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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA

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. KANAKAʻOLE
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. KANAKAʻOLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WAYS AND MEANS
and
JUDICIARY

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2885, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 2885, Senate Draft 1 establishes mandatory handling and storage rules for commercial and residential coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material to reduce the spread of CRB within infested zones and to prevent spread into non-infested zones beginning on 1/1/2027. **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 the enhanced CRB management policies outlined in this measure. The two main management methods for mechanical or heat treatment are somewhat effective at reducing CRB in the host material; there are additional science-backed methods for CRB reduction that could be considered. The Hawaii CRB Response project lists and explains them here: https://www.crbhawaii.org/treatments-breeding.

The Department also supports policies on CRB management for both residential and commercial operations. It notes that the Department of Health has already established some policies regarding green waste management and suggests integrating these policies.

The Department notes that the Hawaiʻi Invasive Species Council and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity have reporting hotlines 643-PEST by phone and online at 643PEST.org, which address CRB as well as other pests in Hawaii. These could help address paragraph (h) of this measure on page 9.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
and
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday March 4, 2026 at 10:35 a.m.
By
Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience
and
Vassilis L. Syrmos, PhD
Interim Provost
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

SB 2885 SD1 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2885 SD1 Relating to Biosecurity which beginning 1/1/2027, establishes mandatory handling and storage rules for commercial and residential coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material to reduce the spread of CRB within infested zones and to prevent spread into non-infested zones. Establishes penalties.

University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) provides critical research, extension, and operational support to combat Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) and researchers at CTAHR have been involved since the beetle's detection in 2013 focusing both immediate field operations and long-term scientific solutions. We respectfully offer the following suggestions:

Section 1 of this bill, beginning on page 1, line 8, it is probably closer to 5-7 months before emerging as new adults.

Section 1, on page 1, lines 9-10, we comment that adult feeding in live host plants is required for the adults to produce viable eggs. Without host plants (typically palms) the populations cannot grow.

Section 1, on page 2, line 9, replace "districts" with "islands".

Section 1, on page 3, lines 3-8, we suggest replace with: Palm-focused treatments include trunk injections and root drenches with systemic insecticides that last over six months, and crown treatments with contact insecticides. Both systemic and crown

treatments kill beetles feeding on the host plant. These approaches can reduce local CRB populations when applied to a large proportion of palms in an infested area but do nothing to treat breeding sites.

Section 2, on page 5, Chapter 150A HRS, line 8, (1) Mechanical turning and spreading, we comment that turning, aerating or spreading are undesirable protection for transported material. Fumigation, grinding, submersion, or incineration are all superior to turning and spreading.

Section 2, on page 5, Chapter 150A HRS, line 17, (A) we suggest, composting reaching a minimum internal temperature of one hundred thirty-one degrees Fahrenheit or fifty-five degrees Celsius for not less than three consecutive days; or.

Section 2, on page 5, Chapter 150A HRS, line 18 through page 6, line 2, (B) we suggest, Steam treatment of equivalent heat-based kill treatment capable of achieving a minimum temperature of one hundred twenty-one degrees Fahrenheit or forty-nine degrees Celsius for not less than 30 minutes, or

Section 2, on page 6, Chapter 150A HRS, line 3, we suggest replacing (ii) with (C).

Section 2, on page 7, Chapter 150A HRS, line 5 - 7, (1), we comment that although hot composting kills CRB when hot, after processing when it cools it become infested. Spreading is a poor protection of material that will be transported to a non-infested zone.

Section 2, on page 10, Chapter 150A HRS, (i), line 3, we comment that coconut husk typically is not a high-risk material.

Section 2, on page 10, Chapter 150A HRS, (i), lines 8-9, we comment elevated level of risk establishment is anywhere below 6,000 feet.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OFSHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026
10:35 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2885, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2885, SD1, relating to biosecurity. This measure, beginning January 1, 2027, establishes mandatory handling and storage rules for commercial and residential coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material to reduce the spread of CRB within infested zones and to prevent spread into non-infested zones; establishes penalties; effective 7/1/2025. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The Department is appreciative of the intent of this measure as it seeks to resolve one of the largest challenges relating to CRB, the storage and/or accumulation of CRB host material. However, as currently drafted, the Department defers to the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the implementation and effects on their regulations related to solid waste management of green waste, particularly as HRS 150A-4 precludes Chapter 150A, HRS, from amending or altering the functions, duties, and powers of DOH.

It is the Department's understanding that the majority of large commercial composters are already permitted by DOH and are already subjecting green waste to the turning and heat treatment requirements, making some provisions in subsection (a) redundant. Similarly, subsection (e) appears to partially be covered under requirements for illegal dumping, and the Department is unclear if this interferes with HRS 342H.

Regarding subsection (a), it appears to require mechanical turning and spreading, or a heat treatment for all contractors, commercial operators, counties, and facilities that generate, store, transport, sell, or distribute green waste. The Department is unsure of the feasibility of this section for a number of reasons such as: appearing to require the respective Counties' green waste pick-ups to verify turning or heat treatment before pick up; does not allow for the use of chemical treatments that have been verified to eliminate all CRB life stages; requires heat treatment for imported goods regardless of how they were stored after importation; and require essentially all non-residential properties with landscaping to turn or heat treat. Additionally, the Department is unaware of the effectiveness of subsection (a)(1). Turning and aeration are critical components of windrow composting, but without sufficient material, the piles themselves would likely not reach sufficient temperatures to eliminate CRB. Thinly spread green waste that is less than 2" in depth has been shown to preclude CRB reproduction, provided it is allowed to dry out, regardless of temperature. The Department has similar concerns about the treatments in subsection (c), as there is almost no way to verify compliance, particularly in situations where the producer is not the retailer.

