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## 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

5  
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

11  
12           WHEREAS, cockfighting is a proud Hispanic tradition -- one  
13 many are unwilling to give up -- and a legal activity in Mexico;  
14 and

15  
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

25  
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

5  
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

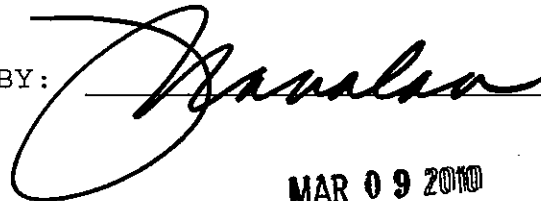
15  
16 WHEREAS, those who stigmatize cockfighting may not  
17 understand these anthropological and other aspects of the  
18 activity, or its cultural significance; now, therefore,

19  
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

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Mayor  
27 of each county.

28  
29  
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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Davalon', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

MAR 09 2010

