

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

### **Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Program on Oahu Supplemental Environmental Assessment November 2019**

In September 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared a supplemental environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed potential environmental consequences of responding to the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), *Oryctes rhinoceros*, outbreak on Oahu, Hawai'i. The CRB, which was first identified on Oahu in December 2013, is one of the most damaging insect pests to coconut and oil palms. APHIS prepared a final EA and FONSI in June 2014 to address the impacts of a proposed response program. APHIS has detected CRB outside of the geographic area identified in the 2014 EA and has new control measures available, which require the agency to prepare and publish a supplemental EA. The proposed CRB response program is a cooperative effort among APHIS, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the university of Hawai'i and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman. The supplemental EA, that analyzed the potential impacts of this program, is incorporated by reference in this document and is available from:

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<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea>

The supplemental EA analyzed alternatives consisting of: (A) APHIS not providing any support for the CRB program on Oahu; (B) APHIS continuing to provide support that was analyzed under the preferred alternative in the 2014 EA, and (C) APHIS and its cooperators expanding CRB management activities to the entire island of Oahu and adding new control strategies including treatment of infested trees with imidacloprid and acephate, in addition to the previously identified cypermethrin. The supplemental EA also identifies chemical treatment for uninfested trees, larval breeding sites, greenwaste, mulch, compost, soil and turf. Treatment for compost, mulch and greenwaste may include steam treatment (preferred alternative).

APHIS is currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to complete Section 7 consultation as required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). APHIS previously completed ESA consultation related to actions described in the EA published in June 2014. APHIS will contact the appropriate FWS and NMFS, as necessary, prior to any CRB-related control activities to ensure protection of Federally-listed species.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks." The proposed chemical treatments and other program activities are expected to pose low risk to children and other

population subgroups based on the analysis in the supplemental EA. Based on the use pattern and use sites the proposed chemical treatments will pose negligible risk to drinking water, and dietary risks are not anticipated since chemical use will not occur to commodities that would be for food use. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act APHIS is working cooperatively with the State Historic Preservation Officer to avoid adverse impacts to cultural or historical properties. APHIS has also contacted Native Hawaiian Organizations regarding the proposed activities in the CRB program to seek their input.

The supplemental EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period that ended on October 27, 2019. One comment was received during the public comment period from a private citizen. The final supplemental EA is available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea>.

I find that implementation of the proposed program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. I have considered and based my finding of no significant impact on the analysis contained within the supplemental EA and my review of the program's operations. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed program, I find that no additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.

*/s/ William Wesela*  
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12/4/19  
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Date