The Department is appreciative of integrating its proposed changes to subsection (b), clarifying the intent to prevent accumulation of a single pile of CRB host material greater than a yard for residential areas. However, the Department has some concerns with this subsection. First, the Department is concerned about this subsection's requirement to use county-issued green waste bins or require transfer to an appropriate county facility. The Department is unaware of how widespread county-issued green waste bins are across each County and is unsure if it would be unduly burdensome on some residents versus others, particularly those in more rural or remote areas. Also, if a resident is in an area that does not have a county-issued green waste bin, there does not appear any realistic way for them to comply with this section. Second, on page 6, beginning on line 12 through the end of line 20, the Department is unsure on the intent of identifying "prohibited materials" as the Department believes this section is intended to prevent accumulation of breeding material, as opposed to prohibiting the listed items in any amount. Lastly, the Department is unsure how this section could reasonably be effectuated without a significant increase in manpower.

The Department is unclear on the intent of subsection (d) as it appears to conflict or is redundant with other sections. For example, subsection (d)(1) seems to conflict with subsection (b) in a number of ways. It requires homeowners to treat green waste if they do not have access to, or exceed the green waste volume of, a county-issued green bin, whereas subsection (b) requires only the use of a county-issued green bin. Subsection (d)(4) also appears to require the contractor who picks up the county-issued green bin to ensure it is treated. Additionally, subsection (c) already appears to cover the treatment requirements for sale or movement. Based on this, the Department believes subsection (d) could be removed.

The Department believes the intent of subsection (e) is to prevent long-term storage of large volumes of green waste without any form of treatment. The Department is concerned that treated materials that were subjected to treatments that eliminated CRB and subsequently stored appropriately to prevent subsequent reinfestation would require retreatment every 60 days. This can be remedied by adding an exception for this in subsection (f). This would also appear to essentially prohibit the ownership or maintenance of potted plants as they would either have to be repotted or destroyed every 60 days.

Regarding subsection (h), should this measure move forward, the Department believes that the existing biosecurity website and pest hotline, biosecurity.hawaii.gov and 808-643-7378 (PEST), respectively, should be used for this as opposed to creating an entire a new number and hotline system. As the Department is already fielding reports of CRB through this manner, this section should be removed.

Ultimately, the Department believes green waste management is necessary to reduce impacts by CRB. Should this measure move forward, additional distinctions between the Department's and DOH's respective authorities need to be made to ensure there is no duplication of the State's limited resources. Should this measure move forward, the Department respectfully requests a year to collaborate with the counties on implementation and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:08:40 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael santos	Testifying for The Fairways at Ko Olina Resort	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of this bill as it will help to protect our trees for future generations. I know it sound like what people would say, but we really need this bill to pass for all of Hawaii and again future generations

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:17:02 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iris Grudi	Testifying for Beach Villas at Ko Olina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 - Relating to Biosecurity

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

My name is Iris Grudi, and I support SB No. 2885.

Hawai‘i’s visitor industry depends on the health and beauty of our landscapes. Coconut palms are iconic features of our resorts, beaches, and public spaces. The unchecked spread of the coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens not only private property and agriculture but also public infrastructure and tourism-related assets.

Economic estimates indicate potential losses between $500 million and $1 billion over the next decade. These figures do not include indirect impacts to visitor satisfaction, brand reputation, or county maintenance budgets.

SB 2885 provides a practical, enforceable solution by targeting CRB breeding sites — untreated mulch and green waste — and requiring treatment standards before storage or transfer. By implementing clear compliance measures and enforcement tools, this bill helps prevent reinfestation cycles that drive ongoing costs.

Biosecurity is economic security. Prevention today avoids far greater expenditures tomorrow. This bill would establish a consistent statewide framework, which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently, there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies.

I respectfully urge passage of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:06:22 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Nichols	Testifying for Ko Olina Golf Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Morikawa and committee members,

My name is Greg Nichols and I'm the PGA General Manager and Director of Golf at Ko Olina Golf Club.

I would like to submit my strong support of SB2885. The coconut rhinoceros beetle poses a terrrible and devasting threat to not only coconut trees but many other trees and plants that make Hawaii such a beautiful, vibrant and special place to live.

It's vital to not only eradicate the CRB but also to eliminate the breeding sites that currently exist. We understand that this bill will establish a state-wide framework to effectively address the CRB danger to our community.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue and we stand in strong support.

Respectfully, Greg Nichols

cgaps
STOP THE SILENT INVASION

COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
10:35 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2885 SD1

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB 2885 SD1,** *Relating to Biosecurity*. This bill establishes mandatory handling and storage rules for coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material to prevent the spread of CRB in the State.

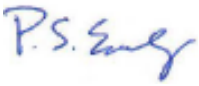
As set out in SB 2885 SD1, CRB is a devastating pest that was first detected in Hawaii in 2013. CRB is now widespread on the islands of Oahu and Kauai, and Hawaii County is fighting an infestation on the west side of the island. Managing green waste, which CRB uses as breeding material, is critical to controlling CRB populations, and SB 2885 SD1 sets out a comprehensive program to manage green waste to suppress CRB populations on infested islands and prevent the spread to uninfested areas. The program in SB 2885 SD1 treats all commercial operations the same, creating an even playing field for businesses on CRB-infested islands. We respectfully suggest that the Committee may want to consider adding provisions that allow for the storage of treated CRB host material in CRB-resistant containers after treatment and for material stored indoors overnight when CRB are active.

We are grateful for approaches to reduce CRB populations and prevent further spread within the State. We note that funding will be required to implement a comprehensive CRB control program for DAB and, potentially, for the counties and businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and our support for SB 2885 SD1.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

The Senate
Committee on Judiciary
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
10:35 AM Conference Room 211
State Capitol

SUBJECT: Testimony – In Support of SB2885 SD2 "Relating to Biosecurity"

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) in strong support of SB2885 SD2 "Relating to Biosecurity," establishing mandatory handling, treatment, and movement standards for mulch and green waste in coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) infested zones.

Coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is one of the most destructive invasive species threats facing O'ahu and the State. While damage to palm crowns is the most visible sign of infestation, the vast majority of the beetle's life cycle occurs hidden in mulch and green waste piles. These unmanaged breeding sites are the primary drivers of population growth and spatial infestation spread. Without clear, enforceable standards for handling these materials, we will continue to see CRB re-infest previously managed sites and spread despite significant investments in host plant treatment and public outreach initiatives.

