

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 1, 2016
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1869 HD1
RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1869 HD1. This bill would appropriate general funds to the department to: 1) fund the National Wildlife Research Center's assessment of the impacts of the parakeet and; 2) to develop a control program to reduce the impacts of the parakeet. The department supports part 1 of this measure provided that it does not impact the department's priorities submitted in the executive budget, but has reservations with part 2.

The department recognizes that rose-ringed parakeet is an environmental pest and agricultural pest. It spreads seeds of noxious weeds into the forests causing the dispersal of these weeds into the forest areas which compete with and often overwhelm the native plants, changing the ecology of the forests. This then has secondary negative impacts on the native birds, insects, bats, etc. In addition, the rose-ringed parakeet feeds on fruit grown in agricultural areas resulting in a negative impact on agriculture production. The National Wildlife Research Center has begun, but has not completed, studies on the impacts of these birds in Hawaii. This funding will continue that research which will be needed to develop effective control measures.

The second part of this bill mandates the department to develop a control program to manage these birds. Any control program will need to be based on an



understanding of the bird's biology, ecology, and behavior. The National Wildlife Research Center's study should provide some of this needed information. However, the department does not have any expertise in the control of birds and in particular large populations of birds such as this that are having an impact in nonagricultural areas such as the forests.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1869, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET**

House Bill 1869, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to support research and control of rose-ringed parakeet on the island of Kauai. **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 Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department recognizes that there has been an increase in reports of rose-ringed parakeet flocks on the island of Kauai and that this species may be a nuisance to farmers. The proposed research by the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) would also examine whether this species poses threats to Hawaii's natural resources by feeding on native plant seeds or dispersing non-native plant seeds from low-elevation farms and forests into higher-elevation native forests. The Department notes that until research by NWRC is completed and a control plan is developed, it may be difficult to determine an appropriate amount of funding to implement such a plan, as is required by section three of this measure. The Department defers to HDOA on an appropriate amount of funding for the research and planning activities described by this measure.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



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March 1, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1869, HD1
RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

Room 308
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 1869, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to assist and fund the National Wildlife Research Center to research the negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and develop and implement a control plan to reduce the negative impacts.

Although beautiful and appealing, these parakeets are damaging both commercial farmers' crops and backyard growers' orchards on Kauai, especially of lychee, longan, and rambutan.

HFB agrees that we need a cost-effective means to control the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai 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 Kauai residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HCIA 2014 - 2016 Board of Directors

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Mark Phillipson

Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a

In Strong Support of HB1869
RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, 03-01-16 1:00PM in House conference room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in **strong support of HB1869** which appropriates funds to the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture to assist and fund the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) with research of the negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and development and implementation of a control plan to reduce set negative impacts.

The Rose-Ringed Parakeet (RRP) is a substantial threat to agriculture in Hawaii, especially on Kauai. Over the past few years, local farmers have watched as the population of these environmental and agricultural pests have grown. The RRP feeds indiscriminately on the crops of both small and large agricultural enterprises.

RRP's measure approximately sixteen inches long, including tail feathers. Their average single-wing length is roughly 6.5 inches. These birds are most commonly found in flocks containing several dozen, allowing for the quick destruction of an agricultural field.

Secondary to their impact on crops from feeding, the RRP also spread seeds of invasive weeds. Left unchecked, the unwanted weeds lead to lower production yields and a myriad of other negative ecological impacts.

The NWRC has begun research of the negative impacts of the RRP on Kauai. The requested funding will allow them to complete their study and move forward with a much needed control plan to limit the negative impacts produced by these animals.

HCIA respectfully requests that this committee vote yes on HB1869 to help local farmers protect their businesses and livelihoods.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



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March 1, 2016

Testimony of the Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Supporting HB1869 Relating to the Rose-Ringed Parakeet

Committee on Finance – Chair Luke and Vice Chair Nishimoto

Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 1:00PM, Room 308

Good afternoon to Chair Luke and Vice Chair Nishimoto and esteemed committee members. The Kauai Invasive Species Committee **supports** S.B. HB1869 which would provide funding to HDOA to work with the National Wildlife Research Center on researching impacts and control options relating to the Rose-Ringed Parakeet.

KISC sits on the Kauai Rose-ring parakeet working group formed in 2014 to address the growing complaints from the agricultural sector regarding crop depredation. Rose-ring parakeets are serious pests globally causing significant crop loss in regions such as India and Pakistan. As with many introduced species, Rose-ringed parakeets have the ability to exhibit rapid population growth due the absence of competitors, disease and predators that hold populations in check naturally.

