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Nikolao Pula, Director
Office of Insular Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. Mail-Stop 2429
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Pula,

I am pleased to submit a grant proposal for consideration under the little fire ant/coconut rhinoceros beetle funding opportunity you announced to Governor Calvo on June 15.

This grant proposal is a request for funds to hire a post doctoral entomologist for 2 years to work on an existing, funded project to implement effective biological control for the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) which is rapidly killing palm trees in Guam and Palau. Without significant population suppression of CRB in Guam and Palau, it is likely that Guam and Palau will lose most of their palms and it is just a matter of time before other Micronesian Islands are invaded by CRB. There is a consensus among Pacific-based entomologists that biological control is the best, and possibly the only way, to stop palms from being killed on an island-wide basis. In addition, there is an urgency to suppress CRB populations in Guam and Palau to reduce the risk of accidental transport to other islands in Micronesia and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Aubrey Moore, PhD