



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

TO: Honorable Chair Manahan, Vice-Chair Tokioka

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DATE: Monday, March 29, 930am, Room 321

**RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION TO HR 199/HCR 277; Recognizing Cockfighting as a Cultural Activity**

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,

~~2008-03-29 Honolulu HI 95830 08032910~~

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Dear Chair Manahan, Vice-Chair Tokioka and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 49,315 members and supporters in Hawaii, The Humane Society of the United States **strongly opposes** HR 199 and HCR 277; requesting the state legislature to recognize cockfighting as a cultural activity, and requests that this measure be withdrawn or deferred.

First of all, cockfighting is a crime in Hawaii, punishable as a misdemeanor by up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$2000 fine. Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states and a felony in 39. Hawaii currently ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation with one of the weakest cockfighting laws.

Cockfighting is not a “cultural activity” but is part and parcel of illegal gambling and animal cruelty. Without the tens of thousands of dollars that are wagered and gained, as unreported income, cockfighting would not exist. Cockfighting may be a “past-time” in some developing countries such as the Philippines and Mexico, however, just because something has been practiced for many years, doesn’t justify its continued moral or ethical existence or legalization. In fact, ethnicities that may practice cockfighting should not shoulder the burden or stereotype that simply because a small portion of their ethnicity engages in this illegal behavior, that the ethnicity as a whole supports or condones it.

Furthermore, cockfighting goes hand in hand with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, illegal drug distribution and, due to the large amounts of cash present at such “blood sport” spectacles, firearms are also present. Cockfighting is also connected with other illegal activities such as organized crime, child endangerment and human violence (see below cases):

**Recent Animal Fighting Cases in Hawaii:**

August 4, 2008 — A Louisiana man was sentenced to 2 months in federal prison for attempting to smuggle more than 200 cockfighting gaffs into the United States through Hawaii. This case was prosecuted by former US Attorney Ed Kubo and was the first conviction in the country under the newly upgraded Federal Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act (AFPEA).

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

March 1, 2008 — Hilo Police arrested ten people for gambling and cruelty to animals, seized 36 birds, more than \$27,000 in cash, multiple firearms and extensive cockfighting implements.

January 20, 2008 — Four Molokai men were arrested and charged with gambling and animal cruelty. 150 people were said to be at the cockfighting site.

March 25, 2007 — One man was shot to death, one man arrested and several others fled the scene from what police said appeared to be a botched robbery of a cockfighting operation.

September 27, 2006 — An official from Aloha Stadium pled guilty to extortion. The investigation was part of a massive FBI bust involving an alleged drug-trafficking and acockfighting ring that led to the arrests of an FBI worker and 29 others.

November 21, 2001— Police arrested 3 men in Kalihi in connection with a death after a post-cockfight argument.

Hawaii has so much to be proud of—excusing this cruel, illegal blood sport as “cultural” should not be one of them. Instead, it’s high time that Hawaii step up and join the rest of the country in strengthening laws against animal fighting to reduce cruelty and crime in all its forms.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this resolution. We urge your stornng opposition to these measures.

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## HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

2700 Waiālae Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
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The Hawaiian Humane  
Society is dedicated to  
promoting the human-  
animal bond and  
the humane treatment of  
all animals.

March 26, 2010

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and  
International Affairs

RE: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Chairman Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka  
and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 30,000 supporters, the Hawaiian Humane Society stands in **strong opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199**, which aims to herald cockfighting as cultural. In truth, the resolution aims to undermine Hawaii's animal cruelty law and disregard the majority of citizens, states and countries that view cockfighting cruel and a crime.

Cockfighting is a multi-million dollar illegal and underground gambling industry that often involves drugs, homicide and other criminal activity. Most importantly to us, it's a form of brutality to animals that abhorrent to the majority of voters and our entire islands' populations that believe animals deserve a better life. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer a painful, lingering death.

In the United States, cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. And one of our history's most prominent cultural leaders, King Kalakaua, outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

We urge you to not pass these resolutions. This is not the cruel and criminal underground "culture" that our state legislature should be endorsing to Hawaii's citizens and thousands of visitors worldwide.

Sincerely,

Pamela Burns  
President and CEO

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**Maui Humane Society**

P.O. Box 1047  
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www.mauihumane.org

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*Jocelyn Bouchard, CAWA*

March 25, 2010

To: Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs

Re: HCR 277/HR 199 supporting the recognition of cockfighting as a cultural activity

Dear Chair Manahan and Committee Members:

I am writing today to urge you **NOT** to pass the above noted bill(s) recognizing cockfighting as a cultural activity. While it is true that cockfighting has been practiced for centuries in various countries, including the United States, "old" does not necessarily mean right or even acceptable. At one time the United States allowed slavery, lacked child abuse laws, and refused women the vote.

Cockfighting is a centuries-old **blood sport** in which two or more specially bred birds are placed in an enclosure to fight, for the primary purposes of gambling and entertainment. A cockfight usually results in the death of one of the birds; sometimes it ends in the death of both. The birds, even those who do not die, suffer in cockfights. The birds cannot escape from the fight, regardless of how exhausted or injured they become. Common injuries include punctured lungs, broken bones, and pierced eyes. Such severe injuries occur because the birds' legs are usually fitted with razor-sharp steel blades or with gaffs, which resemble three-inch-long, curved ice picks. These artificial spurs are designed to puncture and mutilate.

While it is true that birds will fight over food, territory, or mates, such fights are generally only to establish dominance within a group (the pecking order) and seldom result in serious injury. This natural behavior is quite different from what happens in staged cockfights, where pairs of birds, bred for maximum aggressiveness (and sometimes given steroids or other drugs to make them more successful fighters) are forced to fight until a winner is declared.

Additionally, law enforcement raids have revealed several disturbing facets of this so-called sport. Gambling is the norm at cockfights. Thousands of dollars can exchange hands as spectators and animal owners wager large sums on their favorite birds. The owners of birds who win the most fights in a derby (a series of cockfights) may win tens of thousands of dollars of presumably unreported income. Firearms and other weapons are common at cockfights, mainly because of the large amounts of cash present. Law enforcement officials have also documented a strong connection between cockfighting and the distribution of illegal drugs.

Cockfighting is illegal in every state, including Hawaii. Most states specifically prohibit anyone from being a spectator at a cockfight. Recently many states have increased the seriousness of a cockfighting charge from a misdemeanor to a felony. In addition, the Federal Animal Welfare Act prohibits the interstate transport of any animal that is to be used in an animal fighting venture.

**Maui Humane Society and our supporters cannot support this bill and we sincerely hope that your committee will not support it either.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Jocelyn Bouchard, CAWA  
CEO, Maui Humane Society

[Redacted signature]

*The Maui Humane Society is committed to building lifelong bonds between people and animals through education, community outreach and the prevention of cruelty.*

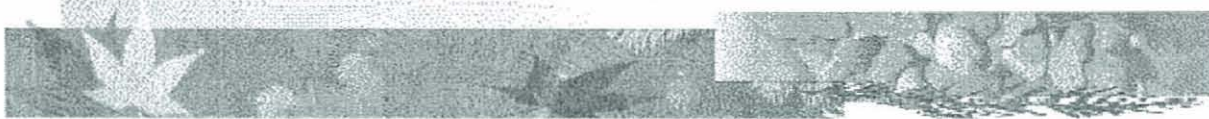
*Providing Love. Preventing Cruelty.*

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tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Dawn Hall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:19 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199



I protest against resolution #HCR 277 and HR 199

Date and time of hearing: Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:30am

Dawn Hall, [REDACTED]

With a Warm Mahalo,

Dawn Hall  
Director of Development  
Maui Humane Society  
[REDACTED]

Don't forget to VOTE for the Maui Humane Society in Shelter Challenge 2010 ! Go to <http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge> to vote today! We could win much needed \$\$\$ for our homeless animals!

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## KAUAI HUMANE SOCIETY

March 26, 2010

To: Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs  
Re: Resolutions HCR 277/HR 199 Recognition of Cockfighting as a Cultural Activity  
Hearing Monday, March 29, 2010 9:30am

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Dear Chair Manahan and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of 2100 members of Kauai Humane Society to express our strong protest of Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Cockfighting is a very cruel blood sport and is illegal in Hawaii. It was outlawed in 1884 by King Kalakaua, a founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Hawaii is already known as one of the worst states in the nation for weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. Our legislature needs to be working on strengthening our laws, not weakening them.

I witnessed first-hand the horrific cruelty of cockfighting when I responded to a request from the Kauai Police Department last summer in Kapaa to retrieve fighting roosters. Dozens of live roosters were thrown into a pile adjacent to the fighting pit. They were suffering from multiple large bleeding cuts to their face, throat, chest and feet caused by the razor sharp gaffs. This is unjustifiable pain and suffering of animals in the purest form, simply for the sport of gambling.

Kauai Humane Society cannot support this legislation and we sincerely hope that your committee will not support it either.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Rebecca H. Rhoades, D.V.M.  
Executive Director  
Kauai Humane Society

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Ensuring compassionate, informed care for all of Kaua'i's animals and promoting the human-animal bond.

P.O. Box 3330, Lihu'e, HI 96766-6330 Phone 808.632.0610 Fax 808.632.0727  
Email:khs@kauaihumane.org www.kauaihumane.org

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Gerri Cadiz [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:28 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Monday, March 29, 2010, 9:30 a.m.

Dear Sirs,

I strongly oppose HR 277 and HR 199.

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884, it is now illegal in all 50 of the United States. WHOSE CULTURE are you trying to recognize? Certainly not the culture of the people of Hawaii. Stop embarrassing us! There is much more important work for you to do.

Yours truly,

Gerri Cadiz, Hawaiian Kennel Club President Member of the Board, [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Joel Fischer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:43 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR277; TCI; 3/29; 9:30AM; Rm 312

**Importance:** High

HCR277, Supporting...Cockfighting  
TCI; Chair, Rep Manahan

**PLEASE KILL THIS RESO, MAKE DIE DEAD!!**

It is difficult to find the words to express how revolting this reso is. to even suggest that cockfighting is a cultural for Filipinos is not only false, but degrading to the Filipino community. with a vibrant, beautiful culture how is it that these three representatives choose to focus on cockfighting as the one part of some Filipinos' activities to celebrate? It is obscene!

In the first place, cockfighting is illegal in Hawai'i. How is it that these legislators want us to recognize criminal behavior as worth celebrating?

Second, cockfighting is one of the most cruel and savage activities known to humankind. Cockfighting is nothing more than savage, cruel murder of animals for the delight of humans. Cockfighting simply is the modern equivalent of the Roman games, where crazed Romans enjoyed the slaughter of animals and humans to distract them from the real problems of the day. How is it that these legislators want us to recognize this most awful human activity as worth celebrating?

Finally, cockfighting is not a "cultural" activity of Filipinos. It is for many if not most Filipinos, an event that inspires nothing but disgust as it does in most places around the world. How is it that these legislators want us to celebrate an activity in the Philippines that is so disgusting to so many Filipinos?

**Instead of a reso honoring this despicable activity, I support a reso censuring the three sponsors** of this legislation as violating the trust of the people who elected them, and causing many Filipinos in Hawai'i to feel shame about these legislators' actions?

Thank you for killing this reso.

joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW  
Professor Ret.