This bill takes a targets CRB at its source. Requiring mechanical mulch pile turning or verified heat treatments, limiting long-term storage of untreated material, and restricting the sale and transfer of untreated host material are practical measures that directly interrupt the beetle's life cycle. These provisions close significant regulatory gaps that currently allow untreated mulch and green waste to move within and between communities.

SB2885 HD2 also provides reasonable enforcement tools, clear compliance pathways for commercial operators and residents, and a reporting system to support accountability. Importantly, collected fines will be reinvested into CRB management and outreach, strengthening long-term biosecurity capacity.

From OISC's experience in invasive species response, early and consistent intervention at breeding sites will be far more effective and cost-efficient than attempting to manage widespread adult populations. Establishing statewide standards now will reduce reinfestation, protect agriculture and culturally significant landscapes, and lower future control costs.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

743 Ulukahiki Street • Kailua, Hawai'i 96734 • Ph: (808) 266-7994 Fax: (808) 266-7995
www.oahuisc.org

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

HAWAI'I FOOD+ POLICY
Honolulu, HI 96813
food@purplemaia.org

Date of Hearing: March 4, 2026

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means; and Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subject: **SB 2885 SD1**, Relating to Biosecurity

Aloha,

Hawai‘i Food+ Policy **supports SB2885 SD1**, which establishes enforceable handling and treatment standards for mulch and green waste in CRB-infested zones.

Current voluntary practices and fragmented guidance are not sufficient to stop reinfestation. SB 2885 addresses a clear gap by taking a practical, science-based, and preventative approach and creating mandatory, enforceable standards that target one of the beetle’s most critical breeding pathways: untreated mulch, green waste, and organic debris.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge potential concerns and implementation challenges. First, small operators, rural residents, and community composters may face higher compliance costs or logistical barriers if technical assistance and access to facilities are limited. As the County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works shared, steam or other heat-treatment activities are not currently funded within their operations or budgets. For this model to succeed, counties will require State partnership to provide funding for steam or heat-treatment equipment and coordinated technical guidance on treatment standards, monitoring, and documentation.

Second, overly rigid application could unintentionally discourage regenerative or Indigenous composting practices that are ecologically sound but do not fit conventional documentation models. It is important to pair SB 2885 SD1 with education, clear communication of infested zones, phased implementation where appropriate, and support for small-scale compliance.

We urge WAM and JDC to support SB 2885 SD1, with continued attention to equity, education, and practical enforcement.

Mahalo,
Brandon Kinard & 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.

LATE

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:39:29 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Buchanan, Molokai Aha Kiole	Testifying for Molokai Aha Kiole	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2885. The MOLOKAI AHA KIOLE is in Strong Support to protect Molokai from the CRB habitat. Molokai has not detected CRB to date, but we are preparing for a worst-case scenario. We know green waste is a major breeding habitat for CRB and other pests, and we must enact all measures for biosecurity on Molokai and throughout the state.

Mahalo,

Lori Buchanan

Molokai Aha Kiole

Palaau Moku Poo

(808) 658-6706

HFUU
Hawai'i Farmers Union United
Kaua'i · O'ahu · Moloka'i · Maui · Hawai'i

LATE

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

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 SB2885.**

SB2885 provides a vital framework for safeguarding Hawaii's agriculture and environment by establishing mandatory handling and storage rules for coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) host material. This measure is crucial as it addresses the spread of this destructive invasive species within infested zones and prevents its infiltration into non-infested areas. Controlling the CRB population is not just an economic imperative but also an environmental necessity, as this beetle poses a severe threat to palm species and can disrupt Hawaii's delicate ecosystem. With proper management protocols, SB2885 helps to protect our agricultural interests and our unique natural landscapes, ensuring that future generations can enjoy both.

However, it is essential to address potential issues regarding the access to soil media that could arise from this bill. Farmers and residential gardeners rely on soil media for sustaining plant health and productivity. Ensuring that supply chains remain unaffected by the new regulations is imperative for both commercial enterprises and local communities. By adding provisions to ensure uninterrupted access to soil media, SB2885 can effectively balance biosecurity with the practical needs of Hawaii's farmers, gardeners, and landscapers. Collaboratively, we can safeguard our islands' agricultural resources while maintaining ecological integrity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heaivilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

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

March 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2885, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:35 AM

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaiʻi'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 the intent of SB 2885, SD1, which establishes statewide standards for the handling, treatment, and movement of mulch and green waste in areas impacted by coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

CRB continues to pose a serious threat to Hawai'i's agricultural and natural landscapes. Targeting breeding sites, particularly unmanaged mulch and decomposing green waste, is a science-based strategy that addresses the root of the infestation rather than only treating adult beetles. Strengthening prevention and containment measures is critical to protecting farms, nurseries, and communities across the State.

As this measure advances, HFB respectfully encourages careful attention to implementation. The bill establishes detailed operational requirements, including mandatory turning schedules, heat treatment standards, storage limits, documentation requirements, and restrictions on transfer or sale of untreated material. These standards will directly impact nurseries, farmers, landscapers, composting facilities, green waste processors, and counties operating in affected zones.

Many agricultural and landscaping operations generate green waste as part of normal business activity and may not currently have the equipment, staffing, or infrastructure necessary to meet mechanical turning or temperature-monitoring requirements without

additional cost. For smaller operators in particular, compliance could require investments in new equipment, increased labor, or higher disposal costs.

HFB encourages the Committee to consider phased implementation, technical guidance, and education-first enforcement to ensure that operators understand compliance requirements and have practical pathways to meet them. Technical assistance or cost-share support for composting equipment and treatment systems may also help ensure broad compliance and prevent unintended economic strain on compliant businesses.

With thoughtful rollout and continued stakeholder coordination, SB 2885, SD1 can strengthen CRB containment efforts while maintaining the stability of Hawai‘i’s agricultural and green waste management sectors.

