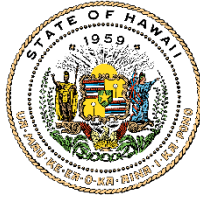


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING 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

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2329 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS

House Bill 2329 House Draft 1 establishes a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai using past research and on-the-ground experience to guide future strategies and appropriate funds. **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 FY 2025 Supplemental Budget Request.**

Rose-ringed parakeets (RRP) pose a significant threat to agriculture in Hawai'i. RRP are herbivores and feed mainly on fruit and grain, causing damage to valuable food crops throughout the state. On Kaua'i, it has been estimated that RRP has caused an average of 10% 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.

Rose-ringed parakeets are considered widely established on both Kaua'i and O'ahu, making an eradication effort almost impossible. Funding from the State Legislature in 2018 supported research through the USDA Wildlife Services and supported a Management Plan Recommendation for Kaua'i. The Plan states, *"To effectively reduce the RRP population size in the future, management efforts must be strategic, implemented consistently, coordinated at the island-wide scale, and conducted long-term. Managers must decide on a target population size and timeline to reach the desired population size, then commit resources to reach this target."*

A pilot project with one year of funding could use available tools to manage RRP populations in select areas (cornfields, roosts). It may provide the best results if implemented annually. Several tools will be needed to develop a long-term effective control strategy for RRP. It is important to recognize that not all management options have been tested on Kaua'i, such as mist netting, or cannot be implemented given the current knowledge gaps of the behavior and ecology of this species (e.g., nest removal).

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2024**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2329, HD1**  
**RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2329, HD1. It establishes a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai using past research and on-the-ground experience to guide future strategies. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Rose-ringed parakeets are plaguing farmers and residents on the islands of Kauai and Oahu. A one-year pilot program which solidifies best practices would assist control measures for both Kauai and Oahu going forward. The request of \$150,000 is much needed to create best practices for control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun Director, Office of Economic Development- County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems**  
February 9, 2024, at 9:30 AM  
Room 325 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**House Bill 2329**  
**Relating to Rose-Ringed Parakeets**

Honorable Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloe, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2329. The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development **strongly supports HB 2329**, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources to assist and fund a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of Rose-Ringed Parakeets on Kauai.

Rose-Ringed Parakeets were first observed on Kauai in the 1960s, and due to a lag phase, populations remained small until the early 2000s. Since then, populations have increased rapidly. As a result, numerous negative impacts of rose-ringed parakeets have been documented on Kauai, particularly by our agricultural community. Being opportunistic granivores and frugivores, Rose-ringed parakeets feed on seed and fruit grown on subsistence and commercial farms, significantly reducing yields year-round.

A study published in 2023 by Anderson et. al.<sup>1</sup> emphasizes that population management of rose-ringed parakeets is paramount if Kauai is to mitigate adverse effects on the economy, environment, and our community's quality of life. Furthermore, the study found that strategic, coordinated, and consistent long-term culling is the most effective method of reducing rose-ringed population size.

The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development recently released a citizen-science mapping survey in collaboration with the Kauai Rose-Ringed Parakeet Working Group. This online survey is one tool to gather real-time data on rose-ringed parakeet sightings and impacts. Data collected from this citizen-science effort is available to members of the Rose-Ringed Parakeet Working Group on an ongoing basis and will be available to aid the execution of the proposed one-year pilot program.

Kauai has the potential to be the breadbasket of the state. Given our state's widely known food insecurity and urgency to improve the security of our overall food system, resources must be committed to reaching target rose-ringed parakeet populations on Kauai.

Thank you for considering this testimony in **support of HB 2329**.

1. Anderson, C.J., Brennan, L.A., Bukoski, W.P. *et al.* Evaluation of roost culling as a management strategy for reducing invasive rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) populations. *Biol Invasions* 25, 1403–1419 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02984-3>

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun**  
Director, Office of Economic Development- County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**House Committee on Finance**  
February 22, 2024, at 1:00 PM  
Room 308 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**House Bill 2329 HD1**  
**Relating to Rose-Ringed Parakeets**

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2329 HD1. The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development **strongly supports HB 2329 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources to assist and fund a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of Rose-Ringed Parakeets on Kauai.

Rose-Ringed Parakeets were first observed on Kauai in the 1960s, and due to a lag phase, populations remained small until the early 2000s. Since then, populations have increased rapidly. As a result, numerous negative impacts of rose-ringed parakeets have been documented on Kauai, particularly by our agricultural community. Being opportunistic granivores and frugivores, Rose-ringed parakeets feed on seed and fruit grown on subsistence and commercial farms, significantly reducing yields year-round.

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Kauai has the potential to be the breadbasket of the state. Given our state's widely known food insecurity and urgency to improve the security of our overall food system, resources must be committed to reaching target rose-ringed parakeet populations on Kauai.

Thank you for considering this testimony in **support of HB 2329 HD1**.

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February 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2329, HD1**  
RELATING TO ROSE-RINGED PARAKEETS

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 HB 2329, HD1**, which establishes a one-year pilot program to reduce the population of rose-ringed parakeets on Kaua'i using past research and on-the-ground experience to guide future strategies.

Although beautiful and appealing, these parakeets are damaging both commercial farmers' crops and backyard growers' orchards on Kaua'i, especially lychee, longan, and rambutan. On Kaua'i, it has been estimated that Rose-Ringed Parakeets (RRP) cause 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 were 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.



**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:29:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. These parakeets are a huge detriment to food security and many crops that are extremely important to Hawai'i's culture and economy.

Invasive species are not only significant when they overwhelm O'ahu, work done on Kaua'i to manage this pest species will undoubtedly be important in other places in the future.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:35:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Clemens Mayer, and I strongly support HB2329 HD1

As someone involved in several aspects of conservation, as well as a practitioner of hana no'eau threatened by invasive species, I know the value of protecting our environment. Invasive species, such as Rose-Ringed Parakeets, are or can be major threats to our ecosystems, as well as impacting commercial sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, I strongly support this motion to protect the environment of Hawai'i nei from invasive species.

With warmest regards, Clemens Mayer

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:10:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I wish to storngly support HB2329 to be able to reduce the effects of yet another invasive species on our island community.

**HB-2329-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:18:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB2329. The rose-ringed parakeets (RRP) are an invasive species that has significant impacts on agriculture and health.

I support funding a pilot program to implement efforts to reduce populations of RRP in the wild. This as long it does not negatively impact funding that otherwise goes towards other invasive species efforts.

Mahalo,  
Patrick Chee