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Douglas W. Domenech
Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Mail-Stop 3119
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Domenech,

I am pleased to submit a grant proposal entitled *Establishment of Self-sustaining Biological Control of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Biotype G in Micronesia* for consideration under the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative (CFDA 15.875).

The Guam Invasive Species Council has identified the coconut rhinoceros beetle as a priority invasive species which threatens Guam's forestry and agriculture. CRB has already killed large numbers of coconuts and other palms on Guam. It will continue to do so, and spread to other islands in Micronesia and beyond if we cannot get the Guam outbreak under control.

Dr. James Grasela, an insect pathologist hired under previous DOI-OIA funding has identified two isolates of *Oryctes nudivirus* (OrNV) which can be used as biological control agents for CRB-G, the rhino beetle biotype which is causing damage in Guam, Hawaii, CNMI, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

I am asking DOI-OIA support for a one year project to implement biological control for CRB-G on Guam by propagating and releasing the biological control agents identified by Dr. Grasela. A USDA-APHIS release permit has already been approved.

The consensus among Pacific-based entomologists is that biological control is the best, and possibly the only way, to stop palms from being killed on an island-wide basis and to reduce the risk of accidental transport to other islands in Micronesia and beyond. Based on previous CRB biocontrol projects, we expect population suppression of CRB-G by OrNV to be self-sustaining.

Yours sincerely,

Aubrey Moore, PhD