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

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:24:04 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Hilton	Testifying for Windward Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2885 SD1 (2026)
RELATING TO GREEN WASTE MANAGEMENT

Submitted by:
Eileen Hilton, MD
President, Windward Coalition

Before the:
Senate Committee on [Insert Appropriate Committee Name]
Hearing Date: 03/04/26

Dear Chair Cruz, and Members of the Committee,

The Windward Coalition strongly supports SB2885 SD1 (2026) and its key provisions establishing mandatory rules, effective January 1, 2027, governing how commercial and residential green waste must be handled and stored. We also support the bill's assignment of program oversight to the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity division, including rulemaking, inspections, enforcement authority, and penalties for non-compliance.

We support this legislation because:

- **CRB (Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle) is widely established on Oʻahu and poses a serious threat to palm species, other native plants, ecosystems, and agricultural resources.**
- **The bill creates statewide, uniform standards, replacing inconsistent county-level or voluntary guidelines.**
- **Prevention is far more cost-effective than post-infestation response or replacement, especially given the prospects for eradication in the near term.**
- **It clarifies legal authority and enforcement mechanisms, ensuring compliance and accountability.**

However, we urge careful attention to potential cost burdens on small operators and homeowners. The Department's administrative rules should align with real-world yard and

landscape practices to minimize evasion and illegal dumping. We are also concerned that inspection and enforcement capacity within the Department of Agriculture and county agencies may be limited without additional resources.

In summary, the Windward Coalition strongly supports SB2885 SD1 and urges the Committee to advance it with a rapid timeline for rulemaking and public outreach, recognizing the urgency posed by the ongoing CRB infestation.

Mahalo for considering our submission,

Eileen Hilton MD

President, Windward Coalition

Hawaiian Earth Recycling
65-1101 Wilikina Drive
Wahiawa, HI 96786
(808) 426-6652
Marvin.Min@hawaiianearth.com

March 3, 2026

RE: Support with Comments for Hawaii SB 2885

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Hawaiian Earth Recycling, we respectfully provide our recommendations for Hawaii SB 2885 and its intent to reduce the spread of invasive species such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) through responsible green waste management. Being the States largest green waste recycler, we are honored to have received from the Hawaii Senate and House of Representatives the *Outstanding Business Leader Award* in helping control the spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and other invasive species.

With over 30 years of experience and expertise in responsible green waste management, we'd like to offer our recommendations to include:

- To include erosion control socks/filters and all mulch, compost, and plant care materials shipped into Hawaii which may bring in other invasive species such as two lined spittle bugs and other plant diseases.
- Adding the option to use a third approved method,
    - Use of an OMRI- Organic Materials Review Institute certified organic product produced in the State of Hawaii to reduce the risk of importing unregistered or unapproved biological controls, and that has been successfully laboratory tested and validated at a University of Hawaii laboratory.
- Amending the language in section 2, part 1-A; to read the following;
    - (A) **Mulch** Piles shall be fully turned, aerated, and broken down not less than **five times within 15 days, or using an in vessel composting system that is approved by the State Of Hawaii Department of Health, The United States EPA, and The U.S. Composting Council**

standards of PFRP- Process to Further Reduce Pathogen (killing all invasive species). ~~once every sixty calendar days~~**;green waste shall also be grinded once every week.**

- Adding that in no way shall burning or incineration of host material be used due to environmental and public health risks, and/ or fire hazards unless the approved 3 treatment methods mentioned in Section 150A have first been utilized and exhausted (not including logs for firewood use).

SB 2885 is an important step toward strengthening Hawaii's biosecurity and protecting our agricultural and natural resources. We respectfully ask that the Committee consider these amendments.

Mahalo,

Marvin Min
Hawaiian Earth – Senior Vice President and General Manager
65-1101 Wilikina Drive, PO Box 861601, Wahiawa, HI, 96786
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THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2885 S.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is one of the State's fastest growing invasive threats, capable of causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to palms, agriculture, and culturally important landscapes. Although adult CRB visibly damage palm crowns, eighty to ninety per cent of the CRB life cycle occurs hidden inside mulch and green waste piles **and erosion control socks/ filters**, where larvae develop undetected for four to six months before emerging as new adults. These piles, not the palms, are the true drivers of population growth.

Increasing CRB populations bring significant economic and budgetary risks for the State. CRB-related economic losses are estimated to reach $500 million to $1 billion over the next decade, with agricultural impacts alone projected at $169 million annually by 2040 if spread reaches additional islands and agricultural regions. However, these figures do not capture

indirect cultural, environmental, or tourism-related impacts associated with the loss of mature palms and native species, but illustrate that CRB management is not only an ecological issue, but also a significant fiscal consideration.

The legislature also finds that beyond financial costs, CRB threatens coastal resilience, traditional practices, community aesthetics, and the State's tourism economy. Despite these risks, Hawaii currently lacks consistent, statewide standards for how mulch and green waste are stored, treated, processed, or moved, leaving large breeding sites unmanaged in both residential areas and high-volume commercial operations. Existing movement rules reduce the spread between districts but do nothing to reduce CRB populations where they are already established.

The legislature further finds that while coconut palms are the primary host, other culturally and agriculturally important affected plants include date palms, hala, banana, sugarcane, and kalo. Because CRB spend most of their lives (four to six months) inside decomposing plant material, breeding sites are the foundation of local population growth. Adult activity in palm crowns represents only a small fraction of the total life cycle.

Current CRB management tools generally include some combination of palm protection, breeding-site reduction, and

movement controls. Palm-focused treatment include trunk and root injections of systemic insecticides that can protect palms for several months, and crown sprays and fungicide treatments via drone application help maintain palm vigor and reduce secondary decline. These approaches protect individual trees but do not address the source of new CRB. Breeding-site management of mulch and green waste includes heat-based or mechanical "kill treatments" such as thermophilic composting, **Use of a tested OMRI- Organic Materials Review Institute certified organic product produced in the State of Hawaii to reduce the risk of importing unregistered or unapproved biological controls, and that has been successfully laboratory tested and validated at a University of Hawaii laboratory.** use of pile turning or processing that reliably generates lethal core temperatures, steam treatments, or other high-heat methods; and other strategies that can be effective, low-cost management option for smaller piles. Because larvae require several months to develop, treating green waste at least every four months interrupts the life cycle before adult emergence.

