
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The rose-ringed parakeet, *Psittacula krameri*,
2 is one of the most widespread invasive birds on the planet. In
3 the United States, established populations occur in Florida,
4 Hawaii, and southern California. In its native range of Africa
5 and India, this bird is considered to be one of the most
6 significant agricultural pests of important food crops. In
7 Hawaii, the rose-ringed parakeet has been particularly damaging
8 on Kauai, where its population has been growing exponentially.
9 Although the first pair of rose-ringed parakeets was introduced
10 in Kauai in the 1960s, the population was estimated at one
11 hundred fifty to two hundred birds by 1994, five hundred to one
12 thousand birds by the late 2000s, and over two thousand birds by
13 2011. The current number of rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai is
14 unknown, but observations suggest over five thousand birds.

15 The legislature further finds that the rose-ringed parakeet
16 has been introduced in over thirty-five countries and five
17 continents. It is gregarious, is a dietary generalist, has a
18 high reproductive rate, is well-adapted to living in populated



1 areas, and is without predation pressure. The rose-ringed
2 parakeet is a successful invader and poses a significant threat
3 to local economies by damaging agriculture and the local
4 ecology, thereby causing invasive plant dispersion and competing
5 with native wildlife.

6 On Kauai, these birds cause more crop damage than all other
7 birds and mammals. Kauai residents have complained about the
8 noise from rose-ringed parakeet calls, feces spreading below
9 roosts, damage to local gardens and orchards, and loss of
10 business profits and tourism. This bird is also a potential
11 vector of various pathogens and diseases (e.g., avian influenza,
12 avian malaria, and salmonella) that could be passed to humans,
13 pets, and native wildlife.

14 The legislature further finds that the staff of the
15 National Wildlife Research Center of the United States
16 Department of Agriculture has observed the rose-ringed parakeet
17 on Kauai and has concluded that these birds are: (1) probably
18 dispersing invasive plant species, including lilikoi and
19 strawberry and yellow guava; (2) possibly destroying native
20 seeds, including koa; and (3) potentially competing with native
21 birds for fruits, seeds, and nesting sites.



1 The legislature also finds that the greatest negative
2 effects of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai, however, are
3 economic. These parakeets are known for damaging crops, and
4 reports from fruit farmers suggest that the parakeets are
5 damaging and reducing the yield of many crops, including lychee,
6 longan, and rambutan. In response to reports of damage to crops
7 and reduced yields, the National Wildlife Research Center
8 conducted a two-month research study in 2011 that documented the
9 movement and foraging patterns of the parakeet, contained
10 additional estimates of their population, and identified roost
11 site locations. This study is the only formal research study of
12 the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai.

13 Additional research is needed for the development and
14 preliminary implementation of an effective control plan for
15 rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai. While the National Wildlife
16 Research Center of the United States Department of Agriculture
17 completed some preliminary analysis of rose-ringed parakeet
18 population dynamics in 2011, the population appears to have
19 grown substantially since then, and the current number and
20 distribution of birds are unknown. There is a strong need for
21 more cost-effective rose-ringed parakeet control to benefit



1 economically important crops on Kauai, as well as a need to
2 reduce the potential for these birds to damage natural resources
3 and adversely affect human health and safety.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
5 department of land and natural resources to provide assistance
6 and supplemental funding to the National Wildlife Research
7 Center of the United States Department of Agriculture to:

- 8 (1) Determine an estimate of the current population size
9 of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai;
- 10 (2) Locate and map the roost and rookery locations of
11 rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai;
- 12 (3) Describe and map rose-ringed parakeet habitat uses,
13 daily dispersal patterns, and overall range on Kauai;
- 14 (4) Estimate generally the agricultural, commercial,
15 residential, and natural area damages by rose-ringed
16 parakeets on Kauai;
- 17 (5) Determine the types of human and wildlife diseases
18 carried by rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai;
- 19 (6) Conduct trials using different devices and methods
20 that will reduce or deter rose-ringed parakeet
21 populations; and



1 (7) Develop and implement the beginning of an effective
2 control plan for reducing the adverse effects of the
3 rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai with an initial
4 reduction target of five hundred birds or an estimated
5 ten per cent of the population.

6 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources
7 shall provide assistance to and collaborate with the National
8 Wildlife Research Center of the United States Department of
9 Agriculture, including providing supplemental funding for
10 completion of the Center's research study on the rose-ringed
11 parakeet on the island of Kauai and related research,
12 development, and implementation programs to reduce the adverse
13 effects of the parakeet on the island of Kauai.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the
17 department of land and natural resources to assist the National
18 Wildlife Research Center of the United States Department of
19 Agriculture to conduct research on and develop and begin
20 implementation of a control plan for the rose-ringed parakeet as
21 set forth in this Act.



- 1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
- 2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.
- 3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.



Report Title:

Rose-ringed Parakeet; Department of Land and Natural Resources;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to assist and provide supplemental funds to the National Wildlife Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to research the adverse effects of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and develop and begin implementation of a control plan to reduce the negative impacts. (HB655 CD1)

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