[REDACTED]  
University of Hawaii, School of Social Work

[REDACTED]  
Henke Hall

[REDACTED]  
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."  
Thomas Jefferson

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"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."



## tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Cathleen S Matsushima [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** OPPOSING Resolutions HR 199 and HCR277

In 2001 a man was brutally beaten to death in my Kalihi Neighborhood by five men who disputed the outcome of a Cockfight. His name is Leon Fernandez age 39 years. He lost his life while participating in what some might consider a "cultural practice". Another man beaten during this same incident and still suffers from his near death experience.

My testimony against Bill HR 199 and HCR 277 is in memory of Leon Fernandez who died because of his involvement in Cockfighting. Cockfighting is associated with animal cruelty, illegal gambling, drug distribution, illegal firearms, and often, human violence. The cultural relevance or acceptance of a social norm should be weighed against the benefit to society as a whole.

We should recognize that a cultural practice can be immoral even though it is immensely valuable by those who practice it. Honor killings, Infanticide, or beating ones wife were at one time all considered acceptable valuable cultural practices. In Hawaii these "human" cultural practices are not only immoral, they are considered illegal.

While there are differences between animals and humans, what they have in common is the capacity to feel pain. What surely must be relevant when we think about how we should treat animals. In Cockfighting birds are strapped with razor sharp "gaffs" or knives that inflict tremendous animal suffering - all for gambling and "entertainment".

And we do indeed treat it as relevant, which is why we have legislation prohibiting cruelty to animals. Unfortunately, this legislation established to protect animals is threatened by Bill HR 199 and HCR 277 to recognize Cockfighting as a "Cultural Activity". There is no human culture that has not embodied some morally indefensible practice at one time or another. Progress would never have been brought about if people were complacent about cultural practices. However, identifying an immoral cultural practice as "acceptable", in the case of cockfighting would be a step backwards.

Our society should rethink how we treat animals. Otherwise, future generations will look back on our generation's cruelty to animals and charge us with barbarism that most people today think is characteristic of only isolated practices. Little children, our future leaders, should not be taught that Cockfighting with its strong ties to gambling, is an acceptable practice. Betting money to watch an animal suffer and die should not be celebrated and recognized as a "cultural activity", it should be identified as illegal and not an acceptable social norm.

I humbly beg Honorable Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka House Committee on Tourism Culture and International Affairs to honor the death of Leon Fernandez by opposing Bill HR 199 and HCR 277. Currently 39 states have made Cockfighting a felony, sadly Hawaii is not one of those states. It is time to strengthen our laws, not make them weaker.

Thank you for your time,  
Cathleen "Cate" Matsushima

[REDACTED]  
Honorable Chair Manahan  
[REDACTED]

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tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Wollan, Ashley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Both of these resolutions ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and are attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it!

- \* Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- \* Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- \* Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- \* Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- \* Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- \* While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- \* While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- \* Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am \*Resolution Numbers:  
HCR 277 & HR 199

v/r  
Ashley F. Wollan  
Animal Rights Supporter & Hawaii Resident  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Hwu, Peter [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 3:49 PM  
**To:** TCltestimony

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair, Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.,

I am writing to protest against Resolution HCR 277 and HR 199. Cock-fighting is inhumane and cruel. The act of causing unnecessary suffering and pain to animal is a cruel, inhumane and irresponsible behavior and should be punishable to the maximum allowable by law. I am against resolution HCR 277 and HR 199.

Peter S Hwu  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Rosita Sipirok-Siregar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 3:58 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* TESTIMONY TO HCR 277 AND HR 199

*Attention: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane TOKioka*

*Re: HCR 277 and HR 199*

*Hearing Date: Monday, March 29 at 9:e0 a.m.*

I am sending my protest to HCR 277 and HR 199, both ignoring the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and an attempt to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. HUMAN SACRIFICE was, at one point, a cultural activity, but was banned as we move forward to become a civilized people of the world. So should cockfight and other blood sport and its attributes should be banned.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Thank you.

Rosita Sipirok-Siregar

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Suyin Phillips [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:02 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** NO to Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199

I am a faculty member at Kapiolani Community College, as well as a concerned member of our community. **I STRONGLY OPPOSE the resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199.** Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Unfortunately, we in Hawaii are of the last to fully recognize it by enforcing our laws that are already in place. **Hawaii is ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

I desperately urge you to consider the following in the upcoming days (March 29):

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Sincerely,  
Suyin Phillips  
Kapiolani Community College  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[suyin@hawaii.edu](mailto:suyin@hawaii.edu)

Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Mahalo for your help - please call or email me if you have any questions.

Vanessa

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**Vanessa Golding-Fox**  
**Community Advocacy Liaison**

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Website: <http://hawaiianhumane.org>

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Roland Shanklin [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:17 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Against Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

ATTENTION:

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Gentlemen:

I am ashamed that Hawaii still allows cockfighting and animal cruelty even though it is technically illegal. I own a home in Waianae and have witnessed the results of inhumane treatment of animals. It is my understanding that these resolutions (HCR 277 and HR 199) support cockfighting as a cultural activity. Is that true? I've worked at an animal shelter in Waianae and seen dogs that were beaten, neglected and abandoned. It's terrible. We need to enforce the laws. No animal deserves to suffer, period. People who find sport with such activities are not what Hawaii should stand for.

Remember:

1. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
2. Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Thanks,

Roland Shanklin  
[redacted]  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
(808) 255-9971

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Loriann Gordon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 11:21 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** cockfighting testimony

Aloha,

Please remember that lynching used to be part of our culture, burning women at the stake used to be part of our culture, women not being able to vote was part of our culture etc, child labor used to be part of our culture. I believe it is our collective responsibility to elevate our culture to a more peaceful and gentle status. I am against cockfighting based on it being a part of "our" culture, or for any other reason.

Kind regards,  
Loriann Gordon

*Loriann Gordon  
Landscape Architect*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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## tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR 277 and HR199

March 25, 2010

**TO:** Members of the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

**Ref:** Resolutions: HCR 277 and HR 199  
Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

I am writing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Cockfighting is illegal and is an inhumane blood sport. It should not be deemed a cultural activity. I wish to make the following points:

- ★ Cockfighting is cruel.
- ★ Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been connected to cockfighting.
- ★ While cockfighting occurred for centuries in many countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Hawaii should not allow something that other states have deemed illegal!
- ★ King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884. We should respect this cultural authority!
- ★ Cockfighting involves gaffs to increase injury blood and brutality. Is this something we want to promote?
- ★ Birds have no choice and can not leave the ring. Birds that are critically injured are often left to suffer.
- ★ This activity does not strengthen culture or family. It has no place in Hawaii and what Hawaii stands for.

I beg you to tighten rules and penalties against animal cruelty. Thank you for allowing my testimony.

Kathryn Koos-Lee  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Michelle Bowerman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:31 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

My name is Michelle Bowerman. My address is 334 Anapalau Street Honolulu, HI 96825  
Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
·Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

It is my understanding Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 support cockfighting as a cultural activity. Cockfighting is already illegal. Period. It's cruel and inhumane. There are many cultural activities worldwide which the United States considers immoral, unethical, illegal, and unacceptable. For example, we do not cut the hand off a thief or stone people to death though these are considered culturally acceptable in other countries.

**Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. There is no reason for this activity to continue. It has been determined to be illegal.**

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

**I protest these Resolutions. It's wrong.**

Michelle Bowerman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** jacqueline just [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:10 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** hearing March 29th at 9:30 am HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Rep. J. Manahan, Chair & Rep. J. K. Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on CUlture, Tourism and International Affairs,

I am protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. THEY ignore the fact that cockfighting is not only inhumane and cruel but that it IS ILLEGAL already in all 50 states and that in 36 of those it is considered a FELONY!!!

Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for weakpenalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty.

We need to strengthen laws not couch the cruelty in verbages of "cultural activity"!

Do you realize that metal kniovesd are attached to the legs of the birds for maximum bloodshed?? Birds are caged in the fighting ring so as not to run away if injured or exhausted. Can you imagine being that bird? Come on! The gaffs and drugs given to birds only increase brutality.

Furthermore, gambling, drugs and homicide are all ILLEGAL activities linking to cockfighting. As a founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

I understand that it is difficult to controlcockfighting as are all "mafia" activities but they are not to be encouraged or condoned! Brutality to one animal is brutality to all living beings.

Jacqueline Just  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000023

**From:** Bonnie Stifel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 4:38 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Sirs:

Cockfighting is illegal. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it. People who want to practice cockfighting for cultural purposes can go back to their own country to do so.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.
- My Name & address: Bonnie Stifel/[REDACTED]
- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Napua Wong [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 5:28 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR277 and HR199/Hearing 3/29/10 at 9:30 am

Dear Chair Manahan and Members of the Committee on TCI,

You absolutely must **vote against HCR277 and HR199**, which will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m. You simply cannot abide by the “protection” of an act of cruelty as a “cultural activity.” Seriously. In ancient Hawaii, the *kauwa* class were branded as outcasts and used as human sacrifices. That was a cultural activity. If someone stepped forward and asked to allow that with today’s sensibilities, would you even consider it?

When I was much younger, I attended a cockfight in Waianae. I watched in shock as the more blood was splashed over everyone, the more frenzied people got. I also saw how much money was won and lost and how some of the losers later reacted. I was even told that there were police officers in attendance, ensuring the “safety” of the crowd. Please, explain the cultural significance of such an activity and how it contributes positively to the varied communities of this State!

Cockfighting has no place in Hawaii. I recommend that you export all those folks that want to participate in this blood sport to those countries of the world where it is considered a “cultural activity.”

Please focus on the economy, the budget, furloughs, and the job situation. This legislation is a waste of time and abject stupidity. These resolutions belong with stinky bus passengers and afternoon naps on the job – in the round file!

Very sincerely,

Napualani Wong  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

000025

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Autumn Skye Rath ([REDACTED])  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 5:41 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Oppose HRC 277 and HR 199

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Re: Hearing on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:30am

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing to voice my EXTREME opposition to HRC 277 and HR 199.

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. As you may know, metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight, and birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. A number of illicit activities, including gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, organized cockfighting is unnatural, relying on drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Not only that, but the founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Show some respect for nature and fulfill your duties to protect it. Vote AGAINST HRC 277 and HR 199!!

Sincerely,

Autumn Skye Rath  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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000026

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** veronica moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 5:50 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protest Against Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

I protest against Resolution Numbers HCR 277 & HR 199 for the following reasons:

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Veronica Moore  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

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000027

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Judy Barrett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 5:49 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Re: Hearing on HCR 277 and HR 199, Monday, March 29 at 9:30 AM

Gentlemen,

I am writing to ask that your committee euthanize HCR 277 and HR 199 in committee rather than allowing the hideously cruel practice of cock fighting to be resuscitated in Hawaii.

Cock fighting is not just inhumane, it is a celebration of brutality. This is not an influence ANY of the 50 states wants, let alone The Aloha State.

Cock fighting desensitizes people to blood and violence by making killing a "sport," with the high-stakes gambling and the violent crime that are a part of blood sports.

PLEASE, people! This is not a cultural celebration, this is a celebration of brutality. Cock fighting is (finally) illegal in all 50 states. Thirty-six states have made cock fighting a felony. There can be no argument that it is not cruel and inhumane.

