tia pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Tia Pearson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Tia Pearson

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

HB1929 HD1 SD1 — Molokaʻi Biosecurity Plan Funding

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 10:02 AM — Room 211

Submitted by: Kealii. Pang, Ph.D. | mokumanamana@gmail.com | 808-349-3636

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D. I am a retired federal biologist with 26 years of service at the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where invasive species prevention and ecosystem protection were central to my work. I submit this testimony as a private citizen. It does not represent the positions of any organization with which I am affiliated. I strongly support HB1929 HD1 SD1.

My Connection to Molokaʻi

Over 35 years as a conservationist, I have spent considerable time on Molokaʻi — hiking the valleys of Wailau, Hālawā, and Pelekunu, walking the shores of Moʻomomī and Pāpohāku, and visiting the storied lands of Kalaupapa, where my own ancestors were sent during the 19th century. These places are not abstractions to me. They are part of my family history and my life's work.

I also had the privilege of meeting landowners who work with the East Molokaʻi Watershed Partnership to protect the island's most precious natural resources. That partnership exemplifies the kind of community-grounded, collaborative stewardship that makes Molokaʻi's conservation model worth protecting.

I also had the privilege of knowing the late kūpuna Kauila Reyes. A resident near the Kapuaiwa Coconut Grove, she shared with me the deep history of that grove and its significance to Hawaiian history and to Molokaʻi. I would not want to see the CRB decimate that irreplaceable grove — a living monument to the people of Hawaiʻi and the history of Molokaʻi Nui A Hina.

Molokaʻi as a Kīpuka

Molokaʻi stands apart in the Hawaiian archipelago. As a kīpuka — a place of cultural continuity and resilience — it sustains Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships with ʻāina that have persisted through centuries of change. Climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike recognize that the indigenous knowledge maintained by Molokaʻi's communities may be essential to how we navigate an increasingly unstable future.

Protecting that kīpuka is not only a matter of cultural preservation. It is a matter of planetary resilience.

The Biosecurity Threat Is Real and Urgent

My career gave me a direct understanding of how quickly invasive species can undo what takes generations to build. The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is already established on

O'ahu and poses a severe threat to the coconut palms, breadfruit, and other culturally and ecologically significant trees that define Moloka'i's landscape. A CRB introduction on Moloka'i would not be reversible.

The Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity has promulgated temporary rules restricting movement of CRB host material to the island. That is a necessary first step, but temporary rules are not a strategy. Moloka'i needs a comprehensive, long-term biosecurity plan developed with and by its community.

Why This Bill Matters

HB1929 HD1 SD1 provides the resources to develop exactly that: a community-informed biosecurity plan that reflects the values, priorities, and knowledge of Moloka'i's people. Effective biosecurity is not just about inspection protocols and regulatory authority. It requires community trust, local buy-in, and sustained investment. This bill funds the foundation for all of that.

Food security, ecological integrity, and cultural practice are not separate concerns on Moloka'i. They are inseparable. A CRB infestation would threaten all three simultaneously. The cost of prevention is far smaller than the cost of response — and some losses would be permanent.

A Note from My Professional Experience

Throughout my federal career, the most effective conservation outcomes I witnessed were those where local communities were partners from the beginning, not afterthoughts. The community-informed approach this bill funds reflects that lesson. Moloka'i's people know their island. A biosecurity plan built with them will work better and last longer than one imposed from outside.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1929 HD1 SD1.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Kaimukī, O'ahu

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:30:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1929 HD1 SD1, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:30:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is William Reese Liggett and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
William Reese Liggett

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:30:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Nanea Lo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:50:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Noel Shaw and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Noel

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 12:54:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Takayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Casey Takayama and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Casey Takayama

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 3:32:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Jodi Rodar and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:24:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Kehau Lucas and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:35:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:04:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB1929 HD1 SD1 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:09:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, 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.

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Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Anne M. Lorenzo

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:14:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1, 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 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 12:53:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:19:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully request your support of this measure to protect Moloka'i from invasive pests.

Mahalo nui.

HB-1929-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:51:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Diane Choy Fujimura and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929 HD1 SD1**, to provide the resources needed to keep Moloka‘i secure in the face of looming, ever-present biosecurity threats.

Our island way of life has changed rapidly and not in the best of ways. Protect these precious life-sustaining practices that are still alive on Molokai. Malama Molokai!

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, community-informed biosecurity plan for the island.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1929 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Diane Choy Fujimura