

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 House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
9:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

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

House Bill 2329 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 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, it has been estimated that 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 considered widely established on both Kaua'i and O'ahu, making an eradication effort almost impossible. 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 (cornfields, roosts). It may provide the best results if implemented annually. Several tools will be needed to develop a long-term effective control strategy for RRP. It is important to recognize that not all management options have been tested on Kaua'i, such as mist netting, or cannot be implemented given the current knowledge gaps of the behavior and ecology of this species (e.g., nest removal).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments 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
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
February 9, 2024, at 9:30 AM
Room 325 & Via Videoconference

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

Honorable Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloe, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2329. The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development **strongly supports HB 2329**, 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**.

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>



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

February 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2329
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:15 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 2329, 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. Because of their rapid reproduction rate, lack of predators, and abundance of habitat and food, the RRP population skyrocketed. 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

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:39:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffani Keanini	Kauai Invasive Species Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 12:05:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haylin chock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the supression of Rose ringed parakeets to protect hawaiiis agriculture

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:04:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill completely. Since 2015 I've been taking videos of the flocks of parakeets in Poipu. It's very hard on the farmers, their droppings are unhealthy and we used so much water to clean it up every day. Please take care of this invasive species.

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:32:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roderick M. Kanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill . Kani Wildlife Control has been the only productive company that has eliminated these birds.

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:36:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowen Yorkman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: The parakeets have been a long time issue for our local farming community. These birds continue to damage our crops, and eat produce that is needed for our community! We need control methods to reduce the existing parakeet population.

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:37:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Imamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned resident of kauai, i support Bill HB2329.

this will help our local and commercial farmers in this on going epidemic fight with the Rose Ring parakeet that has done significant crop damaged to all kauai's agriculture farmers .

many self sustainable farmers depends on their mangos, papaya's , lychee and corn and other various crops to make a living.

this invasive bird needs to be controlled as no other solutions have been effective as far as trapping trapping or chemical control.

the only means of control that has shown to be effective is culling.

i strongly believe in controlling these birds is a must so our farming bussiness can strive.

mahalo

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:14:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janoah Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having worked in ag on Kauai for more than 15 years, crop cycle after crop cycle, we suffer from the damages and crop loss caused from parakeets. Agriculture in Hawaii is uniquely hard, and the parakeets just add to the existing challenges. Any and all methods to reduce parakeets, directly positively benefits the production and sustainability to our local farmers and crops.

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:40:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaniela Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This invasive species needs to be controlled. The burden to our local farmers and crop loss continues to negatively impact our island and our state. Populations are out of control, and the problem is on multiple islands. Let's work to address this problem, reduce the parakeet population, and protect our local agriculture!

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:48:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Skelton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to try to control parakeet populations on Kauai. After some population reductions during the pandemic, the numbers are getting very large.

The financial loss to farmers is substantial, Farming is hard enough as it is, and most farmers don't make much money. Big loses might be the straw that breaks the back of some farmers. The last thing we need is reducing harvests of locally produced food!

Even homeowners are losing fruit to the parakeets.

Another issue is parakeet poop, especially in tourist areas. It fouls parking lots and swimming pool decks, requiring extra work to maintain clean and hygienic spaces for residents and visitors. The parakeets also damage landscaping which also requires expensive extra work.

HB-2329

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:06:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS.

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. Appropriates funds. Sunsets