The "cultural" argument is hauled out to defend this practice. The same argument is made for fireworks in densely populated urban areas. It was also used to defend slavery. It's an absurd argument. You cannot allow cruelty to continue simply because it was allowed in the past.

For the sake of our keiki and future generations, please ENFORCE THE LAW!

Thank you,

Judy Barrett, REALTOR  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

C00028

**From:** Candy Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 6:14 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Sirs:

**Cockfighting is ILLEGAL!!!** Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it. People who want to practice cockfighting for cultural purposes can go back to their own country to do so.

- Cockfighting is CRUEL and INHUMANE.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. While serving on the Grand Jury, we had a case involving crimes committed at a cockfight. One of the inmates of a min security work/housing program testified. They watched the fight and the crime from their living quarters!

Cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality. Allowing this to continue, condones the new levels society is sinking to: lack of respect for others, lack of respect of the law, increased violence in our communities, people need to be encouraged to use their brains and their words and not their fists!

- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is ILLEGAL in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.
- My Name & address: CS Taylor/[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

000029



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Judy Kawakami [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 6:17 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Rep. Joey Manahan, James Kunane Tokioka

I am asking for your support in protesting Resolution HCR277 and HR199. Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. This so-called sport is one of brutality with intent to critically injure innocent birds as an outcome. It is illegal in all 50 states, and is a felony in 36 states. A sport this cruel should not be supported under the guise of cultural activity. As a nation and as Americans, we were raised to respect and care for all living creatures, and we need to take a stand against inhumane practices. Especially in Hawaii, we are known for our love and respect of nature.

Please keep our state free of inhumane practices. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice. This form of "cultural activity" appears to also be connected with illegal activities such as gambling, drugs and graft.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Kawakami  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m Resolution Numbers: HCR277 & HR199

000030

ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE CHAMBER

RE: HCR # 277. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION:

“SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY.”

I hope the answer to my question is YES. This is a joke, correct?

If not, I'm glad this activity is **illegal** in this and other jurisdictions. And while you're writing concurrent resolutions for illegal activities, why not recognize another ubiquitous practice, prostitution.

One of the oldest professions, with a long, historical tradition in many cultures, embraced early on in colonial America, prostitution, properly taxed and regulated could generate much needed revenue to help the state with its budget woes, and with the right promotion induce male visitors to make immediate vacation plans for Hawaii, thus giving a much needed boost to our sagging tourist industry and provide a new influx of participants and observers at cock fights.

There I did it - a one sentence paragraph.

**Please return to the people's business, instead of wasting time on extolling vices.**

Thank you

Twylla-Dawn Steer  
42-year, Kailua Resident

000031

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Lynne Matusow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 7:25 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR277 and HR 199, hearing Monday March 29,

This is to voice my opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199.

Cockfighting is illegal in Hawaii. Wh are you trying to justify such cruel and inhumane blood sport? This is not a cultural activity. It is cruelty to animals.

These birds fight until the death, cannot leave the ring. This is something out of the Greek Colosseum, where humans were thrown to the wind.

Michael Vick served time for treating dogs this way. Why should birds be different?

Do not hide behind irrational comments saying this is cultural. It is blood sport.

If you wonder why humans are inhumane, why they take pleasure in hurting their own, beating them, shooting them, etc. you have no further to look than in the mirror because you are no different from them if you allow animals to be hurt this way in the guise of culture.

Please defeat both resos.

Lynne Matusow  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000032

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Ann Dowie [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 7:24 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

To Reps Manahan and Tokioka:

I am writing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 which will be decided on March 29, 2010. Please vote against these resolutions.

My name is Ann Dowie, [redacted]

I am also a business owner in Waikiki in Tourism.

Cock fighting is cruel and inhumane and we need to take a stand against it. The elements that are drawn to it are drugs, violence and gambling.

Please vote against these Resolutions

Sincerely, Ann Dowie

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Theo Fujiyoshi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:01 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting should remain illegal

I am writing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199.

Cockfighting should remain an illegal activity as it involves gambling (illegal) & is cruel & inhumane to treat a beautiful living creature this way. The atmosphere surrounding these fights incites gambling, drugs, homicide & other criminal acts.

Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states & in 36 states it is a felony.  
Therefore, cockfighting should remain illegal.

--  
(Ms.) Theo Fujiyoshi

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000034

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Dyonne Raines [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:43 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** our family protests Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

cockfight needs to stay illegal. it is a disgusting activity and only attracts crime.  
Our Hawaii Kai family protests resolutions hcr277 AND HR 199.

THE LORA FAMILY  
HAWAII KAI  
[redacted]

000035

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 9:00 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Letter of testimony-HCR 227 & HR 199 (Cockfighting)

TO: Representative Joey Manahan, Chair and Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

**I am protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.** Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. **Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

**On Monday, March 29 at 9:30am, please vote against Resolution #'s HCR 277 & HR 199**

From,

Charlain Abaya

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000036

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** sheri kishaba [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 9:41 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Please stop this cruelty to these poor animals. What have these animals done to you that makes them deserve this horrid treatment? We have to stop this problem because animals can't speak for themselves.  
Sage Leaman 11

There are no grounds that are acceptable for repealing this law, cockfighting is just plain barbaric cruelty and must not be allowed for any reason.

·Vern Leaman  
[REDACTED]

· Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
·Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

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000037



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:03 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

To whom it may concern, I am against this senseless killing of these birds, it is not a sport, a sport is football, basketball, baseball, etc. If you want to call cockfighting a sport let the owners of these birds put on the spurs and go a couple of rounds at eachother, when they are done then lets see if they still call this a sport.

These are the facts:

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States , it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Please do not pass this horrific fighting into law.

Thank you

Mrs. Villa

000038

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 9:50 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

Aloha Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Re: HCR 277 and HR 199

Hearing Date & Time: Monday, March 29, 9:30 am

My name is Ana Murray, [REDACTED] Street, Waimanalo, HI 96795.

Please consider making cockfigting a felony; and not a "cultural activity". Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Our own King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884. Have we not evolved in 125 years? Consider the following....

"I think how *we treat our animals* reflects how *we treat* each other . ... to abuse one of the cardinal tenets of a civilized *society* - reverence for life. ... progress can be *judged* by the way its animals are treated" ~Gandhi (1869-1948)

"Show me the enforced laws of a state for the prevention of cruelty to animals and I in turn will give you a correct estimate of the refinement, enlightenment, integrity and equity of that commonwealth's people." ~ L.T. Danshiell, *Animal Rights Advocate*

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr., *Civil Rights Leader*

000039



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kristin DAVIDSON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:22 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against HCR 277 & HR 199

*Troy Baldauf*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism, and International Affairs

I have been notified that the Committee on Culture, Tourism, and International Affairs will hear House Resolutions 199 and HCR 277, which support the recognition of cockfighting as a cultural activity on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am. The intent of my letter is to urge you to not support these House Resolutions. The reasons are as follows:

No matter which way the Resolution tries to spin the issue, cockfighting is cruel, inhumane, and facilitates the abuse and exploitation of animals. Sadly, Hawaii is currently ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. Hawaii should be ashamed of this fact. While the Resolutions weakly describe cockfighting as a "cultural activity," I am sure that you would agree that not "cultural activities" of the past are relevant or acceptable today. Times have changed, and laws must change to reflect what is important to the larger community. Furthermore, founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

It is a fact that gambling, drugs, homicide, and other illegal criminal activities are connected with cockfighting. According to The Humane Society of the United States, "Law enforcement officials have documented a strong connection between cockfighting and the distribution of illegal drugs. Drug enforcement agents often learn about animal fighting operations as a result of narcotics investigations... The presence of young children at cockfights is an especially disturbing element. Exposure to such brutality can promote insensitivity toward animal suffering and enthusiasm for violence."

Cockfighting is inherently cruel to the animals involved. Metal knife spurs are often attached to the legs of birds to maximize injury. While the Resolutions state that birds are not forced to fight, typically birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how injured they become during the fight. Critically injured birds are tossed away like garbage and suffer painful deaths.

**Please do not support these Resolutions.** As Representatives, I urge you to respect all living things, as all must stand up for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

Troy Baldauf

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000041

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kristin DAVIDSON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:19 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against HR 199 & HCR 277

*Kristin Davidson*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism, and International Affairs

I have been notified that the Committee on Culture, Tourism, and International Affairs will hear House Resolutions 199 and HCR 277, which support the recognition of cockfighting as a cultural activity on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am. The intent of my letter is to urge you to not support these House Resolutions. The reasons are as follows:

No matter which way the Resolution tries to spin the issue, cockfighting is cruel, inhumane, and facilitates the abuse and exploitation of animals. Sadly, Hawaii is currently ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. Hawaii should be ashamed of this fact. While the Resolutions weakly describe cockfighting as a "cultural activity," I am sure that you would agree that not "cultural activities" of the past are relevant or acceptable today. Times have changed, and laws must change to reflect what is important to the larger community. Furthermore, founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

It is a fact that gambling, drugs, homicide, and other illegal criminal activities are connected with cockfighting. According to The Humane Society of the United States, "Law enforcement officials have documented a strong connection between cockfighting and the distribution of illegal drugs. Drug enforcement agents often learn about animal fighting operations as a result of narcotics investigations... The presence of young children at cockfights is an especially disturbing element. Exposure to such brutality can promote insensitivity toward animal suffering and enthusiasm for violence."

Cockfighting is inherently cruel to the animals involved. Metal knife spurs are often attached to the legs of birds to maximize injury. While the Resolutions state that birds are not forced to fight, typically birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how injured they become during the fight. Critically injured birds are tossed away like garbage and suffer painful deaths.

**Please do not support these Resolutions.** As Representatives, I urge you to respect all living things, as all must stand up for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

Kristin L. Davidson

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000042

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Greg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:37 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Oppose: HCR 277 & HR 199

**Importance:** High

I am a resident of Honolulu, and I am vehemently opposed to HCR 277 and HR 199. (Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am.)

Using the term "cultural activity" to justify bloodsports and other cruel and antisocial behavior is an egregious affront to the concept of culture.

Perhaps Michael Vick and his cohorts should have claimed dogfighting is a "cultural activity," and therefore acceptable behavior?

Perhaps we should legalize the daily wagering on illicit mah jong and poker games, because, after all, aren't those activities part of some people's "culture"?

It is a Mexican "cultural activity" to discharge firearms into the air during New Year's celebrations, so that also should not be considered illegal, right?

For that matter, your gutless inability to ban fireworks, using the pathetic excuse of "cultural activity," is just as irresponsible as the subject resolutions. If you have ever tried to comfort a terrified, trembling animal or had to seal up your home to protect an asthmatic family member on New Year's eve, you would be ashamed of your civic impotence.

For once, consider your conscience instead of your political demographics and do the right thing. Kill both of these appalling resolutions!

Gregory Oi  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Nicole Parrish [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:57 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HCR 277 & HR 199  
**Importance:** High

To Whom it May Concern,

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing to you in protest of HCR 277 and HR 199 scheduled to be heard Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Please DO NOT allow these two bills to pass. Animal cruelty is a growing problem here on Oahu, and cock fighting only encourages and spawns drug use, gambling & lowers property values.