Preliminary work done in 2011 has indicated that the Kauai population appears poised for rapid expansion. Information is urgently needed to model the spread, assess current and potential damage, and create a management plan for action.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey
Project Manager
Kauai Invasive Species Committee
University of Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 10:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1869 on Mar 1, 2016 13:00PM*

HB1869

Submitted on: 2/27/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

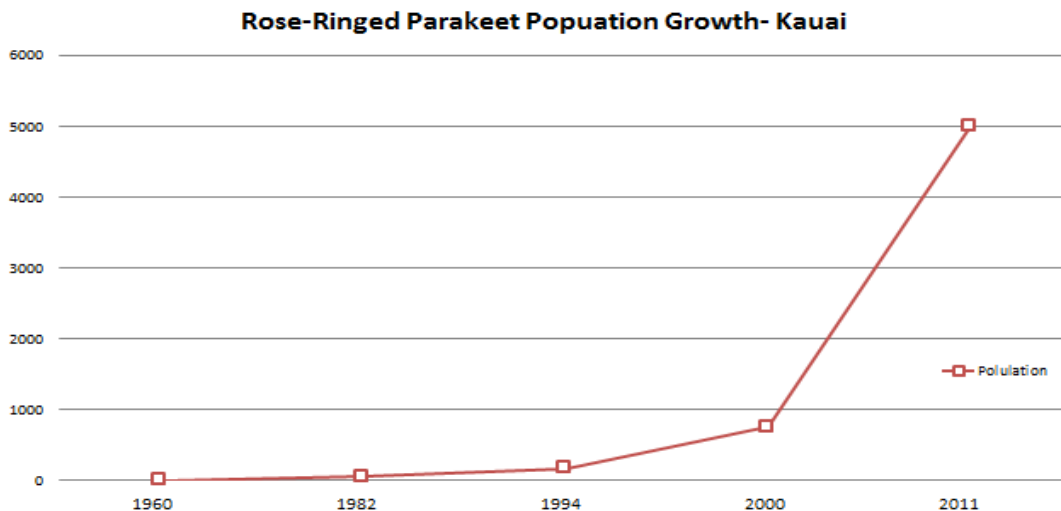
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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jill Suga and I am a new business owner on Kauai. I am in **strong support of HB1869** which should appropriate funds to Hawaii State Department of Agriculture to support more research on the negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and develop and implement a control plan to reduce the negative impacts.

Besides their annoying calls and shrills, and the potential vector for avian diseases, the rose-ringed parakeet is a substantial threat to agriculture in Hawaii, especially on Kaua'i. Over the last few years, I've watched the populations grow as I worked in the corn fields and watched it destroy crops that we worked so hard to produce. Starting a new mango business on Kaua'i, these concerns now present me with greater risks.

Besides a small (privately funded) study in 2011, there is not much known about this species. We need to know more and do more now. This is an issue that we can't delay any longer. Please see the graph below that displays their estimated population growth. It is scary to think of what an update of this graph would look like today, or what it will look like a year from now.



I respectfully request that this committee vote yes on H1869 to help local farmers like me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Suga



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Kunia, HI 96759

Syngenta is pleased to add our support to HB 1869 relating to the Rose-Ringed Parakeet, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture to assist and fund the National Wildlife Research Center of the negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and the development and implementation of a control plan to reduce the negative impacts.

We endorse the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association's (HCIA) testimony submitted on 2/27/2016, and kindly refer you to their comments.

Syngenta thanks the House Committee on Finance for the opportunity to testify on this bill and humbly asks the Committee for its favorable consideration of this measure.

For questions or further background, please do not hesitate to contact Angus Kelly, Syngenta Hawaii, at angus.kelly@syngenta.com.

Syngenta is a leading agriculture company helping to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources. Through world class science and innovative crop solutions, our 28,000 people—including 4,500 in North America—in over 90 countries are working to transform how crops are grown. We are committed to rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities. To learn more visit www.syngenta.com and www.goodgrowthplan.com. Follow us on Twitter® at www.twitter.com/Syngenta



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Syngenta is a leading agriculture company helping to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources. Through world class science and innovative crop solutions, our 28,000 people—including 4,500 in North America—in over 90 countries are working to transform how crops are grown. We are committed to rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities. To learn more visit www.syngenta.com and www.goodgrowthplan.com. Follow us on Twitter® at www.twitter.com/Syngenta

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jerryo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1869 on Mar 1, 2016 13:00PM

HB1869

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ornellas	Kauai County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments: Very important issue concerning the farmers and back yard growers on Kauai.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Marla Suga, lifetime resident and new agricultural business owner of the west side of Kauai. I am in **strong support of HB1869** which should appropriate funds to Hawaii State Department of Agriculture to support more research on the negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and develop and implement a control plan to reduce the negative impacts.

Hawaii has a rich history in agriculture. The rose-ringed parakeet threatens that. Watching the rapid growth in population of the rose-ringed parakeet is concerning, especially as a farmer. This pest has an extremely negative impact on agriculture, such as seed dispersal of invasive flora, avian disease, competition with native species etc. Being in a business that will eventually distribute fruit for human consumption, the rose-ringed parakeet also has the potential to be a vector for various pathogens and diseases, including, avian influenza, avian malaria, and salmonella, that can be passed to humans, pets, and native wildlife through direct contact or in association with droppings below roosting and foraging sites.

The rose-ringed parakeet is threatening to eradicate agriculture. This introduced pest is the enemy. How do we get rid of the enemy? Study it, learn its weaknesses, plan for all potential outcomes, and attack. We need to take a proactive and aggressive approach to eradicate an introduced pest and preserve agriculture in Hawaii.

I respectfully request that this committee vote yes on H1869 to help local farmers like me.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Marla Suga