

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

9:30 AM

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

Chair Chun, Vice Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1929, 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 and 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. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY February 18, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1929
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

House Bill 1929 requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) 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 general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for a plants and plant materials inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Molokai; and appropriates funds for facility staffing. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department supports developing a Molokai Biosecurity Plan. The process that emerged related to the coconut rhinoceros beetle interim rule underscored the need for such a plan on every island. The Department recommends that this plan reference the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's statewide biosecurity plan and be tailored to Molokai's specific conditions.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



February 13, 2026

To: Chair Cory Chun, Vice Chair Mattias Kusch, and the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Subject: **HB1929**, Relating to Biosecurity

Aloha,

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on this bill. We from Hawai'i Food + Policy are **in support of HB1929** and the outline that this bill will provide in order to protect Molokai's biosecurity with funds for a new quarantine facility and further plant inspection upon arrival to the island.

HB1929 helps Molokai prevent the arrival of invasive species that could potentially be damaging to the food systems and ecological communities on the island. Invasives are among the greatest threats to the security of food, environment, Native Hawaiian practices, and the overall economy and way of life, due to competition, predation, and disease (2). Molokai is one of the most isolated islands, and therefore vulnerable to the economic and ecological damage that would be caused by invasive species arrival. In the past, there has been a lack of caution and urgency as invasives arrived to the islands, until it was too late (1). Having a good response to invasives is important, but preventing their arrival is much more productive, saving money, time, and our environment in the long run.

HB1929 recognizes the importance of secondary, local, screening programs, especially for critical species at present, including the coconut rhinoceros beetle, fire ant, and coqui frog. Creating and maintaining a dedicated plant inspection and quarantine facility on Molokai will only serve to further prevent the potential of invasives. Secondary screening has proved key in past instances, as the Dept. of Ag has on occasion not had enough authority or attention to catch invasive entrances to the islands (3).

This bill is key in supporting the environmental, human, and economic health of Molokai.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
The Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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

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

1. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/hawaii-launches-online-data-portal-invasive-species/>

2. <https://sierraclubhawaii.org/invasive-species>

3. <https://sierraclubhawaii.org/blog/invasive-species-may-2024#:~:text=Back%20in%20February%202023%2C%20Department,on%20implementing%20the%20proposed%20amendments.>



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

February 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1929
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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, 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.

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



House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
9:30 AM Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1929

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB 1929**, *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.

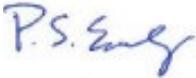
The funds made available in HB 1929 will allow DAB to develop a biosecurity plan for Molokai's unique needs that prioritizes community and interagency engagement and provides the staffing and facilities needed to inspect and monitor high-risk commodities and pathways. Without specific action to protect 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.

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

KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I

Testimony in Strong Support for to H.B. 1929

Relating to Biosecurity

Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

February 18, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Healani Sonoda-Pale, and I submit this testimony on behalf of Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i in strong support of H.B. 1929.

Moloka‘i remains one of the last islands in Hawai‘i not yet overrun by invasive species that have devastated other islands. That is not something we can take lightly. The introduction of coconut rhinoceros beetle to Lāna‘i, even after prior inspection, made it clear that stronger, on-island safeguards are essential.

Moloka‘i is an island where many residents practice subsistence lifestyles and depend directly on healthy forests, fertile soils, nearshore fisheries, and clean waters to feed their families. The introduction of invasive species would not only damage ecosystems, but threaten food security and the well-being of the community.

Moloka‘i currently lacks dedicated plant inspection staff and a quarantine facility, leaving the island vulnerable. Prevention is far more responsible — and far less costly — than eradication after establishment.

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i respectfully urges this Committee to pass H.B. 1929.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Healani Sonoda-Pale

On behalf of Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminka
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB1929.**

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB1929, Relating to Biosecurity
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
February 18, 2026 at 9:30 am
Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports HB1929, which requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity 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 Moloka'i's protection 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.