The legislature also finds that certain existing regulations in the State do restrict the movement of certain high-risk plant materials. However, these regulations apply only to specific species or pathways and do not comprehensively regulate the movement of untreated green waste or mulch. As a

result, current movement controls operate as a loose, patchwork system, which reduces some pest-spread risk but leave significant gaps that allow untreated mulch and green waste to move between infested and non-infested areas, including inter-island transport.

The legislature also finds that because more than ninety per cent of the CRB life cycle occurs inside undisturbed mulch and green waste piles, establishing consistent, enforceable, science-based standards for residential and commercial mulch and green waste handling provides an opportunity to reduce CRB populations significantly and effectively at their source.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish mandatory, enforceable standards for the handling, storage, treatment, and movement of mulch and green waste materials in coconut rhinoceros beetle infested zones, both residential and commercial, to ensure early intervention at CRB breeding sites, reduce CRB reinfestation risk, and support statewide biosecurity resilience. **This act shall also include erosion control socks/filters and all mulch, compost, and plant care materials shipped into Hawaii which may bring in other invasive species such as two lined spittle bugs and other plant diseases.**

SECTION 2. Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§150A- **Residential and commercial mulch and green waste materials; coconut rhinoceros beetle; mandatory handling and treatment standards.** (a) All contractors, commercial operators, counties, and facilities that generate, store, transport, sell, or distribute mulch or green waste shall be required to neutralize coconut rhinoceros beetle host material using one of the following ~~two~~ **three** methods:

(1) Mechanical turning and spreading:

(A) **Mulch** Piles shall be fully turned, aerated, and broken down no~~t~~ less than **five times within 15 days, or using an in vessel composting system that is approved by the State Of Hawaii Department of Health, The United States EPA, and The U.S. Composting Council standards of PFRP-Process to Further Reduce Pathogen (killing all invasive species).** ~~once every sixty calendar days~~;**green waste shall also be grinded once every week.**

(B) Material shall be spread, ~~or~~ **maintain temperature of minimum 131 degrees,reworked, re-heated, including stock pile prior to screening** in a manner that prevents long-term cool core development; or

(2) Use of a tested OMRI- Organic Materials Review Institute certified organic product produced in the State of Hawaii to reduce the risk of importing unregistered or unapproved biological controls, and that has been successfully laboratory tested and validated at a University of Hawaii laboratory.

(3) Verified heat treatment with documented treatment readings and dates to be retained for inspection;

(A) Material shall be subjected to thermophilic composting steam treatment; or

(B) Any equivalent heat-based kill treatment capable of achieving:

(i) A minimum internal temperature of one hundred thirty-one degrees Fahrenheit or fifty-five degrees Celsius for not less than three consecutive days; or

(ii) A scientifically validated equivalent lethal exposure approved by the department.

(b) No residential property owner or occupant shall create, maintain, store, or accumulate a mulch pile, green waste pile, or compost pile larger than one cubic yard, or any other

coconut rhinoceros beetle host material capable of supporting larval development. All green waste generated at a residence shall be placed into county-issued green waste bins for scheduled collection or transported to an approved commercial processor, county facility, or transfer station. Prohibited materials include:

(1) Loose mulch;

(2) Green waste;

(3) Palm debris;

(4) Coconut husk material;

(5) Uncontained or unprocessed vegetative waste; or

(6) Any decomposing organic matter than meets the definition of coconut rhinoceros beetle host material.

(c) No untreated green waste, mulch, compost, palm debris, or other coconut rhinoceros beetle host material shall be sold, distributed, transferred, or commercially exchanged within or from a coconut rhinoceros beetle infested zone unless:

(1) The material has undergone documented mechanical turning or certified heat treatment pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) There is documented proof of treatment that accompanies the material at the point of sale, transfer, or distribution. Any sale, transfer, or distribution of untreated material shall constitute an immediate violation subject to enforcement action.

(d) All coconut rhinoceros beetle host material shall be treated before any:

(1) Transfer between property;

(2) Commercial sale or resale;

(3) Distribution by county or private facilities; or

(4) Off-site hauling for disposal and composting; provided that redundant treatment upon receipt may be required when transporting material between separate operators.

(e) Any untreated coconut rhinoceros beetle host material shall not be stored for more than sixty days in any coconut rhinoceros beetle infested zone under any circumstances. After sixty days, the coconut rhinoceros beetle host material shall be treated immediately or removed for approved treatment or disposal pursuant to this section.

(f) The following shall be exempt from this section:

(1) Any island of the State without a confirmed coconut rhinoceros beetle population; and

(2) Small-scale residential composting contained in sealed or pest-proof bins not more than one cubic yard.

(g) The department shall enforce and administer the provisions of this section. Any commercial operator or residential property owner violating any provisions of this section shall:

(1) Receive a written warning and be required to take corrective action within seven days;

(2) Be subject to a civil fine of $500 and be required to take corrective action within seven days if:

(A) Corrective action was not taken after receiving a written warning; or

(B) A second violation occurs; and

(3) Be subject to a civil fine of $1,000 for any subsequent offense; provided that each day of continued violation under this section shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.

The chairperson of the board may institute a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction for injunctive or other relief to correct or abate violations of this section or any rule adopted pursuant to this section, to collect administrative penalties, or to obtain other relief. Collected civil fines shall be retained by the department as additional funding to support ongoing coconut rhinoceros beetle management efforts, including implementation, enforcement, technical assistance, and outreach, and community grants and cost-share programs for equipment to support compliance.

(h) There is established within the department a statewide coconut rhinoceros beetle compliance hotline and reporting system to allow residents, landscapers, contractors, and agricultural workers to report suspected untreated piles, illegal sales, and long-term storage violations. The hotline and reporting system shall include an email and phone number.

(i) For the purposes of this section:

"Coconut rhinoceros beetle host material" means green waste, mulch, compost, palm debris, coconut husk, decomposing plant matter, or any organic material capable of supporting the development of coconut rhinoceros beetle larvae.

"Coconut rhinoceros beetle infested zone" means any geographic area designated by the department as having confirmed coconut rhinoceros beetle presence or elevated risk of establishment.

"Documentation" means written or electronic records of treatment methods, temperatures achieved, dates of processing, and verification logs required under this section.

