



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
February 3, 2025 at 1:02 p.m.

By

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And

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#### SB 1171 – RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 1171 relating to invasive species which requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to establish a program to provide certain monofilament netting free of charge to the public through local hardware stores to slow the growth and spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) within the State with appropriations.

We support the intent of this bill and offer the following comments. The landscape-altering impact of CRB is being realized across many neighborhoods on O'ahu and Kaua'i. Treatments available for residents and palm owners are limited and often involve the use of pesticides. A physical barrier such as monofilament netting has some efficacy in entangling CRB attempting to feed in palm canopies and represents a non-chemical method that offers some protection against CRB.

University of Hawai'i Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (UHM-CTAHR) supports this bill as it provides a non-chemical option for CRB management. This support, however, is based on the Hawai'i DOA's Pesticide Branch approval of this approach as a [pest control device](#), ensuring that its use is not in violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act or similar federal pest control laws. UHM-CTAHR would also recommend a provision stating that any mesh netting with an opening size that is illegal for fishing in Hawai'i be distributed in pre-cut lengths (such as 5 to 10 feet) that would make this netting impractical for illegal use in Hawai'i's waters.

We support the intent of SB 1171 with suggested amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.