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# HOUSE 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  
33 supplies, pay to ship birds to other breeders or places where  
34 cockfighting is legal, and pay for travel to cockfighting



1 tournaments, making a considerable contribution to the economy;  
2 and

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

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

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

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
20 of 2010, that this body supports the recognition of cockfighting  
21 as a cultural activity; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body reaffirms that it  
24 does not support gambling, betting, or gaffs; and

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

