

3rd Annual
Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Science & Management Symposium
Harnessing Knowledge to Protect
Communities & Ecosystems

September 22-24, 2026: University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa



AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, September 22

8:00 am Welcome & Opening Session

8:00 am **Registration & Check-in** – University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom.
Coffee, Tea, fruit, muffins, and croissants provided from 8:00 am until 9:30 am.

8:45 am **Cultural Protocol**

9:00 am **Welcome to the 3rd Annual CRB Science & Management Symposium** – Wendy
Hensel, President, University of Hawai‘i System.

9:05 am **CRB Symposium Welcome, Housekeeping & Logistics** – Dr. Elliott Parsons, Pacific
Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (Pacific RISCC) Management Network,
Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center at the University of Hawai‘i at
Mānoa.

9:30 am **Morning activity** – Presentation of CRB detection and management tools on the UH
Mānoa campus.

11:30 am LUNCH (provided) Campus Center Ballroom

12:30 pm Afternoon Session

12:35 pm **Keynote Presentation: Aspects of establishing and noting effect of Oryctes**
Nudivirus on Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle – Dr. Geoffrey Bedford, Honorary
Adjunct Fellow, School of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Science and
Engineering, Macquarie University.

1:20 pm BREAK

1:30 pm Research Session #1: Detection

- 1:35 pm Quantifying Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) occupancy and detection across the history of its invasion of O‘ahu** – Dr. Marcel Jardeleza, Hawai‘i Cooperative Studies Unit, UH Hilo & Dr. Helen Sofaer, USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center.
- 1:50 pm What Does a Negative Result Mean? Developing eDNA Detection for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on Hawai‘i Island** – Dr. Natalie Graham, Department of Biology, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.
- 2:05 pm It Just Makes Scents: Scaling CRB Early Detection Through Off-Site Canine Screening** – Dr. Kealoha Kinney, USDA Forest Service PSW Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.
- 2:20 pm Tracking CRB: Data collection and mapping to inform response actions in a new infestation in Kona, Hawai‘i** – Franny Brewer, Big Island Invasive Species Committee.
- 2:35 pm Automated Detection of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Damage in Images (virtual)** – Dr. Aubrey Moore, University of Guam & Sulav Paudel, Bioeconomy Institute, New Zealand.

2:50 pm BREAK

2:55 pm Research Session #2: Biological Control

- 3:00 pm Current status for virus biocontrol of CRB in Hawai‘i** – Dr. Michael Melzer, CTAHR, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
- 3:15 pm Understanding the impact of *Oryctes nudivirus* (OrNV) on its host, *Oryctes rhinoceros* (CRB), for palm damage management** – Dr. Trevor Jackson, Biocontrol Consultant, New Zealand.
- 3:30 pm An integrated genomic surveillance to inform OrNV genome diversity and CRB biological control strategies** – Dr. Wee Tek Tay, Macquarie University.
- 3:45 pm Evolutionary Potential of CRB Resistance to Nudiviruses: Insights from Insect Resistance to Baculoviruses (virtual)** – Dr. Madoka Nakai, Institute of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.
- 4:00 pm Integrated Pest Management for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle: Merging historic methods with modern technology** – Dr. Sean Marshall, Bioeconomy Science Institute.

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4:15 pm **Research update on biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetle in Hawaii** – Dr. Zhiqiang Cheng, CTAHR, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

4:30 pm **Closing Remarks Day 1**

4:30 pm **Closing Remarks and Wrap-up for Day 1** – [Speaker TBD]

4:45 pm **Day 1 finished.**

4:45 pm **Evening Reception & Poster Session**

4:45 pm **Evening Reception & Poster Session** – Campus Center Ballroom & Lānai; Appetizer buffet provided, please join us!

Poster 1 **Standardized Oral Inoculation Reveals Population-Level Variation in OrNV Susceptibility: Implications for Pacific CRB Management** – Koichi Sugimoto, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 2026 CRB Symposium International Student Travel Award Recipient.

Poster 2 **Navigating the Biocultural Restoration of Loulu Within the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Invasion of Hawai‘i** – Isabella Margerin, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2026 CRB Symposium Hawai‘i Student Travel Award Recipient.

Poster 3 **Molecular Biosurveillance of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Using eDNA-qPCR** – Abigail Nadeau, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, 2026 CRB Symposium Hawai‘i Student Travel Award Recipient.

6:30 pm **Evening Reception & Poster Session concludes**

Day 2: Wednesday, September 23

8:00 am **Welcome to Regional Updates Day 2**

8:00 am **Registration & Check-in** – University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom. Coffee, Tea, fruit, muffins, and danishes provided from 8:00 am until 9:30 am.

8:30 am **Plenary Presentation: From Science to Regional Action: Strengthening Pacific Biosecurity Responses to Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle**, Riten Gosai, Biosecurity and SPS Officer, PPPO Coordinator, Pacific Community (SPC).