"Green waste" means leaves, branches, fronds, grass clippings, chipped vegetation, palm residues, and other plant material generated through landscaping, trimming, or land-clearing activities.

"Mulch" means mechanically processed or unprocessed plant material used or stored for landscaping, soil amendment, or compost feedstock.

"Operator" means any individual, business, contractor, county, green waste processor, composting facility, or landowner responsible for generating, storing, moving, or processing coconut rhinoceros beetle host material.

"Pile" means any accumulation of coconut rhinoceros beetle host material exceeding one cubic yard, whether loose, compacted, or contained.

"Processing" means any activity that breaks apart, mixes, turns, aerates, or mechanically alters coconut rhinoceros beetle host material.

"Redundant treatment" means treatment applied upon receipt of coconut rhinoceros beetle host material that has already been treated before transfer, as required by the department.

"Storage" means the accumulation or placement of coconut rhinoceros beetle host material on a property for more than seventy-two hours.

"Thermophilic composting" means a heat-based composting process that achieves sustained elevated temperatures sufficient to kill coconut rhinoceros beetle larvae and pupae.

"Transfer" means the sale, exchange, distribution, gifting, or physical relocation of coconut rhinoceros beetle host material from one property or operator to another.

"Treatment" means mechanical turning or heat-based processing that meets the standards established in this section, including required temperatures, durations, and documentation.

"Untreated material" means coconut rhinoceros beetle host material that has not undergone treatment meeting the temperature, duration, and documentation requirements established under this section."

(4) in no way shall burning or incineration of host material be used due to environmental and public health risks, and/ or fire hazards unless the approved 3 treatment methods mentioned in Section 150A have first been utilized and exhausted (not including logs for firewood use).

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

Report Title:
Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Management; Invasive Species; Green Waste; Agriculture; Biosecurity; Penalties

Description:
Beginning 1/1/2027, establishes mandatory handling and storage rules for commercial and residential coconut rhinoceros beetle host material to reduce the spread of CRB within infested zones and to prevent spread into non-infested zones. Establishes penalties. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

LATE

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/4/2026 7:15:19 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Testifying for Kualoa Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 - Relating to Biosecurity

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Taylor Kellerman, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

Respectfully,
Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculutre and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary
March 4, 2026
10:35am
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 211
In **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2885

Aloha e Chair De La Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Joy Leilei Shih-Casado, I am a scientist, and a conservationist for over 25 years. I am in strong support of SB 2885, which would establish consistent, statewide handling of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle host material, where it spends 80-90% of its lifecycle. This method is considered to be the most effective for mitigating the impact of this destructive invasive species, and for preventing its further spread. Hawaiʻi is known as the "Endangered Species Capital" of the world. CRB not only causes damage to our iconic niu, but threatens our endemic and endangered palms, kalo, banana, hala, and more. It is impossible to imagine Hawaiʻi without these culturally important species, but right now we are being forced to imagine it.

The standards that are defined in SB 2885 are straightforward, manageable, and most importantly, effective. The timely passage of SB 2885 may be our best if not final opportunity to win the battle against CRB. While certain regions and islands in Hawaiʻi have taken strong measures to prevent the movement of CRB into their areas, these patchwork efforts leave vulnerabilities that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistent handling.

Economic losses due to CRB are projected to reach $1 billion in the next decade and $169 million annually by 2040 if its spread continues. However, these do not capture indirect cultural, environmental, and tourism costs. We cannot afford to rely on our small communities efforts and research labs to implement small scale or future solutions. This is an issue for the state, and the time is now for a simple but consistent and effective framework.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this critical matter and for the opportunity to testify. I am available for further discussion or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Joy Leilei Shih-Casado, Ph.D
joyshih@hawaii.edu

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:11:15 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Vasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Kristin Vasquez, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:11:47 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hogan Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Hogan Williams, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance, including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework, which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently, there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

Respectfully,
Hogan Williams

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhuʻe, Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi 96766

March 2, 2026

TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAʻI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 2885, SD 1, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
10:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of the intent of SB 2885, SD 1, Relating to Biosecurity. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kauaʻi County Council.

I serve as a County Councilmember on Kauaʻi and am Chair of the Parks & Recreation / Transportation Committee. I have witnessed firsthand the widespread devastation at the Wailua Golf Course as we struggle to manage an active infestation of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) with limited resources, while relying almost entirely on State and Federal leadership for a biosecurity response. Over the past year, it has been deeply troubling to watch the rapid, islandwide spread of CRB. As an ecologist, I also understand what lies ahead for our county parks, historical sites, and culturally significant landscapes if we do not act decisively.

We need action and funding now.

On Kauaʻi, CRB is no longer a theoretical risk. It is an active and escalating challenge impacting residents, landscapers, farmers, and county operations. SB 2885, SD 1, accurately reflects the latest science: **80% to 90% of the CRB lifecycle occurs hidden within mulch and green waste piles**, not in palm crowns. As such, breeding-site management is the most effective intervention point.

However, our on-the-ground experience makes clear that response efforts are currently hindered by a lack of direction, resources, and public education. Any regulatory framework must be paired with meaningful support mechanisms to be effective.

For more than a year, I have urged the State of Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, and now the Department of Biosecurity, to provide islandwide educational outreach so residents and operators clearly understand what actions they can take immediately and what options are available to them, strongly advocating for islandwide mailers about severe biosecurity threats for Kaua‘i (e.g., Little Fire Ant and CRB currently); this has yet to happen. What is urgently needed is education, equipment, trap materials, and small grants to support steam treatment and other control measures. The challenge on Kaua‘i is not a lack of concern or willingness, but a lack of accessible resources, funding, and coordinated systems to respond at the scale and urgency that this threat requires.

CRB is not only an agricultural pest, but also a biosecurity, cultural, fiscal, and community resilience issue. Projected losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decade are realistic, and secondary impacts to coastal stability, cultural practices, tourism landscapes, and community identity cannot be overstated. While legislative action is critical, I respectfully suggest that equal attention be given to ensuring existing regulations are enforced. For example, the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health must ensure composting facilities are consistently achieving and maintaining lethal temperatures where required. Do they have the capacity to oversee more regulations? From my perspective, it does not seem like it. I urge the Committee to carefully consider how this bill would be implemented by agencies already struggling to enforce existing requirements. A compliance-driven approach without adequate education, tools, and funding risks falling short.