The people of Oahu deserve crime-free communities. Communities that encourage education, morals, and becoming a citizen - not a blight on society.

Individuals that par-take in this ALREADY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY are not afraid of the consequences; criminals know that Hawaii's laws are too lenient and are in favor of the law-breakers.

Please consider the repercussions of passing these bills, and understand that the scope is much larger than just allowing a cultural expression.

Thank you for your time,  
Nicole Parrish  
Address will be provided if requested

C00044

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Jen and Steve Rappenecker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 11:10 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** against HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

My name is Jennifer Rappenecker, [REDACTED]  
Please accept this written testimony against HCR 277 & HR 199 for the hearing  
On Monday, March 29 at 9:30am .

I am against cockfighting and I do not want our state to have one of the weakest  
Animal cruelty laws anymore, and I certainly don't want it weakened further!

The birds cannot speak up and testify. We must act for them.

000045



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Miyo Kim [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 11:41 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** protesting HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Representative Manahan and Representative Tokioka,

We would respectfully like to protest both Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Cockfighting is a cruel and inhumane activity which serves no benefit to our society. In addition to the obvious animal cruelty involved, it also attracts gambling, drugs and other illegal activity. We need to strengthen our laws against animal cruelty not weaken them. Please do not let this be a blight on Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Miyo Miyasaki-Kim  
Duane S. S. Kim

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date and time of hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am  
Resolution numbers: HCR 277 and HR 199

000046

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 11:42 PM  
**To:** TCltestimony  
**Subject:** HCR277 & HR199

I think it is an outrage that these two bills are even considered to become a law of the land. Cockfighting is an extremely cruel and inhumane treatment of animals! All animals are God's creatures and deserve to live a happy, loving and peaceful life just as much as you and I. As far as I'm concerned, anyone who endorses animal fights of any kind should have to take a turn in the ring and fight to the death as well, then see how "entertaining" it is. Also, anyone who profits from such fights, be it from gambling, ownership or whatever should have to do the same. Every day we hear about different groups of people fighting for their "human rights". What about the animals' rights??? There are some cultural practices that are just plain wrong no matter where they come from. I'm very proud to be Native American but you won't see me trying to bring back scalping of the "white man" because that, too, was a cultural practice! How can we call ourselves civilized if we continue to indulge in these horrific deeds purely for our own entertainment? The animals can't speak for themselves so I am pleading with you on their behalf to NOT pass these bills.

Cindy Schoonover  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

C00047

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Leilisa Gehring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 11:49 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

I believe cockfighting should be illegal and banned. It is unnecessary cruelty to animals, don't we endure enough cruelty in our world. Cockfighting is based on the premise of gambling, that is why they stage these games. Gambling in Hawaii is illegal. Another illegal noted. It may be a culture sport, but if you use that as an excuse then you are ignorant of the fact that there are many culture sports and not all are legal, an example Dog Pit Fighting, illegal as well as a major cruelty to animals factor.

I protest Resolution HCR277 and HR199

Sincerely,  
Leilisa Gehring

000048

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Elaine Matsuda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:05 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

I am responding to the recent email.

Elaine Matsuda

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hearing on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.  
Resolution No. HCR 277 and HR 199

I am against the cruelty and treatment of fighting chickens. It should be left alone and not encouraged. There is no cultural value in seeing animals, chickens or dogs, fight one another and then be put to death for the loser. Is that how we treat human boxers? Put gaffs and then kill the loser? I don't think we need this type of "entertainment" in our Hawaiian culture.

Elaine Matsuda

000049

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** carroll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:28 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Date: March 26, 2010

Lana Carroll  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Sirs,

Cockfighting is an illegal, cruel and inhumane blood sport. This type of cultural activity, like fireworks, should be banned. One cannot justify cockfighting. It is cruel and inhumane.

We need to strengthen our laws and raise the penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We should make it the law

that all the monies found at these cock fights, including all the monies in the spectators pockets, be taken and put into a fund for our State.

We need to stamp out this cruel practice.

Mahalo,

Lana Carroll

**From:** Kathleen Chung [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:16 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

March 25, 2010

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Dear Sirs:

I am protesting **Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199** which will be held on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am. Both resolutions ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions support cockfighting as a cultural activity.

**Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Please work to end cockfighting in Hawaii. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathie Chung

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000051

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Tenley Peterson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:38 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Protest against Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Hello,

My husband grew up in Hawaii and I lived there for several years while attending UHM. We do not currently live in Hawaii as we have overseas assignments but do plan to return to the islands as my husband considers them home.

We were both very upset to hear about these resolutions to weaken the laws against cockfighting. I cannot believe we want to portray a national and global image that islanders' culture encourages abuse to animals. While there may be a small niche that still engages in this sport, most know it is cruel and associated with crime. As an employee at Ward Center I experienced first hand one of the consequences of the sport with counterfeit bills.

Let's not tarnish our island's more important culture aspects with something as base as cockfighting.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Warm Regards,  
Tenley

--  
Tenley D Peterson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it." (W. Somerset Maugham)

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 3:42 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

HCR277 and HR199:

I am submitting my complaint and plea that these resolutions are defeated by your committee.

Cockfighting is inhumane and cruel and has no place in a civilized society.

Hawaii will benefit more by defeating such cruelty and presenting itself to the world as a humane, compassionate and civilized island. It will also tell the tourism industry that Hawaii is a safe place to visit.

It is your duty to uphold the law ( cockfighting is already illegal) and show the world that Hawaii wants to make positive changes to improve the welfare of all living things and the awful image it now has as the least humane society in the civilized world.

Thank you,  
Lucy Salazar

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

000053



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Mandy Horst [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:32 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protest resolution HCR277 & HR199

Amanda L. Horst  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I hereby, via e-mail protest resolution number HCR277 & HR 199.  
Hearing date and time are scheduled for Monday March 29 at 9:30a.

000054

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Linda Anegawa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:18 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** 3/29/10 9:30am hearing, Resolution numbers HCR277 and HR199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair:

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the above mentioned Resolutions which preserve Cockfighting as a 'cultural activity'.

- Sports such as Cockfighting are cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves using gaffs, drugs, and other unnatural means for increased brutality and injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting, putting strain on our already overburdened police force.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, because of the above, it is now illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. In fact, it was King Kalakaua, a founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, who recognized the cruelty inherent in cockfighting, and outlawed it in 1884.

Aloha,  
Linda Anegawa, MD

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000055

## tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Jack and Shirley Sonnichsen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:55 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** Jack and Shirley  
**Subject:** Testimony HCR 277 and HR 199 for hearing Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I would like to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. These resolutions try to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport which is already illegal. The father of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it. Some other points of which I am sure you are aware:

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.

Thank you for considering my comments. We visit Hawaii regularly and my daughter and husband lived there for 8 years. This does influence me negatively toward visiting Hawaii. I'm sure if it were widely known that Hawaii is trying to justify cockfighting, it would hurt the tourism industry.

Shirley Sonnichsen

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

000056

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** john konjevich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:34 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* testing

please do all you can to protect animals with needed legislation.the inhumanity of having animals fight should not be tolerated anywhere.for it to continue in any of the united states is a terrible shame on the best country on the planet. we are the beacon to the world of what is right and just,we are the most giving ,kind and generous people anywhere.let us be that way to our innocent animals too,sincerely,john konjevich



000057

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Kate Malheiro [mailto:kate.malheiro@hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:49 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

HCR 277 and HR 199

We can't condone cockfighting and call it a "cultural" activity. Cockfighting is supposed to be outlawed. Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884. Cockfighting is not humane and this is a bad representation of Hawaii to visitors and the world!

Kate Malheiro  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(former resident) [REDACTED]  
Ewa Beach Hawaii

Mahalo  
Kate Malheiro

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Megan Boardway [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 3:53 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution HCR 277 and HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair and Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism, and International Affairs:

I am **strongly protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199**. Cockfighting is inhumane, despite the cultural aspect of it. Italians do not continue to have gladiators killing each other in the Coliseum because it is unethical and appalling, although it is a cultural activity. Such is cockfighting.

Date and Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am  
Resolution Nos.: HCR 277 and HR 199

Thank you for having a conscience.

Megan Boardway  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000059

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Frank Baensch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 6:24 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am Resolution #: HCR 277 & HR 199  
Support: No

Aloha,

Cockfighting is animal cruelty at its worst and is illegal in all 50 States.  
36 States make cockfighting a felony. Hawaii should be one of them.  
I realize that this State is ranked as one of the worst for its weak penalties against animal  
cruelty but allowing this torturous activity would bring the ethics level to a new low.  
No amount of value in "traditional culture" justifies this activity.

Thank you for not supporting these bills.

Frank Baensch  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000060

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 6:42 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony to protest HCR 277 and HR 199

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** TCItestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**BCC:** [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 3/26/2010 10:10:46 A.M. Mountain Daylight Time  
**Subj:** Testimony to protest HCR 277 and HR 199

**To:** Rep. Joey Manahan, Chairman & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

**From:** Judith Aikawa, MD  
Ronald Aikawa, MD

**Re:** Testimony protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199  
Date and time of hearing: Monday March 29, 2010 at 9:30 AM

Dear Sirs,

We are writing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Cockfighting is a cruel and inhumane sport and is an offense to everything good that makes us human. Cockfighting is also dangerous to everything that we hold dear since it has been shown to be connected to illegal drugs, gambling and even homicide. That is why cockfighting is illegal--as you know it is outlawed in all 50 states and is a felony in 36 of those states. In no way should it be regarded as a "cultural activity". Even, as long ago as 1884, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting as inhumane and not consistent with Hawaiian culture. As Hawaiians, we need to strengthen, not weaken, our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel and inhumane practice.

Respectfully yours,

Judith Aikawa, MD, [REDACTED]  
Ronald Aikawa, MD, [REDACTED]

000061



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Ginger Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:04 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Testimony Regarding Resolution Numbers HCR 277 and HR 199

TO:  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Testimony Regarding Resolution Numbers HCR 277 and HR 199

Virginia Phillips [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Cock fighting is cruel and in humane. It the same as dog fighting. The animals suffer a cruel fate that they cannot escape from. Gaffs are used to maximize injury for the pure amusement of the humans involved. The birds are forced to fight regardless of their injuries or exhaustion. It is natural for the birds to show dominance to one another, however the birds have the choice to walk away, and there are no gaffs, gambling, or drugs in the natural circle of the bird community. They are often toss away after fights being left to suffer from their injuries and eventually die of a slow and painful death.

In 1884 King Kalakaua outlawed cock fighting, and currently it is illegal in 50 states and 36 it is considered a felony. Why should Hawaii be any different, it was outlawed here in 1884, and today it is more brutal and we are considering not outlawing it. It is not a cultural right, if that was the case then , HONOR KILLINGS would be looked upon in a different light in the US.

Virginia Phillips [REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** S Newman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:07 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Monday, March 29 at 9:30am Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199  
**Importance:** High

ATTN: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs:

Aloha,

I will not take your valuable time with a lengthy dialog regarding the issue of these resolutions. **You know it is wrong, cruel, inhumane and NOT a part of the native Hawaiian culture.** This activity was introduced to our islands. Much as the 'locals' would like to believe that this despicable activity somehow defines their 'manliness', or their perceived culture, it is embarrassing to true Hawaiians who cultivated a society based on respect, compassion and the care of all living things.