9:00 am **Pacific Management Updates (3 sessions)**

9:00 am **Updates Session 1**

9:00 am **Management update for Samoa** – Tanu Toomata, Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Crops Division.

9:10 am **Management update for Tokelau** – Silia Perez, Tokelau Department of Economic

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Development, Natural Resources & Environment.

9:20 am **Management update for Wallis and Futuna** – Bertrand Cailly, Wallis and Futuna, Department of Agricultural Services.

9:30 am **Management update for Hawai‘i** – Dr. Keith Weiser/Dr. Mike Melzer, CTAHR, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

9:40 am **Management update for Guam** – Dr. Glenn Dulla, Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, University of Guam.

9:50 am **BREAK**

10:00 am **Updates Session 2**

10:05 am **Management update for CNMI** – Mark C. Manglona, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Invasive Species Program, Rota.

10:15 am **Management update for RMI** – Bruce Allen, RMI Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, Quarantine Division.

10:25 am **Management update for Palau** – Jack Idechong, Palau Community College Cooperative Research and Extension Program.

10:35 am **Management update for FSM** – John Wichep, Department of Resources and Development, Federated States of Micronesia.

10:45 am **Management update for Fiji** – Apenisa Sailo, Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry.

10:55 am **BREAK**

11:05 am **Updates Session 3**

11:10 am **Management update for Vanuatu** – Joe Pakoawia, Biosecurity Vanuatu - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity.

11:20 am **Management update for New Caledonia** – Aurélie Chan, Biosecurity department, New Caledonia Government.

11:30 am **Management update for Papua New Guinea** – Aloma Motamota, Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK).

11:40 am **Management update for Solomon Islands** – Gideon Suda – Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Solomon Islands Government.

11:50 am **Current situation and management of Asiatic Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) in Mexico** – Dr. Víctor Alonso de la Cruz Padilla, Phytosanitary Diagnosis and Reference Operational Program, Directorate-General of Plant Health (DGSV), National

Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA), Mexico.

12:00 pm LUNCH (provided) Campus Center Ballroom

12:55 pm Welcome from College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) – Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Dean and Director.

1:00 pm Afternoon Session

1:05 pm Plenary Presentation: Managing coconut rhinoceros beetle; learning from the past, lessons for the future – Dr. Trevor Jackson, Biocontrol Consultant, New Zealand.

1:40 pm BREAK

1:50 pm Research Session #3: Trapping & Control

1:55 pm Large scale CRB trap designs: component optimization, outstanding questions, and management adventures from the frontline – Julie Zill, Colorado State University.

2:10 pm Fumigation to control coconut rhinoceros beetle in green waste – Dr. Spencer Walse, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Commodity Protection and Quality Research Unit, Stephen Corbett, USDA Agricultural Research Service and University of California, Davis & Alex Redeker, Mid-Pacific Pest Control.

2:25 pm Developing management tools against coconut rhinoceros beetles: from palm canopies to breeding sites – Dr. Xing Wei, CTAHR, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa & Coauthors: Mike Melzer, Keith Weiser, Josh Silva, Ryan Kurasaki, Mohsen Paryavi, and Daniel Jenkins.

2:40 pm Regulations on Biocontrol Products – Adam Yamamoto & Christopher Kishimoto, Registration and Education section & Plant Quarantine Branch, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

2:55 pm Beyond the obvious: What can New Caledonia tell us about Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle establishment and control? – Dr. Lise Leroy & Dr. Christian G. Mille, Agronomic Institute of New Caledonia (IAC).

3:10 pm BREAK

3:20 pm Research Session #4: Impacts & Management

3:25 pm Conservation of Loulu, Hawai‘i's Endemic Palms – Matt Keir, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

3:40 pm The regional spread and variable impact of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle across the Pacific – Dr. Mark Ero, Land Resources Division, Pacific Community (SPC).

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- 3:55 pm** **Assessing the Socioeconomic Impact of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB-G) Under Different Pest Management Practices on Guadalcanal Province in the Solomon Islands** – Simon Chris, Fiji National University, 2026 CRB Symposium International Student Travel Award recipient.
- 4:10 pm** **Adapting Strategies, Building Resilience: A 2026 Update on Pritchardia Protection and CRB Management at NTBG** – Tobias Koehler, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Allerton Garden & McBryde Garden.
- 4:25 pm** **Integrated Species Distribution Modeling with Machine Learning Algorithms for Decision Support in Invasive Insect Pest Surveillance and Management: Case study - Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle** – Bernard Malenge, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2026 CRB Symposium Hawai‘i Student Travel Award Recipient.
- 4:40 pm** **Closing Remarks Day 2**
- 4:40 pm** **Closing Remarks and Wrap-up for Day 2** – [speaker TBD].
- 5:00 pm** **Day 2 finished.**

Register for the 2026 CRB Science Symposium (September 22nd & 23rd) here: [registration link](#).

