
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL
ACTIVITY.

1 WHEREAS, cockfighting has a long and cherished tradition in
2 many cultures throughout the world, from Europe to the Americas
3 to Asia, and has even been part of American culture since
4 colonial times; and

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6 WHEREAS, two founding fathers of our country -- George
7 Washington and Thomas Jefferson -- recognized the value of
8 cockfighting as participants in the activity, and Abraham
9 Lincoln was nicknamed "Honest Abe" not for his politics, but
10 because of his honesty as a cockfight referee; and

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12 WHEREAS, cockfighting is a proud Hispanic tradition -- one
13 many are unwilling to give up -- and a legal activity in Mexico;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, according to those involved in the activity,
17 roosters are neither brutalized nor forced to fight, as fights
18 occur as a natural part of the process of establishing a pecking
19 order among the birds; and

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21 WHEREAS, although an important part of the activity, the
22 fighting plays only a minor role: it takes two years to raise a
23 fighting cock, and caring for game fowl is a day-in and day-out
24 responsibility; and

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26 WHEREAS, unlike the millions of factory-farm chickens that
27 are raised in cramped and crowded pens before being slaughtered
28 for human consumption, gamecocks are raised in fresh air and
29 sunshine and are given plenty of room to move around; and

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31 WHEREAS, gamecock breeders in the United States spend
32 millions of dollars annually on chicken feed and related



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1 supplies, pay to ship birds to other breeders or places where
 2 cockfighting is legal, and pay for travel to cockfighting
 3 tournaments, making a considerable contribution to the economy;
 4 and

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 6 WHEREAS, according to a spokesperson for the Hawaii game
 7 fowl industry, Hawaii game fowl breeders legally pump an
 8 estimated \$9,000,000 into the local economy each year, which is
 9 subject to general excise taxes; and

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 11 WHEREAS, successful breeders maintain studbooks that trace
 12 the lineage of their birds over many generations, and the
 13 primary purpose of fighting them is to prove the breeder's
 14 success in elevating bloodline quality; and

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 16 WHEREAS, those who stigmatize cockfighting may not
 17 understand these anthropological and other aspects of the
 18 activity, or its cultural significance; now, therefore,

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 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 21 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 22 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature supports
 23 the recognition of cockfighting as a cultural activity; and

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 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Mayor
 27 of each county.

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OFFERED BY:

MAR 10 2010