While you and those who support this heinous activity may find us warm, fuzzy folks a pain in your okole and think that we have no respect for your beloved, 'cultural' activity; remember that this activity you so defiantly defend is ILLEGAL in ALL 50 STATES!! Like it or not Hawaii is the 50<sup>th</sup> state. Last but not least, I'm sure you are aware that King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Please help perpetuate the compassion to which all creatures are entitled and enforce the elimination of this barbaric practice.

Respectfully yours,

Sheri Newman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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The New Busy is not the old busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Get started.](#)

C00063

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Lucinda Herolaga [mailto:herolaga@hawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:13 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

**STOP CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

CHICKENS HAVE FEELINGS AND LIVES TOO

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A FIGHT FIRST HAND?

IF YOU ENJOYED IT THEN YOU SHOULDNT BE REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII

**ITS A FOREIGN CULTURE**

NOT HAWAIIAN

WE ARE EXPECTED TO CONFORM TO FOREIGN DICTATES IN THEIR COUNTRY

THEY SHOULD CONFORM TO HAWAII CULTURE NOT US TO THEM

WHERE IS THE COMMON SENSE OF OUR POLITICIANS

ARE YOUR BACK POCKETS BULGING?

000064

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** lizzy meisels [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:21 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** resolutions HCR 277

Elizabeth R. Meisels  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Dear Representatives:

I am writings to you as a resident of Hawaii for over 35 years regarding the cruel and inhumane practice of cockfighting which occurs in the state of Hawaii. I understand that the people who want cockfighting to exist believe that it is a cultural activity. I can't express strongly enough the following:

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane  
Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting  
Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 is a felony  
Birds cannot leave the ring no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight  
Metal knife spurs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury- this is disgusting  
Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884

This hearing will take place on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am. Although I cannot be there in person as I am a working, I would like to testify against resolution numbers HCR 277 and HR 199. Please support this horrible crime and continue to make Hawaii a state we can all be proud of. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth R. Meisels

000065

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Leigh Drewry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:27 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** TCI Testimony

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chairman & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

From: Leigh A. Drewry

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Testimony protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199  
Date and time of hearing: Monday March 29, 2010 at 9:30 AM

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Cockfighting is a cruel and inhumane sport and is an offense to everything good that makes us human. Cockfighting is also dangerous to everything that we hold dear since it has been shown to be connected to illegal drugs, gambling and even homicide. That is why cockfighting is illegal--as you know it is outlawed in all 50 states and is a felony in 36 of those states. In no way should it be regarded as a "cultural activity". Even, as long ago as 1884, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting as inhumane and not consistent with Hawaiian culture. As Hawaiians, we need to strengthen, not weaken, our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel and inhumane practice.

Respectfully yours,

--

Leigh A. Drewry, CMP

[REDACTED]

000066

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Carla J Rogers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:32 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Letter of Testimony HCR 277 & HR 199

**Please maintain the status of cockfighting as illegal.  
It is a cruel and inhumane blood sport.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Carla Rogers

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Mark Keid St., #3  
[REDACTED] Hono, HI 96744

C00067

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Albert Mueller [mailto:albert15848@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:34 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR277 & HR 199

Re: HCR 277 & HR 199  
Monday, March 29, 2010 9:30am

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I wish to make my strong protest known with regard to the above House Resolutions which are to come under consideration on the date and time noted. This practice, although rooted in a culture, is one which must be placed in the the cultural past as barbaric and one from which all persons of intelligence and compassion have moved forward.

As a former resident of the state of Hawaii and a 47 year career travel agent specializing in travel to The Islands, my hopes are that the Islands of Aloha will be known as a center for a consciousness of the preservation and well being of all inhabitants of the earth. All living creatures demand our respect and are not to be objects of entertainment.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my perspective of such a serious matter.

Yours very truly,

Albert R. Mueller  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

000068

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** James Kiyono [mailto:jk@hawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:34 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Cock fighting should be enforced 100% why not?

Enforce resolution HCR 277 & 199

--

James Kimo, Bikerboy, Bond

000069



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:37 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Aloha Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I strongly oppose Resolutions 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions, which support cockfighting as a cultural activity, will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs. **Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

**Please support my OPPOSITION against Resolutions 277 and HR 199 for these reasons:**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Thank you,  
Ed Furuike

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000070

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Veronica Molyneux [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:42 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Please stop this bill on cockfighting. We have enough violence in the world we don't need this. It is illegal and is not a cultural thing. This kind of activity promotes gambling, which is illegal, and is cruel to the animals. Please stop it. Veronica Molyneux

Ronnie Molyneux BSN,MSN  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000071

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Nancy Harrison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:48 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting

This email is to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 which is set for hearing on March 29th at 9:#0 am..

Hawaii is ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty.

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.

Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.

Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.

Birds critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.

While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.

While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.

Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

When people make the choice to immigrate to the US they need to put aside cultural customs from their homeland and abide by the customs accepted by the great majority of the US citizens. Customs such as eating dogs and cats and cockfighting have no place in Hawaii.

Very Respectfully,  
Nancy Harrison

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000072

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Parmley, Anna [anna.parmley@meijer.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:51 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

To : Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Hearing: Monday, March 29th, at 9:30am

Please do not support Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Would you allow children to watch this activity because it's culturally acceptable?

Anna Parmley

6602 Highway 14, N. D.P.  
Holland, MI 49425

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000073

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** kathym [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:51 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199 Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Please pass this law...Prosecute people who are cruel to any animals.

Kathy Esposito-Mason  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

000074

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** STACEY WEBER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:52 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199.

I don't understand why you are wasting my tax money when cockfighting is ALREADY illegal in Hawaii. Why did this resolution even come up?

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. (No aloha here)

Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.

Why would you make such a horrific, cruel and plain stupid activity legal in Hawaii?? We didn't elect you to waste our money or our time.  
and let me remind you it is an election year.

Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it. (Maybe we need new faces in those government seats)

000075

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Eton Lu [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:49 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Mr. Joey Manahan, Mr. James Kunane Tokioka:

I am writing this email to protest the House Resolutions which ignore the fact that cook-fighting is illegal.

I do not see what kind of enjoyment human get from it. It is bloody, killing and pure cruelty. The game brings no benefit to the society, to our children, but illegal criminal activities such as gambling, drug and moral damage.

To watch the poor birds hurting each other with the sharp knife, and suffer and die is cruel and inhumane. Animals have no rights, still they do not deserve to die in such a way. We should all learn to love, to care and keep peace.

Cook-fighting is illegal in many states and hope it is also discouraged in our society.

Thank you,

Ping Lu

[redacted]  
[redacted]

000076

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Cora Yokoyama [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:56 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* testing

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I am writing, asking you to NOT support these Resolutions HCR 277 and HR199.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

There is a hearing set for Monday, March 29 at 9:30am , Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

I ask that you do not support these resolutions.

Sincerely,

Cora Yokoyama

000077



## tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Mari Nakamura [mailto:mari.nakamura@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:06 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Attn: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I am **vehemently protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.** Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions, which support cockfighting as a cultural activity, will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs. **Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

**Please consider the following:**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Mari Nakamura  
Date and Time of hearing: Monday 03/20/10 at 9:30a,  
Resolutions numbers: HCR 277 and HR 199

000078

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Barbara Norton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:07 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Against Cockfighting

State Senators and Representatives:

We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this dreadful inhumane practice, not weaken them. The purposeful killing of these birds for supposed "cultural" reasons is disgraceful.

Please **DO NOT SUPPOORT** any resolution or bill that would allow this blood sport to continue under any guise.

Barbara Norton  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000079

**From:** Suzanne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:16 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** LETTER OF TESTIMONY

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I wish to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. I feel that Cock Fighting in Hawaii should be banned as inhumane and cruel to animals:

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

**PLEASE DON'T LET THIS CONTINUE,**

Suzanne Thatcher  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

000080

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Lauren Hanley [mailto:laurenhanley@hawaiiislands.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:18 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Mr. Manahan,

King Kamehameha outlawed cockfighting in Hawaii. If we wish to be culturally traditional, then we should follow his footsteps and show respect to all living things in Hawaii. Overlooking the skewed reality that something brought to the Pacific fairly recently from the Spanish--and without any specific Polynesian changes made to the act--can be considered "culturally native," I beg for you to see the absurdity in allowing cockfighting to be accepted as a cultural activity in these beautiful islands.

How do you think cockfighting will effect our lands? Tourism will go down tremendously, organized crime, homicide, illegal gambling and drug use will increase. We will show complete disrespect to our home. Though roosters are certainly not going extinct any time soon, haven't we learned enough from our abuse of wildlife? Hawaii is responsible for the extinction of more bird species than anywhere else on this planet.

Please do not allow HCR 277 and HR 199 to pass.

Thank you,

Lauren Hanley

000081

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:20 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep.  
James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I would like to **oppose the upcoming Resolution HCR 277 and HR 199** to be heard on March 29th at 9:30 am. Both of these resolutions ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and they attempt to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it!

With aloha,

Berit Larsen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000082

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Herman, Pattie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:22 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protesting resolution HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs,

**I am against and protesting both resolution HCR 277 and HR 199.**

Hearing to take place on Monday, March 29th at 9:30am.

Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport for the pleasure of mankind and for mankind's financial growth. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. Why would this be when we have a reputation to be the state of "ALOHA"?

**Other reasons why I am against resolution HCR 277 and HR 199:**

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
  
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
  
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884

Submitted Respectfully,

**Pattie V. Herman**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Hawaii 96821

Email- [REDACTED]

Marriott Resort Hawaii  
Area Director of Sales and Marketing

000083

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Rosemary Karlsson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:33 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** oppose HR 199 and HCR 277

Please oppose HR 199 and HCR 277 and do NOT recognize cockfighting as a cultural activity. There are many cultural activities that are no longer practiced because we realized they were cruel, unjust, and/or dangerous:

- human sacrifice
- allowing a man to beat his wife
- drunk driving
- sex discrimination in the workplace
- verbal abuse in the workplace
- banning African Americans from using public beaches
- making African Americans ride in the back of the bus
- not allowing women to own land or a house, or to vote
- blaming women for being raped
- public hangings

Rosemary Karlsson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000084

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Dorcie Sakuma [mailto:dorciesakuma@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:09 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution HCR 277 & HR 199

Cockfighting needs to be illegal and the law should be enforced.

It is a barbaric and cruel "sport" that makes Hawaii look like a banana republic. What do visitors to our state think when they see cages along Kam Highway, or pickup trucks with fighting cocks in their back?

It is very difficult for me to believe that cockfighting exists so openly in Hawaii. It is a shame, and shows a lack of humanity and civility in our State.

Dorcie Sakuma

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

000085



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Heather Bennett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:21 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Representatives,

I have recently learned that there are bills which would support cockfighting as a cultural activity. I am a CPA and this time of year I am spending seven days a week working on tax return preparation, so I spend more hours away from my children this month than I would like. If I am not working for my clients, I insist on spending time with my children. However, when I heard about this proposed legislation, I felt it very important to express my concern to you.