Regulation Without Resources Risks Worsening the Problem

While SB 2885, SD 1, establishes clear, science-based standards, regulations without parallel funding and technical support risk pushing CRB breeding material into unmanaged or illegal disposal pathways. When compliance becomes burdensome or costly and without assistance, green waste does not disappear, it moves. Often it ends up in gulches, forest edges, vacant lots, or informal dumping areas, where CRB can still breed successfully, even in less ideal habitat.

On Kaua‘i, where illegal dumping and unmanaged forested areas are already widespread, this risk is especially acute. CRB will adapt. If optimal mulch or green waste piles are unavailable, they will lay eggs in leaf litter, unmanaged organic debris, and disturbed soils, expanding their footprint and making detection and control even more difficult. Invasive species respond to pressure by exploiting system weaknesses, not by disappearing.

Using Mulch Management and Steam Treatment as a Solution

Given the abundance of mulch, green waste, and organic material across Kaua‘i’s unmanaged expanses, we should consider using mulch strategically as part of the solution. By creating managed mulch piles in key locations and ensuring they are sterilized before larvae mature into adult beetles, we can disrupt the life cycle at scale.

With appropriate investment and oversight, a regional bait-trap system in established infestation areas could significantly reduce the number of beetles reaching maturity. These managed piles could be enhanced with attractants such as

ultraviolet (UV) light or pheromones to draw beetles away from surrounding unmanaged sites. Properly deployed, this approach could dramatically reduce population pressure and protect vulnerable trees.

Steam treatment, when applied correctly and consistently, is a proven, non-chemical, heat-based control method that reliably kills CRB larvae and pupae within mulch and green waste piles. When integrated into baited trap systems, steam treatment can be used to:

- Draw adult beetles into designated breeding material,
- Kill larvae before emergence, and
- Reduce overall population pressure over time.

CRB larvae take approximately five (5) to seven (7) months to develop, providing a critical window to interrupt the life cycle. That opportunity exists only if treatment tools are accessible, affordable, and widely deployed. Steam technologies, including commercially available systems such as those produced by Sioux, are already widely used in agriculture and biosecurity applications.

The Priority Must Be Management Capacity, Not Just Rules

The most effective path forward is to place resources directly into the hands of counties, community groups, landscapers, and tree trimmers so breeding sites can be managed at scale. This includes funding for mobile and fixed green waste treatment infrastructure like heavy machinery, steam treatment, curtain burners, and hot composting systems. Cost-share programs, grants, and direct financial support should be developed and promoted along with materials and support for regional trapping networks. Rapid response teams must be organized and deployed to address new infestations. Finally, it is crucial to invest in biological controls.

Urgency Matters

CRB populations on Kauaʻi are entering a rapid growth phase, with islandwide detections increasing. When breeding sites remain untreated, populations grow exponentially. Compliance-heavy systems that delay action will not keep pace with the biology of this pest. Hawaiʻi does not have the luxury of slow rollouts or fragmented implementation. Therefore, what is needed now is:

- Rapid deployment of treatment tools,
- Community-scale solutions,
- County-level flexibility, and
- Stable funding streams for implementation, not simply oversight.

Conclusion

SB 2885, SD 1, is grounded in sound science and correctly targets the source of CRB population growth. I urge the Committee to retain its core intent while amending or supplementing the bill to ensure funding, equipment, education, and community-based management capacity are prioritized alongside regulatory standards.

Regulation that cannot be enforced is a poor use of limited time and resources. Worse, it risks unintentionally driving behaviors that exacerbate the problem. Any regulatory framework must be paired with cost-sharing, technical support, and clear guidance to avoid counterproductive outcomes.

CRB will exploit gaps faster than regulations can be enforced. The State's strongest defense is to make proper treatment easier, cheaper, and more accessible than noncompliance, and to aggressively target breeding sites before beetles emerge. People want to do the right thing; they simply need the necessary education and support to do so.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2885, SD 1, and *mahalo* for your leadership on Hawai'i's biosecurity future. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

FERN HOLLAND
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

RM:sf

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:23:03 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mario Nanguse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Morikawa, and Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Mario Nanguse, and I serve as an indiviual citizen on O‘ahu. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) presents not only a serious environmental threat, but a substantial economic risk to our state. Agricultural projections estimate huge losses if CRB continues to spread. Vital crops such as coconut, banana, hala, and other culturally and economically significant plants remain highly vulnerable.

While current regulations primarily address movement restrictions, they fall short in targeting breeding-site reduction — the root cause of CRB proliferation. As recognized in this bill, untreated mulch and green waste are key contributors to population growth. By requiring mechanical turning, verified heat treatment, and proper documentation prior to transfer or sale, SB 2885 addresses critical regulatory gaps and strengthens our frontline defense.

Importantly, the measure establishes clear, enforceable, science-based standards while allowing flexibility for equivalent validated treatment methods approved by the Department. This balanced approach promotes both accountability and innovation.

Failure to act will only increase long-term costs to businesses, counties, and taxpayers. Proactive biosecurity measures are essential to protecting local agriculture, food security, cultural resources, and rural economies.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB No. 2885.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mario Nanguse

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:41:22 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehua Vermeesch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 - Relating to Biosecurity

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Lehua Vermeesch, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

Respectfully,
Lehua Vermeesch

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:17:36 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Barnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering this important bill. I wholeheartedly support it and hope that you will vote to pass it. Our agriculture, tourism and island beauty are all being negatively affected by this beetle. Stopping its breeding ground is an essential part of eliminating CRB. Thank you, Sara Barnes

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:23:17 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 – Relating to Biosecurity
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Peter Togawa, and I serve as the Resort Manager for the Association of Apartment Owners of Beach Villas at Ko Olina on Oʻahu. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

From an operational and asset stewardship perspective, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) presents a direct and material threat to Hawaiʻi's resort communities, agricultural lands, and public landscapes. Coconut palms and other vulnerable plant species are not merely aesthetic features; they are long-term capital assets that require significant investment to install, maintain, and, if lost, replace.

