

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND
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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
FINANCE

Friday, February 24, 2017
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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 FINANCE

FEBRUARY 24, 2017
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

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

Chairperson Luke 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.





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February 1, 2017

Testimony of Bill Lucey – Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Supporting HB 655

House Committee on Agriculture

Chair: Rep. Richard P. Creagan & Vice Chair: Lynn Decoite

Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 11:30AM, Room 312

The Kauai Invasive Species committee **supports** HB 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.

The Kauai rose-ringed parakeet working group has been working on introducing legislation for three years to address the growing problem of rose-ringed parakeets. Parakeet populations exhibit a slow growth for several years before beginning rapid expansion. Data from the Netherlands recorded a doubling of their population between 2006 and 2010, from 5,000 to 10,000 individuals. The Netherlands population was introduced with a few pet birds in the early 1970'. Similarly, Kauai's population began 1968 with a handful of pet birds.

Kauai is now experiencing the beginning of the rapid growth phase and the population must be controlled before it spreads across the entire island. 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 birds seek new locations. Though the effects on native birds and plants are less known, there is growing evidence that parakeets are spreading invasive seeds into the forests while destroying native seeds and potentially spreading pathogens and human diseases.

We 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,

Bill Lucey
Project Manager
Kauai Invasive Species Committee
University of Hawaii



HCIA 2016 - 2018 Board of Directors

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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 healthy economy.

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of HB 655 Relating to the Rose-Ringed Parakeet

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 24, 2017, 12:30 p.m. Conference Room 308

Chair Luke and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (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.

HCIA is in strong support of HB 655, 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 16 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 HB 655 to help local farmers protect their businesses and livelihoods. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 655
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

Room 308
12:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
February 24, 2017
12:30 p.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 655

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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: Thursday, February 23, 2017 3:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM*

HB655

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Wiederoder	Dow Agrosience	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: laurieho1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB655 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB655

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for the ability to testify via email messaging. I wish to strongly support HB655. WE need to get rid of these invasive species upsetting the balance of our ecosystems.

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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Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor

George K. Costa
Director



Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.
Managing Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

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TEL (808) 241-4946 FAX (808) 241-6399



MEMORANDUM

May 21, 2016

February 23, 2017

Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke (Chair), Representative Ty J.K. Cullen (Vice Chair)
and Members of the Committee

HB 655 – RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET

Testimony of the Office of Economic Development, County of Kaua'i
George K. Costa, Director in SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: February 24, 2017 – Committee on Finance, Conference Room 308,
12:30pm

The Office of Economic Development on behalf of the County of Kaua'i, farmers, ranchers and other agricultural organizations, **requests your support of HB 655**, that provides \$180,000 in funding for fiscal year 2017-18 for the Department of Land & Natural Resources to assist the National Wildlife Research Center of the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct research on the rose-ringed parakeet as set forth in the proposed Act.

It is our understanding that the proposed funding will assist not only research, but also implement programs to reduce the negative impacts of the parakeet on the island of Kaua'i.

This request is being made on behalf of Kaua'i Mayor, Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. and the Mayor's Kaua'i Agriculture Advisory Committee which works very closely and provides support for other agricultural organizations such as the Kauai County Farm Bureau, Kauai Cattleman's Association, Kauai Taro Growers Association, Kauai Landscape Industry Council, Kauai Coffee growers, and Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers.

Please lend your support to HB 655. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George K. Costa
Director – Office of Economic Development, County of Kauai
gcosta@kauai.gov

xc: Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.