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Kris Billeter Anne S. Carter Ka'iulani de Silva Daniel J. Dunn Dave Eadie Jan Elliott Matt Emerson
Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Puni Jackson David Lassner Brett MacNaughton (Chair)
Janet Montag Alicia Moy Katherine G. Richardson John R. Sabas Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern Yamanaka

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana
Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle



LATE

February 17, 2026

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

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

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. **CCH STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.**

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,



Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director

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

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

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

Treasurer: Mashuri Waite, PhD |

Directors: Erica Amundson, Puanani Anderson-Fung, Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, Steven Lee Montgomery, PhD,
Emily Sarasa |

Executive Director: Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters **Operations and Events Manager:** Leah Kocher

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

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:50:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nako?olani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:59:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

.



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2026

9:30 AM

Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB1929: RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB1929**, which provides 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
9:30 AM Conference Room 325
State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The O’ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) **strongly supports HB1929, 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

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 11:38:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Molokai is one of the few places where a number of insect pests and diseases that impact food crops and native plants have not yet arrived. Funding to develop a clear protocol for protecting natural resources on Molokai is an important step in maintaining that status.

Please support HB1929. Mahalo.

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 6:10:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 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

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 8:03:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaeralee-Tiare Manosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1929. As a Molokai resident, I believe it is best to be proactive in a situation that could have a devastating effect on Molokai. I kindly request that you support this bill as well and help Molokai protect ourselves against invasive species. Mahalo!

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 9:55:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of bio-security measures for Molokai, while each island should develop robust bio-security measures to combat harmful invasive species, Molokai especially needs this protection as residents endure some of the highest costs of living in the pae aina and live off the abundant natural resources that need to be protected from invasive species. This is common sense legislation and funding to protect Molokai

Mahalo,

Councilmember Tamara Paltin - West Maui

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:22:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 12:18:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zaidarene Place	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I am in support of HB1929,

We are unable to bring in any plants due to spread of invasive species. This will allow for staff to do better inspections and a quarantine facility so that we can have plants/soils/etc. shipped to Molokai in the future and not worry about infestations.

Mahalo.

Zaida Place

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:16:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimana Ritte-Camara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai me ke aloha Pumehana!!

My name is Leimana Ritte-Camara born and raised on Molokai Nui a Hina. I am in support of Bill HB1929 to develop a Molokai Biosecurity Plan by appropriating funds to Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to ensure Moloka'i has extra security and steps in place to stop the spread of invasive plants, animals and diseases including the coconut rhinoceros beetle and other threatening species. We have been trying our best to protect Molokai and need more help now more than ever. Moloka'i future depends on protecting what we have so that the next generations can experience Moloka'i like is supposed to be. Mahalo nui and ke aloha o ka 'aina ia kakou!!

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 6:30:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Walter Ritte and live on the island of Molokai. This bill is a great idea that can work. We are already trying to save our Niu Trees, and have a community that is down to the idea that we need to preserve our traditional natrual rewsources!

Walter Ritte

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:26:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Christy Shaver and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Christy Shaver

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:36:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D. I am a resident of Kaimukī and President of a nonprofit dedicated to Native Hawaiian cultural education. I am also a retired federal biologist who headed the invasive species branch for my agency.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

My support for this bill is informed by my direct professional experience with the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB). I led my agency's response in Guam, where I saw firsthand the irreversible destruction this pest inflicts on entire island ecosystems. Later, in December 2013, our team assisted the Navy in the very first detection of CRB in Hawai'i at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Cultural and Biological Catastrophe

For Hawaiians, the *niu* (coconut) is far more than a landscape feature; it is a primary "Canoe Plant" that provides food, water, and fiber.

- **The Sacred 'Aha:** The fibers of the coconut husk are braided into 'aha (sennit cordage). This material was so vital to Hawaiian society—used to lash together voyaging canoes and sacred hale—that a cultural kapu was placed on its creation. The making of the 'aha was a sacred task reserved for men, illustrating its importance to Hawaiian traditions and governance.
- **Ecological Triage:** In Guam, the loss of the *niu* led to the collapse of local bird habitats and a total loss of traditional food security. Without a comprehensive biosecurity plan, Moloka'i faces the same fate.

