

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 1, 2017  
8:45 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 655  
RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 655. This bill would appropriate general funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to: fund the National Wildlife Research Center's assessment of the impacts of the parakeet and develop a control program to reduce the impacts of the parakeet. The department supports this measure.

The department recognizes that rose-ringed parakeet is an environmental pest and agricultural pest. It spreads seeds of noxious weeds into the forests 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.



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  
ENGINEERING  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 1, 2017  
8:45 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 655  
RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

House Bill 655 proposes to provide funds to support research and control of rose-ringed parakeet on the island of Kauai. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this initiative, as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

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. This funding would support development of a control plan for parakeets and would fund some initial control work under the guidance of this plan.

The Department notes that the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan describes the need for increased research and control of established pests, such as the rose-ringed parakeet, under action item #121 (PosTifs2.3).

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** dale@hicattle.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM\*

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM\*

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alan@prloffice.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM\*

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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Kathryn Fiedler  
Invasive Pest Extension Agent  
University of Hawaii, CTAHR  
Kauai County

30 January 2017

I am writing to the House of Representatives in support to the bill HB655: Relating to the Rose Ringed Parakeet.

As the Extension Agent on Kauai designated to help educate and explore mitigation measures, cannot strongly express enough the urgency Kauai residents and guests need to find ways to control the Rose Ringed Parakeet. It is the topic that most occupies my work and personal time when my position within the university is mentioned.

I regularly visit farmer's markets to get up to date on various concerns of our growers, and I hear story after story of tangerine trees stripped of fruit in a day, and the loss of an entire lychee orchard directly before harvest. Many of our multicultural growers here are too shy or concerned about government to come forward and speak their mind about the losses they experience due to the Rose Ringed Parakeet, so I will speak for them. Our vegetable and fruit growers accrue significant losses due to feeding damage and now require at least one family member at all times in their fields in order to scare away birds. Scare tape, noise calls, scarecrows, and other tactics have failed immediately to prevent parakeet feeding, so a more effective and long-term control measure needs to be explored.

Beyond the crop losses, I am concerned for the food safety and public health concerns that the rose ringed parakeets bring to Kauai. These birds and their relatives leave significant excrement where they roost and have been known to vector many human pathogens. If they are regularly visiting restaurants and farms, then there is a strong potential that pathogens are being introduced into our food systems.

Thank you for your time and look forward to hearing the outcome of this bill. This Kauai County problem will soon become a problem on every island and I hope we are able to establish control measures to prevent the parakeets from being a permanent resident of the state like some of its invasive predecessors.

Mahalo,

Kathryn Fiedler, Ph.D.



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 1, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 655**  
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

Room 312  
8:45 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 655**, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources to assist with and provide supplemental funds to 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.



## HCIA 2016 - 2018 Board of Directors

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### Vice-President

Joshua Uyehara

### Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

### Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

### Directors-at-Large

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Richard McCormack

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### President Emeritus

Kirby Kester

### Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

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### 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 healthy economy.

## TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### In Support of HB655 RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Wednesday, 02-01-17 8:45am in House conference room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, 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 support of HB655 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.





# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HCIA respectfully requests that this committee vote yes on HB655 to help local farmers protect their businesses and livelihoods.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha  
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement

Jill Suga- P.O. Box 424 Hanapepe, HI. 96716

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Date: 1/31/17

Testimony of: Jill Suga

Supporting HB655

Committee on Agriculture

Chair Richard Creagan and Vice Chair Lynn DeCoite

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:45 AM, Room # 312

Dear Honorable Chair Richard Creagan and Vice- Chair Lynn DeCoite,

I am a small business owner trying to start my own mango orchard on Kaua'i and support HB655 which would allocate funding to the Department of Land and Natural resources to assist with and provide supplemental funds to 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.

The rose-ringed parakeet is becoming a considerable pest on Kauai. I hear them flying over my home in Hanapepe and see them roosting near our county building and in several other locations. I have also witnessed the damage it can do to mangos and fear the negative effects it will have on my business. Therefore, I urge the legislature to act rapidly before the population becomes too large and too dispersed to control with the resulting losses to agriculture, tourism and the native environment.

Sincerely,

---

Jill Suga

President: Kekaha Farms- Under Da Mango Tree LLC.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** paml@warren.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Warren	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Pamela Warren PO Box 1299 Kilauea, HI 96754 Date: January 31, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_ Testimony of: Pamela Warren Supporting (SB 772 – Senate bill or HB655 – House bill), [depending whether it is a house or senate committee] Relating to the Rose-Ringed Parakeet As a gardener residing in Kilauea, Pamela Warren supports (Bill #655) which would allocate funding to the Department of Land and Natural resources to assist with and provide supplemental funds to 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. On my 6 acre property, I have lemons, oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, longan, several varieties of mango, avocado, pineapple, rambutan, lychee, cacao and starfruit as well as a large vegetable garden. My small farm could easily be devastated by the Rose Ringed Parakeets, who are voracious eaters, The rose-ringed parakeet is becoming a considerable pest on Kauai. Parakeet populations exhibit a slow growth for several years before beginning rapid expansion. Kauai is currently experiencing the beginning of the rapid growth phase and the population must be controlled before it spreads across the entire island. Throughout the past two years I have witnessed huge flocks of these noisy birds descending on trees in Poipu and Lihue at dusk. The damage to agriculture through crop loss has been documented from small back yard growers to large scale seed farms. Tourist and residents in roosting areas are increasingly complaining about noise and feces as roosts expand and seek new locations. I understand that the effects on native birds and plants are less known; however there is growing evidence that parakeets are spreading invasive seeds into the forests while destroying native seeds and potentially spreading pathogens and human diseases. I urge the legislature to act rapidly before the population becomes too large and dispersed to control with the resulting losses to agriculture, tourism and the native environment. Sincerely, Pamela Warren

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:22 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** warrenmcfb@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM\*

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** yoshitol@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yoshito L'Hote	Kilauea Neighborhood association	Support	No

Comments: the health hazard associated with these bird is public threat for visitors and locals alike

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** yoshitol@yahoo.com  
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**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	No

Comments: prevent the establishment of an other ag pest that will cost us millions in lost revenue

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** yoshitol@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yoshito L'Hote	Individual	Support	No

Comments: be pro active against pest before they become a huge expensive problem

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**LATE**

The House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture  
February 1, 2017  
8:45 a.m., Conference Room 312  
State Capitol

**Testimony in Support of HB 655**

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 655, *Relating to the Rose-Ringed Parakeet.*** The aim of this measure is to provide funding to better assess the impacts of this invasive bird, and to begin a control program on Kaua‘i.

Over the past twenty years, the unmitigated proliferation of this beautiful but invasive bird has been quite evident in Honolulu, and it seems that we are destined to learn more about their impacts as the population continues to rise. On the other hand, Kaua‘i still has a chance to control the relatively small population of this bird, with a small amount of funding. Therefore, we ask for your support of HB 655. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Christy Martin  
CGAPS

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:41 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jerryo@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM\*

**LATE**

**HB655**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerry Ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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