

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43/HOUSE RESOLUTION 47
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, TO
DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR MANAGING THE ROSE-RINGED
PARAKEET POPULATION.**

House Concurrent Resolution 43/House Resolution 47 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), in consultation with the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), to develop a comprehensive strategy for managing the invasive Rose-Ringed Parakeet population, and report jointly on their comprehensive strategy, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024. **The Department offers the following comments, and proposes amendments.**

The Rose-Ringed Parakeet is the most successful species of invasive parakeet worldwide. They pose a significant threat to agriculture in Hawai'i. The birds are herbivores and feed mainly on fruits and grains. Their large flocks and voracious appetites cause damage to valuable food crops and potentially have devastating impacts to Hawaiian farmers. Populations are established on Kaua'i and O'ahu. These birds also harm native ecosystems by spreading invasive seeds, displacing other native birds, and spreading avian disease. Their roosting behavior, loud calls, and accumulated droppings are detrimental to tourism and the local community and are potentially harmful to the public health.

HISC was established in 2003 codified as Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and is administered under the Department. HISC is co-chaired by the chairs of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the Department, and members include representatives from the

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

Departments of Transportation, Health, Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawai‘i. HISC provides policy level direction, coordination, and planning for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the state and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful.

The measures call for the Department in consultation with HISC to develop a comprehensive strategy for managing the invasive Rose-Ringed Parakeet population, and report jointly to the Legislature on their comprehensive strategy prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024. The Department agrees with the need to address the impacts caused by the Rose-Ringed Parakeet. Since the Rose-Ringed Parakeet also severely impacts agriculture and their populations are currently in the lowland areas where people live and farm, and HISC is co-chaired by the chairs of the Department and HDOA, the Department believes HISC is the appropriate entity to develop policy-level direction, coordination and planning for the control and eradication the Rose-Ringed Parakeet statewide. The Department suggests deleting the Department from the measure as the Department is inherently one of the two lead agencies of HISC, supports this effort, and will be highly involved through HISC.

HISC does not draft or implement detailed management strategies, so the comprehensive management plan development and implementation should be a coordinated effort by both the Department and HDOA whereby both departments will fill in the details based on the overarching direction of HISC. The Department sees the management of the Rose-Ringed Parakeet as a 3-phased action:

Phase 1: HISC develops policy-level direction, coordination and planning for the control and eradication of Rose-Ringed Parakeet statewide, and report back to the Legislature.

Phase 2: The Department and HDOA jointly develop a management plan.

Phase 3: The Department and HDOA implement their sections of the management plan.

The Department advises that Phases 2 and 3 above (developing and implementing a management plan) would require the Legislature to appropriate dedicated funding that neither the Department nor HDOA currently have. The Department suggests \$250,000 (Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) for the management plan development, and \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) per year for three years split between the departments commensurate with agreed upon work. This funding would represent a focused short-term investment to mitigate the impacts where this species is widespread and prevent this highly invasive Parakeet from spreading to Maui, Moloka‘i, Lana‘i and Hawai‘i Island. A management plan for this species will be complex and require consultation with various stakeholders across the State, including farmers and lowland forest managers, and should highlight known and potential tools and technology used in mitigation/control.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



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

March 29, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HCR 43/HR 47
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, TO DEVELOP A
COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR MANAGING THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET
POPULATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 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 HCR 43/HR 47, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, is urged to develop a comprehensive strategy for managing the invasive rose-ringed parakeet (RRP) population.

Although beautiful and appealing, these parakeets are damaging both commercial farmers' crops and backyard growers' orchards on Kaua'i, especially of lychee, longan, and rambutan. On Kaua'i, it has been estimated that RRP causes 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 was 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.

HR-47

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:59:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Erin Bishop | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support taking steps to address the issues this invasive species poses to both residents and agriculture in Hawaii. There is no recourse for people being impacted by this species and it will only continue to be a growing problem. Mahalo for your consideration.