Why Moloka'i Needs This Bill

Having been on the ground when CRB first arrived on O'ahu, I can tell you that reactive measures are never enough. Once a breeding population is established, the cost of management skyrockets. Moloka'i remains a unique kīpuka of cultural and biological health; we have a rare opportunity to prevent a repeat of the O'ahu and Guam disasters by funding a proactive, island-specific biosecurity plan now.

We are not just protecting trees; we are protecting the fiber of our culture. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929.

Mahalo nui,

Kealii Pang, Ph.D. Kaimukī, O‘ahu

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:38:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929**.

Moloka‘i is widely recognized as a *kīpuka* island—a place where Native Hawaiian values, practices, and relationships between people and ‘āina have continued to persevere despite the profound changes experienced across Hawai‘i over the last two centuries. Climate scientists and cultural practitioners alike have acknowledged that places such as Moloka‘i, where time-tested Indigenous knowledge remains deeply rooted, may hold essential lessons for resilience as humanity confronts an increasingly destabilized climate.

Unfortunately, Moloka‘i remains at constant risk of exposure to potentially devastating invasive pests, including the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). The introduction and establishment of invasive species on the island could permanently damage its ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and overall way of life. Such an outcome would not only endanger Moloka‘i and its people, but also deprive all of Hawai‘i—and the world—of the unique cultural heritage and stewardship embodied by Moloka‘i Nui a Hina, while foreclosing critical opportunities to learn from the wisdom its communities have carefully maintained for generations.

While Moloka‘i has successfully worked with the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish temporary rules restricting the movement of CRB host material to the island, these short-term measures are insufficient. A comprehensive, long-term biosecurity strategy is urgently needed to meaningfully protect Moloka‘i from the irreversible impacts of CRB and other invasive pests.

HB1929 would provide critical resources to develop and implement a much-needed biosecurity plan tailored specifically to Moloka‘i’s unique ecological and cultural context. This proactive investment is essential to safeguarding the island’s future and honoring the responsibility we share to protect places that continue to model sustainable relationships between people and the natural world.

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

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:48:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

/Cmd+V

/C

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

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

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Diane Choy Fujimura

md+V

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:57:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, am e Committee Members,

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

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Anne M. Lorenzo

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:30:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



SIERRA CLUB

CAPITOLWATCH

Aloha e Donelle,

One of the worst bills we have ever seen, seeking to allow the Board of Land and Natural Resources to privatize beaches and other public lands without even considering impacts to public use, access, and enjoyment, has a hearing this [Wednesday at 1:01pm before the Senate Water, Land, Culture and the Arts Committee in room 224](#). Please submit testimony on this Governor's package measure, SB3148 - sample verbiage below - and let our legislators know that the DLNR's attempt to abdicate its public trust kuleana is simply unacceptable.

Fortunately, there are also some good bills that could also use your voice tomorrow as well! See below for more details, including sample testimony and testimony instructions.

Please, take a moment to submit testimony on these measures - and be sure to [sign up for action alerts](#) at hawaiicapitolwatch.org if you have not already, for more high-priority bills that will need your voice this week!

What these bills do

● [SB3148](#) seeks to allow public lands - including beaches - to be leased or otherwise used exclusively by private entities like hotels and resorts, without any consideration of potential impacts to public use, access, or enjoyment.

🦋 [HB2101](#) would prohibit the commercial collection of marine life for the aquarium trade, and prevent the Division of Aquatic Resources from re-opening the aquarium collection industry after it was shut down for most of the last decade.

🦟 [HB1929](#) would provide funds for a biosecurity plan to protect Moloka'i from invasive pests

found elsewhere in the islands.

 [HB2581 HD1](#) would more clearly define what constitutes a “disaster” for which the Governor’s and mayors’ sweeping emergency powers can be used to address.

Why this is important

 [SB3148](#) seeks to allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to treat private and exclusive hotel and resort uses of public lands and beaches as "public uses" under the public trust doctrine, entitled to a favorable presumption equal to or superseding the public's right to use, access, and enjoy these places. In other words, this bill would justify the privatization of our public beaches as consistent with the public trust.

