

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 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, "To 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024
1:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

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

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

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.



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 Water and Land
and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 20, 2024, at 1:15 PM
Room 229 & Via Videoconference

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

Honorable Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

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.¹ 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 **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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March 20, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

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

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

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: 3/14/2024 5:00:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i is appalled with the methodology used by DLNR and DOA, who, with the support of you-the Legislators, choose lethal control for sentient beings rather than considering alternative methods of population control. Please do not pass HB2329.

Mahalo!

HB-2329-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:34:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William K. Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. The parakeets are also prevalent on Oahu are a nuisance and will compete with our existing bird population for food and shelter. These parakeers are very annoying, noisy and destructive.

HB-2329-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:53:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **support of HB2329**. The rose-ringed parakeets (RRP) are an invasive species that has significant impacts on agriculture and health. The crop losses these birds cause are so great that it is likely to force farmers to change crops or go out of business altogether unless something is done to mitigate these harms.

I support funding a pilot program to implement efforts to reduce populations of RRP in the wild. This as long it does not negatively impact funding that otherwise goes towards other invasive species efforts.

I urge you to **support HB2329**.

Mahalo,
Patrick Chee

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for HB 2329, HD1, Relating to the Rose Ringed-Parakeets
Committees on Water and Land
Committees on Agriculture and Environment
March 20, 2024, 1:15 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) **supports** HB 2329, HD1, Relating to Rose-Ringed Parakeets, which establishes a pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai.

Hawai'i's unique biodiversity is due in part to its geographic isolation. Hawai'i's native plant and animal species are those that arrived here without the assistance of humans: seeds for Hawai'i's first plants arrived here by floating on the waves, being blown by the wind, or transported by traveling birds. Likewise, Hawai'i's native animal species are those that flew here on the wind or swam here on the water. Introduction events like these are very rare, and so the species that made it to Hawai'i lived here in relative isolation over the 70 million years of Hawai'i's volcanic history. Species that evolve on islands do so in the absence of some of the world's more competitive species and it is these invasive species that threaten the state's biodiversity, as well as economic drivers including the agriculture and tourism sectors.

The state's efforts to reduce the Rose-Ringed Parakeet population must be strategic, implemented consistently, coordinated at the island-wide scale, and conducted long-term. For these reasons, we support the establishment of a pilot program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2329, HD1.

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Submitted By

Organization

Testifier Position

Testify

Sage Keller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only
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Testimony in Support of H.B. NO. 2329

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

I'm a high school student from Kauai, and I'm writing to support H.B. NO. 2329 regarding rose-ringed parakeets.

These birds are causing big problems on our island. They eat crops like mangoes and corn that local farmers depend on, and they make a mess in our neighborhoods with their loud calls and droppings.

H.B. NO. 2329 suggests a pilot program to control the parakeet population using methods that have worked before. This is important because their numbers are growing fast, and we need to act now.

I think this bill is a good idea because it helps farmers, protects our environment, and makes our communities better. I hope you'll support it too.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Sage Keller, Kilauea, HI, 96754

HB-2329-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:32:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT, WITH SUGGESTIONS

To All:

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Given the phenomenal ability of rose-winged parakeets to reproduce, their projected longevity of forty (40) years, and their dramatic, negative impact on our agriculture, careful and immediate culling is necessary.

Twice now I have seen flocks of these birds, once near the Capitol, and again in a neighbor's mango tree. These birds are large and beautiful. Their feathers are spectacular.

Once killed, their feathers and bodies should not be wasted, if at all possible.

My suggestions:

1. Provision should be made to allow our Hawai'i feather workers to pluck the feathers, either for the use of each feather worker, or for sale, or both.
2. The bodies of the birds should be recycled, for example, as pet food, food for domesticated pigs, or for the creation of compost, or another use. It is fitting that since these invasive birds nourished themselves on our crops, their bodies should become nourishment for our land, our plants, and our domesticated animals. Dumping the bodies of these birds into our dumps and landfill sites would be wasteful.
3. Given the fertility of these beautiful (but noisy) invaders and the speed with which they have reproduced and spread, immediate action is necessary.

Thank you for your consideration. Please pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Hawai'i State Judiciary Certified Spanish Court Interpreter (Tier 4)

Licensed Trainer, The Community Interpreter®

Resident & voter, Moili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826

Graduate, Wilcox Elementary School, Kauai High School