
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The rose-ringed parakeet, *Psittacula krameri*,
2 native to Africa and India, has been introduced in over thirty-
3 five countries and five continents. Stable populations can be
4 found in Florida, Hawaii, and southern California. The rose-
5 ringed parakeet is considered to be one of the most significant
6 agricultural pests of important food crops. It is gregarious, a
7 dietary generalist, has a high reproductive rate, is well-
8 adapted to living in populated areas, and is without predation
9 pressure. The rose-ringed parakeet has proven to be a
10 successful invader and poses a significant threat to local
11 economies by damaging agriculture and the local ecology by
12 causing invasive plant dispersion and competing with native
13 wildlife.

14 The first noted release of the rose-ringed parakeet on
15 Kauai occurred in the 1960s by bed-and-breakfast workers in
16 Lawai. By 1982, the feral population had grown to fifty birds
17 when a second pet pair was released after Hurricane Iwa. The
18 rose-ringed parakeet's population on Kauai was estimated to be



1 between one hundred fifty and two hundred in 1994; between five
2 hundred and one thousand by the last decade; and, as estimated
3 by the National Wildlife Research Center of the United States
4 Department of Agriculture, more than two thousand by 2011.

5 Kauai residents complain about the calls and shrills from
6 the rose-ringed parakeet. The birds also represent a potential
7 vector of various pathogens and diseases, including avian
8 influenza, avian malaria, and salmonella, that can be passed to
9 humans, pets, and native wildlife through direct contact or in
10 association with droppings below roosting and foraging sites.

11 The staff of the National Wildlife Research Center have
12 observed the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and have concluded
13 that these birds are probably dispersing invasive plant species,
14 including lilikoi and strawberry and yellow guava; possibly
15 destroying native seeds, including koa; and potentially
16 competing with native birds for fruits, seeds, and nesting
17 sites.

18 The greatest negative effects of the rose-ringed parakeet
19 on Kauai, however, are economic. These parakeets are known for
20 damaging crops, and reports from fruit farmers suggest that the
21 parakeets are damaging and reducing the yield of many of their



1 crops, including lychee, longan, and rambutan. In response to
2 reports of damage to crops and reduced yields, the National
3 Wildlife Research Center conducted a two-month research study in
4 2011 that documented the movement and foraging patterns of the
5 parakeet, contained additional estimates of their population,
6 and identified roost site locations. This study is the only
7 formal research study of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai.

8 There is a strong need for more cost-effective means to
9 control the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai that will benefit
10 economically important crops, reduce the potential for damage to
11 natural resources, and avoid any negative effects on the health
12 and safety of Kauai residents.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
14 department of agriculture to provide assistance and funding to
15 the National Wildlife Research Center of the United States
16 Department of Agriculture to:

- 17 (1) Complete the research assessment of the negative
18 impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on the island of
19 Kauai initiated by the Center in 2011; and
20 (2) Thereafter, develop and implement a program to
21 effectuate an effective control plan to reduce the



1 negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on the
2 island of Kauai.

3 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall assist and
4 collaborate with the National Wildlife Research Center of the
5 United States Department of Agriculture, including funding the
6 completion of the Center's research study on the rose-ringed
7 parakeet on the island of Kauai and related research,
8 development, and implementation programs to reduce the negative
9 impacts of the parakeet on the island of Kauai.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
13 the department of agriculture to assist the National Wildlife
14 Research Center of the United States Department of Agriculture
15 in:

16 (1) Completing its research assessment of the negative
17 impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on the island of
18 Kauai; and

19 (2) Developing and implementing an effective control plan
20 for reducing the negative impacts of the rose-ringed
21 parakeet on the island of Kauai.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

4



Report Title:

Rose-ringed Parakeet; National Wildlife Research Center;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to assist and fund the National Wildlife Research Center with research of the negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and development and implementation of a control plan to reduce the negative impacts. (SD1)

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