 [HB2101](#) would make it clear that the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources must not waste its extremely limited time and resources developing, implementing, monitoring, and enforcing proposed regulations to reopen the commercial aquarium collection industry, which has already been shut down for nearly a decade - and to instead focus on much more important priorities, as our fisheries and reefs face unprecedented threats.

 [HB1929](#) 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, a kīpuka of Hawaiian cultural practices and values that may be the key to our islands’ and planet’s future resilience.

 [HB2581 HD1](#) would ensure that executive branch leaders do not arbitrarily call long-standing and complex societal challenges, such as unaffordable housing or illegal activity, as “emergencies” in order to suspend our environmental, cultural protection, good governance, procurement, and labor laws indefinitely - as the Governor attempted to do with his emergency proclamation on (un)affordable housing.

Sample Testimony for SB3148

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

My name is [your name] and I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to SB3148.

This Governor's package bill is a shameless, confused attempt by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to ignore the public's right to use, access, and enjoy public lands and beaches, when allowing hotels and resorts to lease and exclude the public from such spaces for decades or longer.

As described in this measure's justification sheet, this bill intends to make private activities listed under HRS §171-10 equal to public use under the public trust doctrine. Doing so would create a favorable presumption in favor of hotel and resort uses of public lands and beaches under the public trust - even when such uses would exclude the public.

In other words, the DLNR, through this bill, is trying to make the privatization of our beaches a default option under the public trust.

It is dumbfounding to see the primary trustee agency for our public trust lands, waters, and resources seek the ability to sell our public beaches to the highest bidder, for generations at a time. Unfortunately, this is not the first time the DLNR has failed to demonstrate an understanding of the public trust, its duties under the trust, or the incredible harms that it can inflict and has inflicted, through the abdication of its trust obligations to present and future generations.

Please do not let the DLNR sell out our public beaches and undermine the rights of our present and future generations under the public trust, for nothing more than its administrative convenience. Please **HOLD** this terribly misguided measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

[your name]

Sample Testimony for HB2101

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Hashem, Vice Chairs Perruso and Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Donelle Sawyer and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2101.

After years of controversy and concern, including from Native Hawaiian subsistence fishing communities, the aquarium collection industry was finally shut down by court order in 2017 - and has remained shut down for the better part of the last decade. Please enact this now longstanding status quo into law, and make clear that Hawai'i's waters should not be reopened for the ornamental aquarium trade, as the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is currently proposing.

Reef fish - including and particularly the herbivorous species targeted by aquarium collectors - are essential components of a healthy nearshore ecosystem, including the coral reefs that protect our shorelines from rising seas and coastal erosion. They are also critical components of traditional and customary subsistence fishing practices, have cultural and spiritual significance, and are a precious resource for residents and visitors alike.

When the industry was still active, commercial aquarium collection - driven by the immense profit to be made by selling certain reef species for purely ornamental purposes - had a disproportionate and significant impact on our nearshore waters. The removal of hundreds of thousands if not millions of reef fish per year undermined coral reef biodiversity and ecological functions; compromised our cultural, subsistence, and recreational practices; and promoted the belief that our public trust resources should be prioritized for corporate exploitation. Accordingly, the majority of Hawai'i residents as well as the Board of Land and Natural

Resources itself has voiced support for the permanent ban of commercial aquarium collection in Hawai‘i’s waters.

Nonetheless, DAR is now moving forward with rules that would immediately reopen West Hawai‘i Island’s waters to commercial aquarium collection, and that lay the groundwork to do the same throughout Hawai‘i. DAR’s justification for this costly, time-consuming endeavor is that state law somehow mandates it to do so. It is now incumbent on the legislature to make clear that DAR should not and must not expend more of its limited resources attempting to re-start an already defunct industry, and instead focus on addressing our myriad and much more pressing marine resource management needs.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Committees to **PASS** HB2101. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

Sample Testimony for HB1929

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is [your name] and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Donelle Sawyer

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:37:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kēhau Lucas, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1929.