I am not a lover of chickens, roosters, or fowl in general. That being said, I respect all animals and expect that they should be treated accordingly. It makes me absolutely sick to my stomach that someone would introduce a bill that would support an activity which is established to intentionally inflict harm on an animal, regardless of gender or species. Cockfighting is no better than dog fighting. To force two animals to fight until one "loses" is cruel and inhumane. But if it is culturally accepted does that make it o.k.? Absolutely NOT. Next should we start having our children fighting until death or near death? Then when they can't fight anymore, toss them aside to die in pain and suffering ... Would cultural acceptance of forcing our children to fight until death make it right?

Politicians talk about improving communities, reducing crime and substance abuse. To approve cockfighting would be giving a stamp of approval to an activity which is known to be associated with many other criminal activities. I urge you to stop this proposed legislation. There is nothing good to be gained by it.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Mahalo,  
Heather

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Heather Bennett  
Duryea & Associates CPAs, LLC  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
E-mail [REDACTED]

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000086

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** barbara ikeda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:33 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** hcr277 & hr199

Please say NO to hcr277 and hr199. You can not say the words, "Cockfighting" and "Culture" in the same sentence. Do tourists come to Hawaii to gamble on blood 'sport'? It took us 50 years to get a cruelty law passed. Now you want to legislate against it?

Barbara Ikeda [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 101 (808) 725-2207

000087

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** JN Musto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:53 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on HCR 277 & HR 199 Hearing, March 29, 2010 @ 9:30 a.m.

To: The House Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

From: J. N. Musto, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

I speak in adamant opposition to the passage of these two resolutions that lend government sanction to the practice of cockfighting, done solely for the pleasure and amusement of a few human beings without any other meaningful purpose being served.

Historical cultural activities evolve into more civilized aspects of conduct and human interactions. There is no moral value in preserving behaviors simply under a historical assertion. If cultures didn't change, then Europeans would still be amusing themselves with bear-baiting and other forms of animal cruelty. North American Native tribes said a prayer to the spirits of the animals they hunted and killed in thanksgiving for the animal's gift of sustenance. Primates by their nature are cruel animals, but human primates have used their evolved cognitive abilities to create cultural constraints to that inherent behavior. Thank God for that capacity.

Constraints on human behavior are perpetuated through our laws, passed by our governments. Certainly, we expect our elected legislators to understand the wisdom in the need to be vigilant in protecting us from ourselves, at least as it pertains to doing harm to other animals over which we have dominion.

It is ironic, if not sad, that this House of Representatives would consider passed this resolution to offer government "recognition of cockfighting," while rejecting a bill that would have established a casino in Waikiki. This form of gambling at least can only result in pain to those human beings who voluntarily choose to participate.

Preserve the declaration of our host culture, as expressed through King Kalakaua, who outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. Musto

000088

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:05 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protest HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing to OPPOSE Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 which will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am.

There is NO justification for this cruel and inhumane blood sport. This so called "sport" is also connected to other illegal activities such as gambling and drugs. Cockfighting is already ILLEGAL in all 50 states. To call cockfighting a cultural activity is ignorant and stupid.

Please OPPOSE Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

respectfully submitted,

Ann Holt

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000089

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Thomas, Bill [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:10 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Hearing for HRC277 and HR199

Cockfighting as a cultural activity? Give me a break. Grow up. Just say "no" to this truly STUPID idea and get back to reasonable governing.

**Bill Thomas**

[redacted]

[redacted]  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

[redacted]  
571-4617

000090

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Ken and Pam Johnson ([REDACTED])  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:19 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan and Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs,

My name is Pamela Johnson and I live at [REDACTED].

I am writing you in protest of Resolution HCR 277 & HR 199 that will be addressed on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am.

I urge you not to pass this resolution because it is plain and simply animal cruelty!!! Cultural or not, animals should be protected from practices such as cockfighting. What are we teaching our children if we pass such a law? This is not the Philippines! This is the United States of America where we protect our animals from cruelty to the best of our abilities!

Mahalo,

Pamela S. Johnson

000091

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** T Miyashiro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:20 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 and HR 199  
Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair and Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Although cockfighting is a cultural activity, it is cruel and inhumane. Metal gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. In the olden days, birds that were critically injured was eaten for dinner. Now, they are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. I lived in an area where there was illegal cockfighting. Every night there would be strange people walking the neighborhood, carrying their birds. We would hear yelling and the birds' loud squawking. People would climb the fence and trespass through our yard when the police arrived. It brought about more drugs and homicide to our neighborhood. It's scary when there's illegal activity next door. Chickens still roam the neighborhood with the roosters crowing 2am in the morning. If cockfighting is legalized, then the neighborhood will return to what it was before and MORE with drugs, chickens squawking, strangers roaming the streets at all times of the day, homicide (we've had a couple of those), illegal criminal activities both at the fight and on the streets. It's bad enough that we have to see the homeless sleeping in their cars on our street or listen to the loud, shatter-your-window booms of fireworks. **Please ... don't legalize cockfighting.**

Thank you.

*tammy miyashiro*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000092

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** ANN WEERS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:21 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** cockfighting

From :

Ann Weers, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Honolulu, HI 96814  
For Monday, March 29 @ 9:30 AM  
HCR 277 & HR 199

- **Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.**
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:26 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

**Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.**

I have traveled to many countries and have witnessed many forms of animal fighting. It is a terrible thing to see animals fighting for their lives and should never be allowed in Hawaii.

Please do not endorse this resolution.

Reginald Sugano  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000094

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Martha Spengler [redacted@hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:29 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR199

Representative Joe Manahan, Chair and Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair :

Dear Sirs,

Aloha. I respectfully submit testimony against Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both resolutions ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions, which support cockfighting as a cultural activity, do nothing to strengthen our existing laws and they do not further our commitment to the humane treatment of animals. Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane, the practice uses metal knife spurs to maximize injury to the birds, the birds are forced to continue to fight no matter how exhausted or injured they are, and critically injured birds are often thrown away and left to suffer a horrible death. Cock fighting is associated with gambling, illegal drugs, violence, including homicide – none of which make our communities better or enhance our cultural understanding of each other. Cock fighting is illegal in all 50 states in the United States and is a felony in 36 of them. We need to strengthen and enhance our laws for the humane treatment of animals, not weaken them.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Martha Spengler

[redacted]

[redacted]

000095

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Denise Furuya [mailto:denise.furuya@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:25 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** protesting Resolution numbers HCR 227 & HR 199

Hi my name is Denise Furuya. I live at [REDACTED] I want to let you know that I am against the passing of •Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199 scheduled on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am . I think cock fighting is cruel and inhumane. Also, the knives they attach to the legs of the birds are extremely sharp and damgerous. I had to take care of a person who had been cut by a bird's knife who had been at a cock fight and he almost bled to death prior to coming to the hospital.

Thank you very much, Denise Furuya

000096

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Christine Scherr [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:27 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199, Hearing Monday, March 29th @ 9:30 am

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs,

I want to protest Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199. Hawaii is ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. It is cruel and inhumane and we need to strengthen our laws and commitment to stamp out this cruel practice not weaken it.

At your hearing on Monday, March 29th at 9:30 am please take into consideration that cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states and is a felony in 36. Both of these resolutions ignore this and attempts to justify cockfighting as a cultural activity not the blood sport that it is.

Sincerely,

Christine Scherr  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

000097

**From:** Mahlon Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony re: HCR 277 - Cockfighting

Written Testimony Regarding HCR 277  
Before the House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs  
Monday, March 29, 2010, 9:30am

Robert M. Moore  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I would like express my unequivocal opposition to any resolution that condones the use of living birds as players in a violent sport.

The fact that cockfighting is a national sport in the Philippines has no relevance in Hawaii nor in the modern world.

Civilized society has recognized the pain suffered by the birds for decades and ignoring that fact for "cultural reasons" is ludicrous. As has been pointed out in the media, even King Kalakaua saw the cruelty and outlawed cockfighting in 1883.

Aside from cruelty issues, In Hawaii cockfighting is even more inappropriate because of the state's opposition to gambling. No matter what proponents of cockfighting say, gambling is the reason it occurs. There is no "sport" to cockfighting. It is simply an exercise in which humans gamble on the bloody outcome of a barbaric exercise. Gambling is illegal in Hawaii. Cockfighting is gambling, pure and simple.

Many states have already made cockfighting a felony, and because of this resolution being introduced by state Representatives Manahan, Keith-Agaran and Sagum, I will double my efforts to support and elect leaders who are willing to support legislation to toughen regulations and penalties.

Thank you and aloha,

Robert Moore  
Honolulu

To: Representatives Joey Manahan and James Kunane Tokioka

From: Claire M. Sheehan

PO Box 363 Punahoa HI 96784  
(808) 938-2111

Re: Hearing scheduled for Monday March 29, 2010 at 9:30 am involving  
HRC 277 and HR 199

Sirs,

Really??? Attempting to hide a bill that justifies a blood sport as cultural activity and running it through a committee that is charged with promoting tourism is absurd.

What will be next Roberts overnights to Kauai featuring the main bout between Rocky (Balboa) the Rooster and some small town favorite from Kokee National Park?

Will we be running national advertising featuring our finest fighting pits during every televised boxing match? Why not, we showcase our golf courses all the time.

Cock fighting is outlawed in all 50 states and is considered a felony in 36 (of course not in Hawaii).

Instead of honoring modern day cretins why not honor the will of King Kalakaua who outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Sincerely,

Claire M. Sheehan

000099

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Masae Martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:46 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting in Hawaii - Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Attention:

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Aloha Gentlemen,

To think that cockfighting is seen as anything less than cruel and inhumane in Hawaii is insane. Attaching metal knife spurs (gaffs) to the legs of these birds to maximize injury insures that none of them will leave the ring without serious pain and injury.

To think that these beautiful creatures are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer is incomprehensible to say the least.

It is a known fact that gambling, drugs, and even murder are connected to cockfighting.

Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, 36 of which consider it a felony.

King Kalakaua himself outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

It is our responsibility today to beef up the penalties for people participating in this inhumane activity.

Masae Martin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000100

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Makakauli'i Rego <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:48 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Exploiting Cockfighting

My info

Your Name & address: Makakaulii Rego

[REDACTED] University Ave  
[REDACTED] Hawaii 96806

• Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

•Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

• Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

•Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

--- On **Fri, 3/26/10, Makakauli'i Rego** <[REDACTED]> wrote:

From: Makakauli'i Rego <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Exploiting Cockfighting  
To: [TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Date: Friday, March 26, 2010, 9:45 AM

Aloha, I'm want to add my testimony on cockfighting in Hawaii. As a adolensent I was expose to this cruel and unselfish act of cockfighting. After they are dead they are thrown out in a trash can and not being disposed with dignity.

There is in fact illegal gambling activities going on for personal gain and the cocks are being exploited.

I can see growing and raising cocks for hobby or for showing but not to be killed for human pleasure and gambling.

Let's do something about this social problem.

Mahalo for hearing me out

000101



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:59 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Protest of HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan and Rep. James Kunane Tokioka,

I am protesting HCR 277 & HR 199 being heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 A.M.

I was born and raised in rural areas of Oahu and Kauai where cockfighting was an accepted way of life. That was over 45 years ago when most of Hawaii's communities could be considered rural and the ethnic segregation of plantation camps preserved certain ethnic behaviors and traditions. In today's society, however, if you assume that cockfighting is still considered an acceptable, cultural activity, you'd clearly be wrong.

