

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 577**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 577. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Hawaii Invasive Species Council for population control and eradication of rose ringed parakeets.

The Department offers the following comments. The rose ringed parakeets are unlikely to be eradicated within the number of birds living naturalized in the state. Populations are high enough and so widely distributed on islands that eradication may not be feasible. Given the nature of these birds, it is likely that individuals may harbor and protect them from any actions to control their population in the wild. Further, this species, and other invasive parakeets have proven to be difficult to control around the world due to their adaptability and resilience, the very traits which makes them highly invasive. The Department recommends the formation of an interagency task force to examine invasive parakeets and parrots statewide. This task force can examine short-, medium- and long-term solutions with recommendations for legislative actions to address the issue and perhaps more significantly, identify avenues of research in collaboration with international partners dealing with the same issue. Funding should

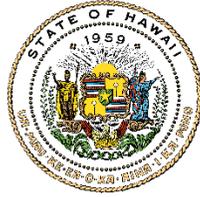


be directed not just to population control of rose ringed parakeets but to development of system approaches to minimize and mitigate the impacts of these invasive parakeets on our agricultural and natural resources.

. 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

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, February 10, 2023  
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 577  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 577 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council for population control and eradication of rose ringed parakeets. **The Department provides comments on this measure.**

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, it has been estimated that RRP have caused 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.

Rose ringed parakeets are considered widely established on both Kaua'i and O'ahu, making an eradication effort extremely difficult and costly. Funding from the State Legislature in 2018 supported research to identify additional management tools beyond culling, mostly focused on distribution of birth control in bird feed. To manage populations of rose-ringed parakeets on O'ahu and Kaua'i, additional management tools need to be evaluated to assess the potential for eradication.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
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

**HB-577**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:32:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly oppose HB577. This bill would approve and fund the extermination of an entire population of rose ringed parakeets on Kaua'i . This is speciesism at its worst ! Please shelve it.

Mahalo!



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 10, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 577**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 577**, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources and Hawai'i invasive species council for population control and eradication of rose-ringed parakeets (RRP).

Although beautiful and appealing, these parakeets are damaging both commercial farmers' crops and backyard growers' orchards on Kaua'i, especially of lychee, longan, and rambutan. On Kaua'i, it has been estimated that RRP causes 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 were accidentally released in Kaua'i, and after Hurricane Iwa, several other pet birds escaped and joined the wild population. Because of their rapid reproduction rate, lack of predators, and abundance of habitat and food, the RRP population skyrocketed. RRP are 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-577**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:58:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Please continue to prioritize the efforts to address and eradicate invasive species. WE must do better. Mahalo nui.

Kimeona Kane