HB1929 is a necessary and evidence-based response to the ongoing biosecurity threats facing Moloka‘i. The island’s relative ecological intactness and the continuity of Native Hawaiian land-based practices make it uniquely vulnerable to invasive species introductions—and uniquely important to protect.

1. Moloka‘i’s ecological and cultural systems are recognized as critical to statewide resilience.

State agencies, climate scientists, and cultural practitioners consistently identify Moloka‘i as one of Hawai‘i’s most intact biocultural systems. The Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, the State’s Climate Adaptation Strategy, and multiple peer-reviewed studies emphasize that communities maintaining traditional land-and-resource relationships are essential to climate resilience and food security.

Moloka‘i’s continued reliance on subsistence practices, intact nearshore ecosystems, and community-based stewardship makes it a model for adaptive capacity—one that benefits the entire state.

2. The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) poses a documented, severe threat to Hawai‘i’s ecosystems and agriculture.

The CRB is classified by the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as a serious invasive pest capable of destroying coconut, palm, and other critical plant species. Since its detection on O‘ahu in 2013, CRB has caused:

- widespread damage to coconut and palm species,
- significant economic losses in landscaping and agriculture, and
- long-term ecological impacts due to the loss of canopy-forming species.

If CRB were to establish on Moloka‘i, the island’s native ecosystems, cultural practices, and food systems would face irreversible harm.

3. Temporary rules currently in place are insufficient for long-term protection.

HDOA and the Hawai‘i Board of Agriculture have adopted temporary rules restricting the movement of CRB host material to Moloka‘i. However, temporary rules:

- expire after a limited period,
- do not constitute a comprehensive biosecurity strategy, and
- cannot address the full range of invasive species threats facing the island.

HB1929 fills this gap by directing the development of a long-term, island-specific biosecurity plan, consistent with the Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity Plan and the State’s statutory obligations under HRS Chapter 150A.

4. The State has a constitutional and statutory duty to protect natural and cultural resources.

Article XI, Sections 1 and 9 of the Hawai‘i Constitution require the State to conserve and protect Hawai‘i’s natural resources for present and future generations. The State also has obligations under the public trust doctrine and under Article XII, Section 7 to safeguard Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Preventing the introduction of invasive species—particularly those with known, severe impacts—is a core component of these duties.

Conclusion

HB1929 provides the necessary framework and resources to protect Moloka‘i from invasive species threats that could permanently alter its ecosystems, cultural practices, and community well-being. It aligns with constitutional mandates, scientific evidence, and statewide biosecurity priorities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha ‘āina,

J. Kēhau Lucas

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:51:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

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

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
William Reese Liggett

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:17:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB1929. This bill would provide funds for a biosecurity plan to protect Moloka‘i from invasive pests found elsewhere in the islands.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:24:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asia Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Asia Leong and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Asia Leong

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:28:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB1929.

This bill will strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity by improving inspection and quarantine for plants and plant materials. Preventing invasive species from entering the state is far more effective and less costly than trying to control them after they arrive. HB1929 is a practical step to protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and communities.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1929.

Sincerely,

Deborah Umiamaka

Hawai'i Island Resident

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:49:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I found a coconut rhinoceros beetle in my driveway yesterday and today I found a day mosquito in the house. Auwe!

While we battle many invasive pests on Oahu, we can stop exporting our problems.

Let's save Molokai!

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:14:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support!

LATE**HB-1929**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:30:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Jaspers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of HB1929**, which would require and fund the development of a comprehensive **Molokai Biosecurity Plan** and support the construction and staffing of a **plant and plant materials quarantine and inspection facility** on Molokai. This bill would help prevent the spread of harmful invasive species that are not currently present on Molokai but threaten our island's agriculture, natural environment, cultural resources, and community well-being.

Molokai remains free of many destructive pests such as coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ant, coqui frog, rapid 'ōhi'a death fungi, and miconia. Establishing strong biosecurity safeguards would **protect our island's unique ecosystems and local food systems** by addressing high-risk pathways for invasive species and ensuring proper inspection, quarantine, and rapid response protocols are in place.