Hawaii's social mores have evolved. Now, plantation camps are considered inhumane; killing and eating dogs is a punishable offense. King David Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884, and we acknowledged it wasn't an acceptable activity when laws were passed to make it illegal in the present. Not only is it inhumane and violent, it inevitably spawns illegal activities.

Here's a good litmus test for seeing if cockfighting is a cultural activity beyond reproach: Ask yourselves if you would expose your children to it. We have had to shield a young member of our family from hearing the news of a relative who was convicted in Federal Court of running an illegal cockfighting operation. There were also drugs involved. Because crime is an inherent part of this cultural activity, crime is what you condone by allowing HCR 277 and HR 199 to pass.

I'm not exactly certain what more you need as evidence to clarify that Hawaii views cockfighting as violent, inhumane, and ultimately, dangerous to our children, our communities, and our islands. We don't want it legalized or legitimized in any way. Yes, it has cultural origins and is a cultural activity, but cockfighting does not show any promise of ever becoming something that makes Hawaii a better place. And that is what we're all aiming for, is it not?

Sincerely,  
Jolene A. U. Auvil

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

C00102

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** A Warren Duryea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:37 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Cynthia Thielen  
**Subject:** protest to Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Representatives:

Just because cockfighting is a cultural activity doesn't make it an acceptable practice. Lynching of blacks was once an acceptable cultural practice in the south. Cockfighting should be a felony.

As a voting citizen, I will be closely monitoring the vote on this issue.

Sincerely, Warren Duryea

A. Warren Duryea  
Duryea & Associates CPAs LLC

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000103

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR277 on 3/29/2010 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 3/29/2010 9:30:00 AM HCR277

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jeannine Johnson  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 5648 Pia Street Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 808-373-2874  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

**Comments:**

Kanaka maoli did not and do not support cockfighting. Hawai'i is a melting pot that blends the best of local cultures, not the worst. Anyone that wants to gamble is free to fly to Vegas; anyone that wants to gamble on cockfights can go to the Phillipines. **DO NOT allow it here.**

000104



affect ALL of us, including the animal population that cannot speak for themselves. You obviously don't care about them, so tell me why I should trust you to care about us?!

M. Ka'akau-Delizo, MA, Applied Bioarchaeologist Ewa Beach, HI

000106

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Linda Soraoka [mailto:linda.soraoka@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:24 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Your Name & address: Linda Soraoka  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Date & Time of Hearing Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers HCR 277 & HR 199

I protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.

While we all believe that we live in a civilized society and common courtesies are recognized, cockfighting is will continue to keep "us" as a society in the barbaric era.

Imagine doing this to your son or daughter ... strape a gaff and no matter how exhausted or injured they are, they cannot leave the ring ... and if they're critically injured they're tossed away like garbage and left to suffer.

Do the right thing ... because it's the right thing to do.

000107

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Leslie Allen [mailto:leslie@hensonscompanyhawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution No. HCR 277 & HR 199

**TO:** Rep Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

**Re:** Resolution No. HCR 277 and HR 199

Hearing Date: Monday, March 29, 2010

Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.

Sirs:

Mahatma Gandhi said, "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way it treats its animals." How dare you use precious public resources to put forth a resolution justifying the cruel and inhumane activity of cock fighting as a 'cultural activity'? It's hard to conceive of such a resolution coming out of the legislature. This resolution is a slap in the face of everyone who strives to promote Hawaii to its best advantage. That's just the boost tourism needs; come to Hawaii and see poor defenseless animals outfitted with knives participate in an illegal activity. Forget about the mountains, the sea, the sunsets, the clean air.

Our progress, or ranking, as a humane state is dismal, next to the bottom in regard to the protection of animal cruelty. Why would you perpetuate an already dismal record?

As far as I'm concerned, that sends absolutely the wrong image of Hawaii to the world. Please do not pass a resolution that ignores the fact that cockfighting is illegal.

Leslie Allen  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

000108

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Erica Wong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:27 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the Resolutions of HCR 277 and HR 199 on cockfighting in the State of Hawaii to which a hearing will take place on Monday, March 29th at 9:30 a.m. Although cockfighting is viewed as a cultural activity, that is miniscual compared to the thousands of roosters injured and killed as a result of a cultural activity. In today's time where animals are viewed either as a family member or a vital food supply in today's economy, a "sport" using animals is utterly disgusting. Cockfighting rings destroy thousands of innocent animal lives and is also used as a front for illegal gambling and drug trafficking. Despite cockfighting being a mismedeanor in the State of Hawaii, transporting roosters as well as the gaffs across state line is a federal crime. Not to mention the drug trafficking is also a federal crime if the drugs are brought in to sell at these cockfighting rings. I suggest making cockfighting a federal crime in the State of Hawaii that way if the people caught at these cockfightings dealing drugs, transporting roosters and the gaffs across state lines, and even with firearms (whether stolen or prior felons in possession) will spend a lot more time behind bars and our streets safe in Hawaii.

I fully support cultural activity (as a minority myself with numerous cultural activities related to my race) but not at the expense of harming numerous animals and housing numerous crimes as well. Please keep in mind the effect this can have on the face of Hawaii as well as the children, if this State is known to thrive on horrifying crimes.

Sincerely,  
Erica Wong  
[REDACTED]

000109



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kathy Carlstead [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:39 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

I strongly protest these resolutions supporting cockfighting with gaffs as a cultural activity. Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane because it causes **animal suffering**. Cockfighting with gaffs exploits the natural behaviors of cocks to fight, and prevents the natural response of losing cocks to flee. Science and society is evolving to remove animal suffering from all aspects of animal use. No amount of animal suffering can be justified as a cultural activity - unless you acknowledge that culture as brutal and inhumane.

**Cockfighting could be an acceptable cultural activity** if the practice was altered to **exclude the use of gaffs**, and the losing birds were removed or allowed to escape before injury occurs. There is no justifiable reason that cockfighting has to be a **blood sport**. I would ask supporters of cockfighting cultures to make these changes and show a commitment to removing suffering and injury of animals if they want to preserve the cultural aspects of the practice.

Hawaii has a deplorable record for turning a blind eye to animal cruelty. It is embarrassment in the modern world!

Kathy Carlstead, Ph.D  
Research Scientist  
Honolulu Zoo

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000110

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:38 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on -Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199 - 3/29/10

TO: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199  
Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

I am very much apposed to both resolutions HCR 277 and HR199 to recognize cockfighting.

Please do not allow such a think to happen in Hawaii in 2010.

I've read the text to these resolutions and cannot believe the examples used to justify an activity just because there are people who want to do it.

I could argue each point, but I'd like to mention that this is not Europe nor Mexico, but Hawaii and in fact, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

It states 'roosters are neither brutalized nor forced to fight'. When a rooster wearing gaffs is placed in the ring, they cannot leave no matter how injured they become, and at the end the rooster is often times thrown aside, left to die from its injuries - how is this humane?

And to say we should allow cockfighting because it adds money to the economy - the money a person spends on the cockfighting industry - equipment, medication, animals, gambling... would have a greater positive effect if used to provide a better life for the person and their family.

It is up to you as lawmakers to do what is RIGHT (and not always popular) Yes, as Lincoln did

Please, I'm asking you to look deep inside yourself for the good, and do the correct thing, and protect animals and people.

Thank you.  
Connie Clinton

[REDACTED]

000111

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Anne Wheelock [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:43 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** Warren Duryea  
**Subject:** protestation of HCR 277 and HR 199

To Representative Joey Manahan, Chair and Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing to you to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. These two resolutions are to be heard Monday, March 29 at 9:30 AM. Cockfighting is illegal in the state of Hawaii. Cockfighting, as both of you are certainly aware, is cruel and inhumane; the metal leg gaffs attached to the birds have the sole purpose of maximizing injury and critically injured birds are often tossed away to suffer and die. Birds are living creatures and as able as we are to perceive fear and pain. Cultural activities should be positive, uplifting experiences for ALL involved, and to include cockfighting as a cultural activity is deplorable and intolerable. I urge you NOT to pass HCR 277 and HR 199.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Anne Wheelock  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000112

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Laulima Student [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:42 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: HCR 277 & HR 199; March 29 at 9:30am

Testimony by:

Beth Sanders, [REDACTED]

Testimony regarding:

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony against resolution HCR 277 and HR 199. I do not believe cock fighting should be permitted for any reason. Using the justification that it is a cultural activity is invalid. Simply because something is a cultural activity does not make it acceptable. There are countless cultural practices that have been deemed inappropriate and subsequently judged illegal in our state and country: hanging, tar and feathering of human beings, incest, infanticide, etc .

Cock fighting is illegal in Hawaii and as such it should not be permitted. It was originally outlawed in Hawaii in 1884 by King Kalakaua. Cock fighting is not only illegal in Hawaii but is illegal in all 50 states of the United States and is even considered a felony in 36 states. In addition to being illegal, cock fighting is inhumane and promotes activities such as gambling and drug use that are detrimental to humans and society. I personally have witnessed a family torn apart because of a spouse's involvement with cock fighting and the activities that traditionally accompany it. Nothing good came of this family's involvement with a savage activity passed down to them by their ancestors.

Cock fighting is an act of violent cruelty. It involves metal knife spurs called gaffs being attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. Fighting birds are contained so no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight they cannot get away. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. Consequently, persons who regularly participate in cock fighting become desensitized to pain, suffering, and the site of blood. In fact, they more easily develop tendencies adherent to dominance and bullying, often resulting in abuse of family members. Statistically, increased rates of homicide and brutality are linked to cock fighting.

Allowing cock fighting as a cultural activity will do nothing to improve our state or environment; it will have no positive effect on our communities; in fact, it will have an adverse effect on the families and children whose family members participate in cock

fighting. Nothing of value, no lasting good will be produced by allowing cock fighting as a cultural activity; it will do nothing to promote or advance the heritage of the people who claim it as a cultural activity.

I strongly urge you to vote again resolution HCR 277 and HR 199. In so doing you will be sustaining and promoting families and healthy communities.

Sincerely,

Beth Sanders

000114

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Jo Ayers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:50 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** protest of Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Rep Joey Manahan, Chair

Dear Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR199 whose hearing is scheduled for Monday March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

The bottom line is that cockfighting is cruel and inhumane and it is patently absurd to justify cruel and inhumane behavior to a helpless creature based on the guise of it being a "cultural activity". I suppose one could say that killing Jews was a cultural activity for the Nazi's but that did not make it OK.

A "cultural activity" is one that everyone in the culture participates in that enhances and continues the culture. Causing pain and suffering to roosters is not and will never be a cultural activity.

Thank you for reading this.

Jo Ayers  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000115

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Linda Currivan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:02 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Monday March 29 Hearing on HCR227, HR199

To: The House Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

From: Linda Currivan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs and Madams:

There is an inherent *contradiction* which I expect our esteemed lawmakers to recognize in allowing the illegal gambling associated with cockfighting (and impossible to separate, because it is also “cultural”) and refusing legal gambling, the proceeds of which could be directed to support our schools and social services.

There is an inherent *hypocrisy* in government which turns a blind eye towards protecting the vulnerable and weak, whether they are children or animals, who are unable to control their own destinies.

