



Rose Ringed Parakeet

Kauai RRP FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about Rose-Ringed Parakeets on Kauai

Where did they
come from?

Rose ringed parakeets (RRP) are native to **Africa and Asia**, with invasive populations now in more than 35 countries. Several caged parakeets are believed to have been brought to Kauai in the 1960's and later escaped to the wild. Kauai's RRP population is now estimated at more than **10,500 birds**.

What harm
do they cause?

RRP present a **major threat to agriculture** as well as concerns for public health, tourism, native birds, and property owners. Voracious feeders on seeds and fruit, parakeets are already causing serious **losses to farmers and fruit growers** on Kauai. Their habit of roosting at night in giant flocks creates problems for home-owners and resort managers. Voluminous **droppings** degrade public and private property and create a public health risk, while **loud squawking** can be a noise disturbance. RRP are potential vectors of **diseases** that can affect humans and large congregations of birds near **airports** can be a safety hazard to aircraft. If RRP expand into higher elevations, they have potential to impact native **biodiversity** by spreading invasive plant seeds, damaging native plants, competing for habitat, and harboring diseases like avian influenza.

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 State Legislature provided **\$360,000** over two years to fund **essential research** for implementing a management plan. Scientists from the USDA National Wildlife Research Center and University researchers are coordinating with a multi-agency working group of federal, state, and local government, non-profit, and private partners to **build a comprehensive RRP plan that has the best chance of success** to reduce the impacts of RRP to Kauai's community.

Turn the page for more details...

What's the status
of the work?

Phase I is complete.

- A detailed review of available control methods
- A set of guidelines for stakeholders
- Reports available at www.kauaiisc.org/RRP

Phase II is underway.

- (a) Field trials to evaluate potential control methods including lethal control and feeder station trials
- (b) Research through management: Work in partnership with a County-funded culling effort to develop protocols for systematic population reduction and assess effectiveness.

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

Can agencies come and
remove birds now?

There is no single recommended method. Individual property owners have tried **deterrents** including noise, visual devices, lasers, and flying drones, with varying success as the birds become accustomed. Some farmers have opted for covering crops or trees with netting. Available options are listed in the *Guidelines for Stakeholders* at www.kauaiisc.org/RRP.

What can I do to
protect my property?

The Hawaii State Dept. of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (**DOFAW**) **issues nuisance bird control permits** to property owners who wish to use lethal control. DLNR can provide information on shooting RRP in residential or rural areas.

Where can I get
more information?

*RRP damage reports, questions,
or new roost sightings:* CTAHR Extension **(808) 274-3477**

Visitor questions: County of Kauai OED **(808) 241-4946**

Reports, and project updates: online at www.kauaiisc.org/RRP

Rose Ringed Parakeet Working Group

US Dept. of Agriculture Wildlife Services
US Dept. of Agriculture National Wildlife
Research Center
Hawaii State Dept. of Land & Natural
Resources, Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Hawaii State Dept. of Agriculture
Hawaii State Dept. of Health
University of Hawaii CTAHR

Texas A&M University - Kingsville
Hawaii Invasive Species Council
Kauai Invasive Species Committee
Kauai Farm Bureau
Kauai Landscape Industry Council
County of Kauai
Kauai Visitors' Bureau