Additionally, investing in a local quarantine facility and trained staff will build capacity right on Molokai — reducing dependency on off-island resources and strengthening community resilience against invasive threats.

For these reasons, I urge you to **support HB1929** and safeguard Molokai's environment, agriculture, and way of life.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:00:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua'ala Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

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

Sincerely,

Pua‘ala Pascua

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:34:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Herrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Janice Herrick. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janice Herrick

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:57:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Guy Kudo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

Please PASS HB1929.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:12:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Members,

I definitely support SB1929.

Invading organisms and pests are ruining our island's vegetation. There is no reason to destroy Molokai as well. They have avoided the invasives so far. Let's help them keep it that way.

Mahalo for protecting Molokai.

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:18:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

Please support bio-security for precious Moloka'i by PASSING HB1929.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:37:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Penaroza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members, my name is Brittany Penaroza, and I strongly support HB1929 to protect Moloka‘i from invasive pests. Moloka‘i is a living stronghold of cultural practice, community resilience, and ‘āina-based stewardship—something our state should be investing in and safeguarding, not leaving exposed.

HB1929 would provide resources for a long-term biosecurity plan to prevent harmful invasive species from establishing on Moloka‘i and to strengthen prevention capacity. Prevention is far more effective and far less costly than trying to contain or eradicate invasive species after they spread—especially when food security, native ecosystems, and community ways of life are on the line.

For these reasons, I urge you to PASS HB1929. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for taking real action to protect Moloka‘i and the future of Hawai‘i.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:40:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina ZaZueta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Kristina ZaZueta and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kristina ZaZueta

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:44:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 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.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:47:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika Hultquist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Arika Hultquist, and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

This bill 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, a kīpuka of Hawaiian cultural practices and values that may be the key to our islands’ and planet’s future resilience.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:08:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

Aloha, I'm Jennifer Mitchell from the big island of Hawaii, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

Molokai-where Native Hawaiian values, practices and relationships between and among the people and 'aina continue tp persevere, despite the dynamic changes our islands have seen over the last two centuries.

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

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

Mahalo,

Jennifer Mitchell

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:09:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxane Keliikipikaneokolohaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support funds being allocated for a biosecurity plan to protect Molokai from invasive pests.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:24:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malcolm mackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Malcolm Mackey, and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Malcolm Mackey

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:29:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

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

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Keri Zacher

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:32:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:43:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB1929 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, a kīpuka of Hawaiian cultural practices and values that may be the key to our islands’ and planet’s future resilience. Please PASS this very important legislation.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:17:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Do the necessary actions before too late.

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:28:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Princeton Yamaguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Princeton Yamaguchi and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Princeton Yamaguchi

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:38:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

I am writing to STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

As you know, 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 the CRB and other invasive pests. This measure would accordingly provide critical resources for the development of a much-needed biosecurity plan for the island.

The above all stated, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1929. Mahalo nui for hearing my plea..

Sincerely,

Susan Bambara
Kurtistown

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:54:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Michelei Tancayo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Michelei Tancayo

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:03:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leina Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Leina Fisher and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Leina Fisher

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:46:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:32:30 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Maui County, I support HB1929 to provide Moloka'i with funds to protect the island from invasive pests. With all the invasive species wreaking havoc on so many important plants, including food crops, throughout Hawai'i, biosecurity is more important than ever. Please support this bill. Mahalo!

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:50:47 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

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

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Keala Fung
Honolulu Hawaii

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:49:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Oba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Kyle Oba and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kyle Oba

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:50:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is Breanne Fong and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Breanne Fong

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 3:21:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taacia Kukui Akana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

‘O wau nō ‘o Kukui, he kupa ‘ai au no Waimānalo. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Na‘u mau,

T. Kukui Akana

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:39:47 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Committee Members,

My name is E. Kaualilinoe Kama and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1929.

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 the 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

E. Kaulilinoe Kama

LATE

HB-1929

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:54:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1929.

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI