
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, a dietary generalist, has a high



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

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

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



1 seeds, including koa; and (3) potentially competing with native
2 birds for fruits, seeds, and nesting sites.

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

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



1 distribution of birds are unknown. There is a strong need for
2 more cost-effective rose-ringed parakeet control to benefit
3 economically important crops on Kauai, as well as a need to
4 reduce the potential for these birds to damage natural resources
5 and negatively affect human health and safety.

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

- 10 (1) Determine an estimate of the current population size
11 of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai;
- 12 (2) Locate and map the roost and rookery locations of
13 rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai;
- 14 (3) Describe and map rose-ringed parakeet habitat uses,
15 daily dispersal patterns, and overall range on Kauai;
- 16 (4) Estimate generally the agricultural, commercial,
17 residential, and natural area damages by rose-ringed
18 parakeets on Kauai;
- 19 (5) Determine the types of human and wildlife diseases
20 carried by rose-ringed parakeets on Kauai;



1 (6) Conduct trials using different devices and methods
2 that will reduce or deter rose-ringed parakeet
3 populations, and

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

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

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2018-2019 for the department of land and natural resources



1 to assist the National Wildlife Research Center of the United
2 States Department of Agriculture to conduct research on and
3 develop and begin implementation of a control plan for the rose-
4 ringed parakeet as set forth in this Act.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on March 15, 2099.

8



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 negative impacts of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai and develop and begin implementation of a control plan to reduce the negative impacts. Effective 3/15/2099. (SD1)

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