Day 3: Thursday, September 24

Field Day: Kūkaniloko — Wahiawā, O‘ahu

Kūkaniloko is one of Hawai‘i’s most sacred ancient Hawaiian cultural and historical places, located in Wahiawā, O‘ahu, and renowned as a birthing place for Hawaiian ali‘i and a center of ancestral knowledge. The landscape includes ancient stone placements associated with observing the sun, equinoxes, and solstices, and the area holds deep significance for navigation, astronomy, traditional healing, and the transmission of knowledge.

Today, Kūkaniloko is also home to an *uluniu*—a living coconut genebank established alongside native and endemic plant collections, including *loulou* (*Pritchardia*) and *hala* (*Pandanus*). These culturally important plants are increasingly threatened by Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB, *Oryctes rhinoceros*). In response, community stewards are actively working to protect these species while perpetuating cultural planting and mālama ‘āina practices. Participants will meet a lineal descendant and aloha ‘āina practitioners dedicated to caring for this deeply significant place and learn about its ancestral importance, its meaning today, and the responsibility of carrying these practices forward. The visit will include a stop at the birthstones, observations of CRB damage within a young hala grove, and a walk through the *uluniu*, where practitioners and volunteers have planted 108 hand-selected niu representing 16 varieties. The planting follows a Polymotu approach, drawing upon traditional

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patterns of coconut diversity found throughout Polynesia and adapting those principles for contemporary ex situ conservation in Hawai'i.

Location: Wahiawā, Kūkaniloko Birth Site and Uluniu

Time*: Tour bus will depart from Ala Moana Hotel at 8:00 AM sharp, transport attendees to Kūkaniloko and then to UHWO for the CRB Community Day, then **return to the Ala Moana Hotel at approximately 5:30 PM**. We will provide a bento lunch (vegetarian options available).

****If you register for the field trip, we assume you will attend the CRB Community Day 1-4 PM. If you will not attend the community day, you must arrange your own return transportation.***

Community Day: University of Hawai'i West O'ahu — Kapolei, O'ahu

The University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu is an Indigenous-serving institution that provides an important space for learning grounded in Native Hawaiian values while fostering broader Pacific and global understanding. The campus helped incubate Niu Now! and became a starting point for the hui's work to rejuvenate the ancient practice of *uluniu*—work that has since grown into a broader movement to document, mālama, and establish *uluniu* across Hawai'i.

The campus also holds an important place in Hawai'i's CRB story. CRB was first detected in Hawai'i in December 2013 at Mamala Bay Golf Course on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and UH West O'ahu became one of the landscapes affected during the beetle's subsequent spread across O'ahu. Participants will begin the Community Day at Hale Kuahuokalā, a place dedicated to the sun and honoring growth, transformation, illumination, and life. From there, participants will visit the first uluniu established by Niu Now!, take part in a hands-on mulch management demonstration, and gather in the Multi-Purpose Ballroom. The indoor gathering will create a space where community experience and scientific research come together—sharing current CRB knowledge, listening to the experiences and concerns of community practitioners, and exploring how collective action can strengthen the protection of niu and other culturally significant plants. The day reflects a central principle of this work: responding to CRB is not only about managing a pest; it is also about strengthening the relationships between people, niu, community, and 'āina that make long-term stewardship possible.

Location: University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu

Time: 1-4 pm

- 1:00 pm Opening protocol at Hale Kuahuokalā
- 1:15 - 1:40 pm Mulch netting demonstration
- 1:40 - 1:55 pm Uluniu tour, transition to Multi-Purpose Ballroom (2nd floor of the Campus Center)
- 2:00 - 2:45 pm Panel discussion
- 2:45 - 3:45 pm Talk story with community groups

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- 3:45 - 4:00 pm Closing protocol and mihi

[Register here](#), and spread the word with the attached flyer! Walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: kanileas@hawaii.edu for more information on the Field Day & Community Day.



COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE 2026 SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom
Honolulu, Hawai'i

September 22-24, 2026

Registration is open!

Day 1: CRB Research & Management
Day 2: CRB Research & Management
Day 3: Field Trip (Kūkaniloko) &
Community Day (UHWO)



bit.ly/CRBSymposium2026

Contact us at crbsymposium@gmail.com with questions.



Visit www.crbhawaii.org/symposium for more info.



CRB COMMUNITY DAY

9.24.2026 1 - 4 PM
@ UH WEST O'AHU



CRB management starts by loving communities with niu, hala, loulu, mai'a, and people.

Join us to:

- Talk story with Pacific practitioners
- Discuss CRB best practices
- Engage in a mulch netting demo
- (Re)connect with our shared purposes

FREE!

Register now!
Walk-ins also welcome.



These institutions are equal opportunity providers.

bit.ly/CRBCommunityDay