

## Position Paper on Injecting Imidacloprid

I have been closely following the discussion around the use of neonicotinoids—particularly imidacloprid—for coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) management in Hawai‘i. While I understand that trunk injection can be less harmful to non-target species than foliar sprays or soil drenches, I remain concerned about the scale and frequency of proposed applications. Injecting thousands of trees every six months for years could result in persistent residues in soils, potential leaching into coastal aquifers, and exposure risks for native and managed pollinators—especially if flower removal protocols are inconsistently applied. Hawai‘i’s unique biodiversity makes these risks particularly consequential.

I believe an effective CRB strategy can protect high-value and culturally important coconut palms while minimizing ecological trade-offs. I support targeted, temporary use of trunk-injected neonicotinoids under strict protocols—limited to documented cases or irreplaceable trees, with mandatory flower removal, and public reporting of pesticide use and monitoring results.

While trunk injection is more contained, a decade of biannual Imidacloprid treatments could lead to harmful consequences—notably to pollinators, soil microbes, aquatic life, and potentially entire ecosystems. Its systemic nature and long environmental persistence make it far from harmless, especially with repeated use.