### Where did they come from?

Rose ringed parakeets (RRP) are native to Africa and Asia, with invasive populations now in more than 35 countries. Parakeets are believed to have been first brought to Kauai in 1968 as pets and later escaped to the wild. Kauai’s RRP population is now estimated at well over 5,000 birds.

### What harm do they cause?

RRP present a threat to agriculture, especially grain and fruit production. They are already causing damage to high-value edible crops on Kauai. RRP droppings pose a health concern and degrade public and private properties. If RRP expand into higher elevations, they have the potential to impact native biodiversity in our forest.

### How can they be controlled?

An effective means of population control is still being investigated. One big challenge is that RRP are adaptable and quickly learn to evade localized measures and/or they simply move on to other locations. Finding tools for population-level control is essential to solving this problem for the island.

### What is being done on Kauai?

The Hawaii State Legislature provided two years of funding for research needed to implement a management plan. Scientists from the USDA National Wildlife Research Center are coordinating with a multi-agency working group of federal, state, and local government, non-profit, and private partners. The goal is to build a comprehensive RRP plan that has the best chance of success.

### How is the funding being used?

In FY2018, work included a survey of RRP and comprehensive review of potential control tools. The report is final pending publication. In FY2019, work is underway to establish protocols for pilot studies, conduct field trials of the most promising tools, increase data on daily habitat use, develop a comprehensive Kauai control plan, and implement a limited experimental population reduction as a practical evaluation of the plan.

### Can agencies come and remove birds now?

Not yet. We don’t yet have sufficient knowledge or tools to be effective. Attempts at localized parakeet removals will just “move the problem somewhere else” without contributing to a population solution. It will take some time to develop a comprehensive plan, but the goal is to base management actions on a sound, science-based plan for the greatest chance of long-term success.

### What can I do to protect my property?

There is no single best method. Individual property owners have tried deterrents including noise, lasers, and even flying drones, with varying success as the birds become accustomed. Some farmers have opted for covering crops or trees with netting. The Hawaii State Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) issues nuisance bird control permits to property owners who wish to use lethal control. DOFAW can provide information on shooting of RRP in residential or rural areas. The RRP Working Group is currently preparing a summary of guidelines to stakeholders.

### Where can I get more information?

Please see brochure.

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**If you would like to be added to the distribution list for the RRP Working Group final report Guidelines to Stakeholders, please add your name to the adjacent mailing list.**