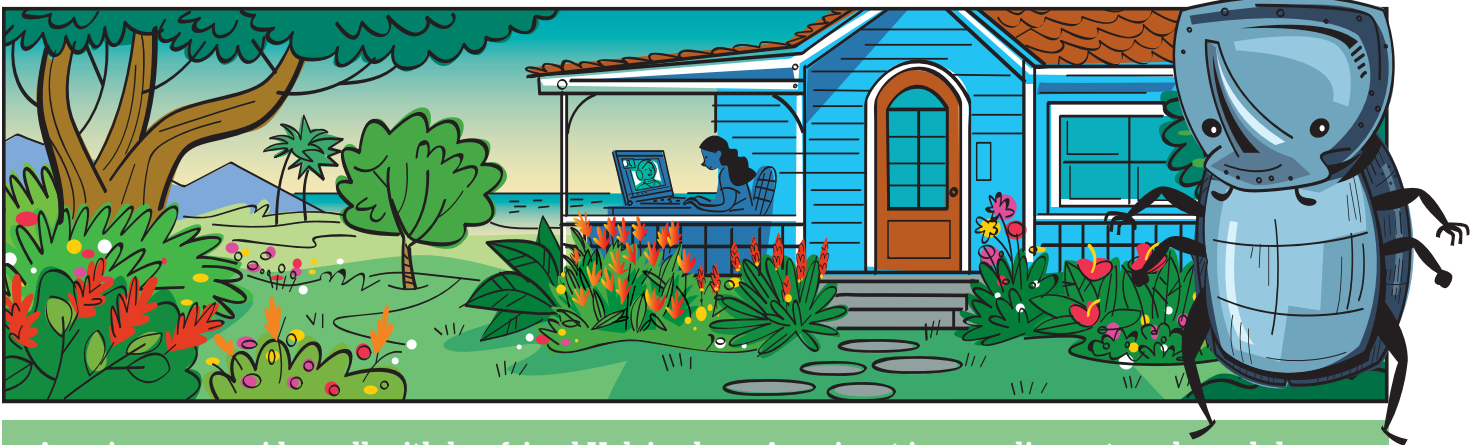


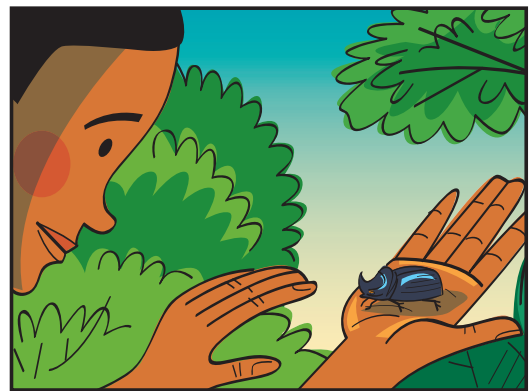
Catching the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle



Aponi was on a video call with her friend Kalei, whom Aponi met in an online entomology club. Kalei lives on the island of O’ahu and told Aponi about an insect she found...



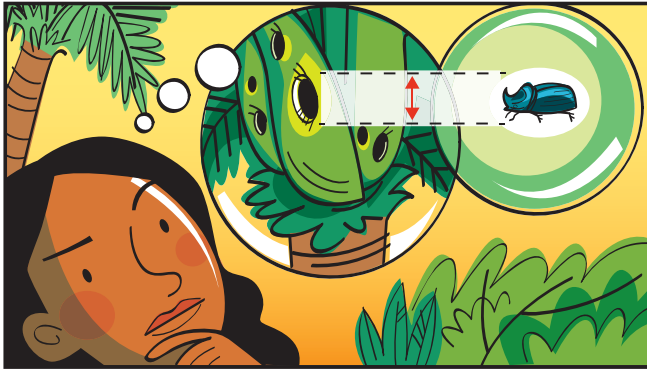
Kalei had been exploring her backyard, looking under logs for insects, and found a large black beetle with a horn that filled most of the palm of her hand! Surprised by its size, she took a picture to share at the next entomology club meeting.



Later that evening, Kalei, her brother, and her tūtū (grandmother) went out to gather niu (coconut) near their house in preparation for a baby lū’au (party) to celebrate her cousin’s first birthday.

While harvesting the coconut, they noticed large holes in the base of the coconut palm fronds.





Kalei took a closer look and noticed that the holes were almost the same size as the beetle she had seen earlier that day. Kalei wondered, “Could it have been the beetle that made these holes?”

Concerned for the coconut palms they often harvest from, she and her tūtū contacted (808) 643-PEST, Hawai'i's statewide pest-reporting hotline. Kalei sent the photo of the beetle she took to the hotline and an expert told her it was a coconut rhinoceros beetle, a pest to the coconut, loulu (fan palm), kalo (taro), and other important plants.



The hotline put them in touch with the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response team, which came out and collected the coconut rhinoceros beetle Kalei discovered and shared more information about the beetle and where else it has been found.



“Wow,” said Aponi. “Good thinking to call the pest-reporting hotline! Is there anything you can do to keep the coconut rhinoceros beetle from spreading?”

Kalei explained, “We are cleaning up our yard waste so that it doesn't become a breeding site for the beetles,



and I was able to tell my family and friends at the baby lū'au to be on the lookout for the beetles.”

Aponi and Kalei ended their video call by agreeing that Kalei should share her story at the next entomology club meeting!

