

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024**  
**10:15 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2329, HD1**  
**RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2329, HD1. It establishes a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai using past research and on-the-ground experience to guide future strategies. The Department strongly supports this measure.

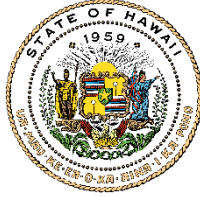
Rose-ringed parakeets are plaguing farmers and residents on the islands of Kauai and Oahu. A one-year pilot program which solidifies best practices would assist control measures for both Kauai and Oahu going forward. The request of \$150,000 is much needed to create best practices for control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY  
DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 4, 2024  
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2329 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS

House Bill 2329 House Draft 1 establishes a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kaua'i using past research and on-the-ground experience to guide future strategies and appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive FY 2025 Supplemental Budget Request.**

Rose-ringed parakeets (RRP) pose a significant threat to agriculture in Hawai'i. RRP are herbivores and feed mainly on fruit and grain, causing damage to valuable food crops throughout the state. On Kaua'i, RRP has caused an average of 10% losses for small farms. These birds may also harm native ecosystems by spreading invasive seeds, displacing other native birds, and potentially spreading avian diseases. Their roosting behavior, loud calls, and accumulated droppings are potentially harmful to public health.

Rose-ringed parakeets are widely established on both Kaua'i and O'ahu, making an eradication effort extremely difficult. Funding from the State Legislature in 2018 supported research through the USDA Wildlife Services and supported a Management Plan Recommendation for Kaua'i. The Plan states, *[t]o effectively reduce the RRP population size in the future, management efforts must be strategic, implemented consistently, coordinated at the island-wide scale, and conducted long-term. Managers must decide on a target population size and timeline to reach the desired population size, then commit resources to reach this target.*

A pilot project with one year of funding could use available tools to manage RRP populations in select areas such as cornfields and roosts. It would provide the best results if implemented annually. It is important to recognize that not all management options, such as mist netting, have been tested on Kaua'i or cannot be implemented, given the current knowledge gaps of this species' behavior and ecology (e.g., nest removal).

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

# OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun Director, Office of Economic Development- County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
April 4, 2024, at 10:15 AM  
Room 211 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**House Bill 2329 HD1**  
**Relating to Rose-Ringed Parakeets**

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2329 HD1. The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development **strongly supports HB 2329 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources to assist and fund a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of Rose-Ringed Parakeets on Kauai.

Rose-Ringed Parakeets were first observed on Kauai in the 1960s, and due to a lag phase, populations remained small until the early 2000s. Since then, populations have increased rapidly. As a result, numerous negative impacts of rose-ringed parakeets have been documented on Kauai, particularly by our agricultural community. Being opportunistic granivores and frugivores, Rose-ringed parakeets feed on seed and fruit grown on subsistence and commercial farms, significantly reducing yields year-round.

A study published in 2023 by Anderson et. al.<sup>1</sup> emphasizes that population management of rose-ringed parakeets is paramount if Kauai is to mitigate adverse effects on the economy, environment, and our community's quality of life. Furthermore, the study found that strategic, coordinated, and consistent long-term culling is the most effective method of reducing rose-ringed population size.

The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development recently released a citizen-science mapping survey in collaboration with the Kauai Rose-Ringed Parakeet Working Group. This online survey is one tool to gather real-time data on rose-ringed parakeet sightings and impacts. Data collected from this citizen-science effort is available to members of the Rose-Ringed Parakeet Working Group on an ongoing basis and will be available to aid the execution of the proposed one-year pilot program.

Kauai has the potential to be the breadbasket of the state. Given our state's widely known food insecurity and urgency to improve the security of our overall food system, resources must be committed to reaching target rose-ringed parakeet populations on Kauai.

Thank you for considering this testimony in **strong support of HB 2329 HD1**.

1. Anderson, C.J., Brennan, L.A., Bukoski, W.P. *et al.* Evaluation of roost culling as a management strategy for reducing invasive rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) populations. *Biol Invasions* 25, 1403–1419 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02984-3>



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April 4, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2329, HD1**  
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2329, HD1**, which establishes a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kaua'i using past research and on-the-ground experience to guide future strategies.

Although beautiful and appealing, these parakeets are damaging both commercial farmers' crops and backyard growers' orchards on Kaua'i, especially lychee, longan, and rambutan. On Kaua'i, it has been estimated that Rose-Ringed Parakeets (RRP) cause an average of 10% in losses for small farms. These birds may also harm native ecosystems by spreading invasive seeds, displacing other native birds, and potentially spreading avian diseases. Their roosting behavior, loud calls, and accumulated droppings are potentially harmful to public health.

RRP were first brought to the islands as pets in the 1960s. In 1968, a pair was accidentally released in Kaua'i, and after Hurricane Iwa, several other pet birds escaped and joined the wild population. The RRP population skyrocketed because of their rapid reproduction rate, lack of predators, and abundance of habitat and food. RRP is now found on every main island.

HFB agrees that we need a cost-effective means to control the rose-ringed parakeet that will benefit economically important crops, reduce the potential for damage to natural resources, and avoid any negative effects on the health and safety of our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:24:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janoah Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support funding; it is crucial to protecting and growing sustainable agriculture.

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:11:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roderick M. Kanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!!!



**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:46:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiffani Keanini	Testifying for Kauai Invasive Species Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB2329 HD1**

**LATE**

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:59:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bradley Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Bradley Smith and I have been farming on Kaua'i for 17 years in Moloaa and Kilauea. I am currently farming 18 acres. 100% of my income comes from farming, it feeds my family and keeps a roof over our heads. I first noticed a parakeet in Kilauea 5-6 years ago. Each year after that came more and more. They really like my rambutan crop which I have about 2 acres of, around 70 trees. 3 years ago was the first year I realized the damage was significant. They ate about 10% of my crop. The following year I got an eradication permit from the DLNR and was able to ease the pressure the parakeets were putting on my crop but they still got 10-15%. This year they have eaten it all! I would estimate between 4,000-6,000lbs of rambutan in 2 months. They are no longer afraid of the shotgun and they just keep coming all day long. If I shoot in one field they will fly to the field right next to it. I was able to pull screen from my greenhouses and cover about ten trees to salvage something. This was a lot of additional work and expenses (I had to rent a lift to get the net over the trees). The loss of income has made me reconsider if I can even continue farming this crop. Rambutan accounts for 20-30% of my annual income. I hope that the legislature seriously considers passing this Bill. This bird is going to go from food source to food source until there is nothing left. Thank you for your time and please keep agriculture a viable livelihood in Hawaii.

**LATE**

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:26:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Kwan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rose-ringed parakeets are a major pest on Kauai. Anything to reduce their populations would be helpful.