One of the ongoing challenges with CRB management is reinfestation. Scientific research has demonstrated that untreated mulch and green waste serve as primary breeding sites for the beetle. Without consistent and enforceable handling standards, these sites allow the pest population to persist and spread, undermining localized treatment efforts and increasing long-term costs to property owners, businesses, and counties.

SB 2885 addresses this issue in a practical and preventative manner by establishing clear statewide standards for green waste and mulch management. A consistent framework is essential. Patchwork efforts—varying by location or operator—create gaps that allow CRB populations to rebound. Statewide alignment strengthens accountability, improves coordination, and enhances the effectiveness of ongoing mitigation efforts.

From a fiscal stewardship standpoint, prevention is more responsible than reaction. The costs associated with tree loss, removal, replacement, treatment programs, and potential safety risks far exceed the costs of proper green waste management at the source. Strengthening biosecurity measures today helps protect both public and private investments in Hawaiʻi's landscapes and infrastructure.

Biosecurity is fundamentally about shared responsibility. By establishing science-based standards and clear expectations, SB 2885 reinforces the principle of kuleana while protecting the environmental, cultural, and economic resources that define our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and passage of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to protecting Hawai‘i.

Respectfully,

Peter Togawa

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 - Relating to Biosecurity
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB No. 2885.

Hawai‘i’s visitor industry depends on the health and beauty of our landscapes. Coconut palms are iconic features of our resorts, beaches, and public spaces. The unchecked spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens not only private property and agriculture but also public infrastructure and tourism-related assets.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities.

This bill would establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for our keiki, our future generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and passage of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your commitment to protecting our precious ‘āina.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Olayan
Waikiki Resident

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:27:32 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!!!

Mahalo!

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:05:24 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marguerite Casillas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Marguerite Casillas, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

Respectfully,
Marguerite Casillas

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:52:46 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Venus Pajimola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Venus Pajimola, and I support SB No. 2885.

Hawai‘i’s visitor industry depends on the health and beauty of our landscapes. Coconut palms are iconic features of our resorts, beaches, and public spaces. The unchecked spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens not only private property and agriculture but also public infrastructure and tourism-related assets.

Economic estimates indicate potential losses between $500 million and $1 billion over the next decade. These figures do not include indirect impacts to visitor satisfaction, brand reputation, or county maintenance budgets.

SB 2885 provides a practical, enforceable solution by targeting CRB breeding sites — untreated mulch and green waste — and requiring treatment standards before storage or transfer.

By implementing clear compliance measures and enforcement tools, this bill helps prevent reinfestation cycles that drive ongoing costs.

Biosecurity is economic security. Prevention today avoids far greater expenditures tomorrow. This bill would establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies.

I respectfully urge passage of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Venus Pajimola
Oahu

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:06:44 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SASHA DEES-BESAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 - Relating to Biosecurity

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Sasha Dees-Besas, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

Respectfully,

Sasha Dees-Besas

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:07:25 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brown Cannon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brown Cannon, and I submit testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle threatens more than palm trees. It threatens places of gathering, coastal resilience, traditional practices, and plants of deep cultural significance including hala and kalo. Mature palms define many of our shorelines and communities. Their loss would fundamentally alter Hawai‘i’s landscape and identity.

This bill recognizes an important scientific reality: most of the beetle’s life cycle occurs in undisturbed green waste and mulch piles. I have written a paper on mulch and it's on my webpage Savehawaiianpalms.com. Addressing these breeding sites through standardized handling, storage, and treatment requirements is essential for meaningful population reduction.

SB 2885 strengthens Hawai‘i’s biosecurity framework and reinforces the principle of kuleana — shared responsibility. By requiring responsible management of green waste at both residential and commercial levels, this measure promotes community participation in invasive species control.

This bill would also establish a consistent statewide framework which is what is needed to effectively address the crippling CRB issue. Currently there are incomplete patchwork efforts that allow CRB to persist and spread due to inconsistencies. Protecting our natural and cultural resources today safeguards them for future generations.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB No. 2885.

Mahalo nui for your leadership.

Respectfully,
Brown Cannon
Savehawaiianpalms.com

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:25:56 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is critical we win the battle against CRB. Please pass this measure so we can effectively take action while there is still time to do so.

LATE

March 3, 2026

Subject: Strong Support for SB No. 2885 - Relating to Biosecurity
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Carey Aoyagi, and I am a General Manager for a large community association located in beautiful Ko Olina with a degree in Horticultural Science. Part of my responsibility is to manager 281 coconut palm trees on property and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB No. 2885.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle is not only an environmental threat — it is an economic one. Agricultural projections estimate potential losses reaching $169 million annually by 2040 if CRB spreads further. Crops such as coconut, banana, hala, and other culturally significant plants are vulnerable.

Current regulations focus primarily on movement restrictions, but they do not adequately address breeding-site reduction. As this bill recognizes, untreated mulch and green waste are the primary drivers of CRB population growth. By requiring mechanical turning, verified heat treatment, and documentation prior to transfer or sale, SB 2885 closes significant regulatory gaps.

Importantly, this bill establishes enforceable, science-based standards while allowing equivalent validated treatment methods approved by the Department. It balances flexibility with accountability.

Failing to act will increase costs to businesses, counties, and taxpayers. Proactive management protects local agriculture, food security, and rural economies.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB No. 2885.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Carey Aoyagi, General Manager
The Coconut Plantation AOAO @ Ko Olina Marina and Resort

LATE

SB-2885-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:40:00 AM
Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teya Penniman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee members,

I am testifying as a private citizen in strong support of this measure.

We have seen the devastation that CRB has caused and continues to cause on O'ahu and now Kaua'i. We have the opportunity to learn and benefit from the hard work carried out by the CRB Response team and Hawai'i Department of Agricutlure and Biosecurity. It is abundantly clear that CRB spreads through the movement of host materials.

Please pass this bill to give our islands the help they need to prevent movement and reduce the likelihood of future introductions.

Mahalo nui,

Teya M. Penniman