There is an inherent *disingenuousness* in allowing what at one time passed for “cultural” observance--but which pandered to the baser instincts of human beings--to dictate what a modern sensitivity will countenance. This cultural argument is right up there with convulsing our residents with respiratory weaknesses and terrorizing both our domesticated and wild animals who think we’ve lost our senses a couple of times a year when we turn the islands over to unremitting explosions from fireworks and other incendiary devices.

I depend on your good stewardship to please stop this madness.

000116

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Murielle Sipola [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* RE: HCR 277 & HR 199

From: Murielle Sipola  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Re: HCR 277 & HR 199

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

This message is to respectfully ask that cockfighting be not encouraged in any way by the above resolutions. Cockfighting is a cruel, inhumane and useless treatment of animals. It might be considered as a cultural tradition, but as much as I believe in respecting each other's cultural traditions, I also believe that these should be challenged when they are creating sufferings for living creatures. I also think lawmakers should allows in any way some of us - really quite a minority - to find entertainment and excitement in a climate of violence and suffering.

Please note:

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

M. Sipola

000117



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** David McCauley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:17 AM  
**To:** TCltestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

I have been a resident of Manoa for fifty years. I vehemently oppose HCR 277 and HR 199, which support cockfighting as a "cultural activity." What a disgrace! I assure you I will give my full support to any candidate who runs AGAINST any of you who votes for either of these resolutions.

Don't you fools know that cockfighting is ILLEGAL in this state and in ALL FIFTY STATES. Cockfighting is a cruel and inhumane blood sport, and you all damn well know it. IN 36 STATES IT IS A FELONY! ARE YOU TELLING ME OUR REPRESENTATIVES ENDORSE THE COMMISSION OF FELONIES?!!

**To get some sense of what the roosters go through, all those who support these resolutions should be required to fight each other naked with Bowie knives in the capital rotunda until the last person standing.**

**I HOPE THE NAMES OF ALL OF YOU WHO VOTE FOR THIS ARE POSTED PROMINENTLY IN THE ADVERTISER AND STAR-BULLETIN, AND THAT AS OF THIS DAY YOUR POLITICAL CAREERS ARE OVER!**

David P. McCauley  
Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 8  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Member *Meritas - Law Firms Worldwide*  
V[REDACTED]

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000118

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Samuel & Louise Dollman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:19 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am ·Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 19

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

We believe you are intelligent and have a heart so we are not going go into all the reasons Cock fighting should remain banned. Please fight to not just weaken the "Sport," but to strengthen the enforcement and punishment of such fun and lucrative activity that We're sure you would never want your children to witness.

Samuel F. and Louise A. Brown Dollman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000119

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:21 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** rooster fighting

To whom it may concern,

I would have started with an Aloha but I don't think this is correct for the awful news I just received from the Hawaiian Humane society. I just can not believe that anyone would think of legalizing rooster fighting. This is just a representation of how our society and I do mean Hawaii has changed over the last couple years. Do you not believe that this is a dehumanizing act to animals and to the people who do it. Think about the children whom are viewing this or families that take part of it. What are we saying by making this legal. It is shameful to even hear that our house is going to even speak of this. This needs to stop and finally realize that the impact of violence either to animals or humans are the same. It creates violent and desensitized people and our ohana.

Ingrid Hamel  
hearing Monday March 29th @9:30 am  
Resolution number HCR 277 & HR 199

000120

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Brandie Ota [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:33 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony.  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199

To whom it may concern:

Regarding Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199; Monday, March 29 at 9:30

It has come to my concern that Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 are trying to be passed allowing bird fighting to be legal or more acceptable within the community that we live. I do not have any first hand knowledge of cockfighting but i am just concerned with the safety of our community as well as the animal community. It is appalling to me that animal fighting in any form be acceptable in our modern, civilized society. It would be extremely upsetting to me if animal fighting in any way shape or form were to become the norm. By having done some research on cockfighting, I have come to the conclusion that this seemingly small illegal activity has been commonly associated with other illegal activities such as gambling, drug use and an increase in violence within our community. I am not one to put all of the blame on one cause but, if it is a war on ice that the state of Hawaii is trying to win then we need to take away all of the potential environments where illegal activity can occur. Punishment needs to be made stricter and harsher to prevent people from becoming involved. Cockfighting is a vicious activity harming helpless animals in the process. Who is to determine that birds are not as important to us as dogs, cats and other animals? By allowing these Resolutions to pass, we are opening a door that may never be shut. Should we allow ourselves to become vulnerable to the possible negative outcomes? These are questions that you need to consider. The torturing and harming of helpless animals is ridiculous and should just not be allowed to happen legally!

Thank you so much for your time and patience!

Brandie Ota

000121

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Nancy L. Hedlund Ph.D. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:16 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Opposing HCR 277 & HR 199, Monday, 3/29, 9:30 am, Comm. Culture, Tourism, International Affairs

Testimony Strongly Objecting to Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 for Monday, 3/29, 9:30 am, Comm. Culture, Tourism, International Affairs

Aloha Representative Joey Manahan, Chair,  
and Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I offer testimony in strong opposition to these resolutions because they support inhumane practices that constitute torture and violence to animals. Violence often begins with teaching children that violence and torture of animals is a sport and a fun time and a way to have a party. *This is not the way of Hawaii or any humane culture.*

Cockfighting is illegal in Hawai'i. We must not go against our own State law with these steps intended to legitimize this cruel and inhumane blood sport.

In fact, cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty.

Cockfighting is not only illegal – it does not perpetuate the virtues of a culture. It is a practice through which some people enjoy doing violence to animals and then pretend it is part of their culture.

***CULTURE? YES – THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AND HATRED. It starts with animals and translates to all forms of life.***

What culture enjoys attaching sharp instruments to animals so they can fight and even cause increased pain, bleeding?

What culture endorses torturing birds by making them fight, preventing them from escape – forcing them to suffer to death, however slowly. And if not dead, throwing them in the trash to die.

How can Hawai'i justify torturing animals through cockfighting as an excuse for gambling?

It is beyond human ethics and principle to endorse such actions.

A vote for these resolutions is a vote for violence and hatred. What a man does to an animal, he is also willing to do to women, children, his neighbors, and his people. It does not stop with cockfighting – *it begins by teaching children that this is fun sport.*

Nancy Hedlund  
Registered Voter, Honolulu, Hawai'i

000122

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Karen Kato [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:49 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

To Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair ,

My name is Karen and I am writing to show my support for banning cockfighting, Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am. I have always felt Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Some of the horrendous facts are:

Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.

Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.

Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.

Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. My husband is a police officer and can verify this.

While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.

While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.

Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Please do what you can to stop this cruelty!

Mahalo,

Karen Kato  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000123

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Laura Clagstone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 11:56 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: Cockfighting

To Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair, and Rep. James Kuhane Tokioka, Vice Chair, Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Re: Hearing Monday March 29, 2010 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Resolutions #HCR 277 and HR 199

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Laura Clagstone [REDACTED] >  
**To:** TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Fri, March 26, 2010 11:49:20 AM  
**Subject:** Cockfighting

These bills to legitimize cockfighting are nothing less than barbaric. I suppose next thing we'll have bills making it legal to kill and eat dogs. This is America, not the Philippines. Don't you lawmakers have more important things to do than kowtow to a few constituents who don't wish to abide by the laws of the country that has been so good to them. This horrific practice should be a FELONY!

While you're at it, why don't you legalize the stoning deaths of adulterers--the Taliban would be so pleased!

Laura Clagstone  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000124

**From:** Jerry Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:07 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

I am writing this email to vigorously protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport.

These House Resolutions, which support cockfighting as a cultural activity, will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

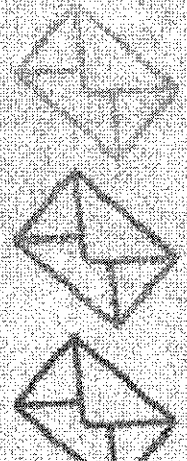
Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.

I point out the following to you as you consider these house resolutions:

- (1) Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- (2) Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- (3) Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- (4) Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- (5) Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- (6) While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- (7) While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- (8) Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Thank you for reading this email, thinking about it's content, and then doing the right thing for Hawaii.

**Jerry Jackson**





[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**P.S. I'm sending my email to other locals in hopes that they will write you in similar fashion.**

000126

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** @ndrea Hamblin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:13 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Representatives Manahan and Tokioka,

I'm deeply troubled by your desire to create a resolution that recognizes cockfighting simply because it is a national sport of other countries and cultures. What's next? Will there be a resolution recognizing stoning to death an individual who has engaged in sexual activity before being married? Or how about a resolution for public hangings? Or women not permitted to drive? Or women being expected to cover from head to toe? After all, these are commonly accepted cultural activities in Saudi Arabia where I grew up. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not advocating any of the above to be recognized through a resolution. I believe all of the above are disturbing acts that should not be glorified in any way. Just because something exists as a cultural activity in another country, does not mean it is the right and moral thing to do.

Cockfighting, for instance, is cruel and inhumane. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Let's not move backwards by passing a resolution glorifying a sport that counters what the law of Hawaii has already cited as illegal.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hamblin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

000127

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Cynthia Kubas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:50 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

To: Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

From: Cynthia Kubas  
[REDACTED]  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
[REDACTED]

Re: Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

I am writing to vigorously protest resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport.

**We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

Thank You!

Aloha,

Cynthia Kubas

000128

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** judy bird [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:11 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** bill on cockfighting - against

cockfighting is not a "cultural activity"; it is a gross misuse of a beautiful bird for gambling and bloodlust. Please vote against these misleading bills, HR 199, and HCR 277. Hawaii deserves better than this type of legislation. Judith Bird

000129

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:40 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HR 199 AND HCR 277

CHAIR MANAHAN, VICE-CHAIR TOKIOKA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**OPPOSITION TO HR 199 AND HCR 277; RECOGNIZING COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY**

**Monday, March 29, 930am, Rm 312**

**COCKFIGHTING IS A CRIME AND ILLEGAL IN HAWAII, AND THESE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT PRE CONTACT KANAKA PARTICIPATED IN ANY PRACTICE OF THIS NATURE**

**HAWAII NEEDS TO JOIN THE 39 STATES THAT HAVE MADE COCKFIGHTING A FELONY,—ITS TIME TO STRENGTHEN NOT WEAKEN OUR LAWS!**

- **COCKFIGHTING IS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLEGAL GAMBLING, DRUG DISTRIBUTION, ILLEGAL FIREARMS, CHILD ENDANGERMENT, ORGANIZED CRIME AND OFTEN, HUMAN VIOLENCE**
- **BIRDS USED IN ILLEGAL COCKFIGHTS ARE FORCED TO FIGHT AND ALMOST ALWAYS DIE IN THE RING—BIRDS DO NOT NATURALLY FIGHT TO THE DEATH IN THE WILD**
- **BIRDS ARE STRAPPED WITH RAZOR SHARP BLADES KNOWN AS GAFFS OR KNIVES WHICH INFLICT TREMENDOUS**

Mike Moran

Kihei, HI

000130

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Daunna Yanoviak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

>  
> Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
> Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

> • Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
> • Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

> I would like to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore  
> the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify  
> a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions, which  
> support cockfighting as a cultural activity, will be heard on Monday,  
> March 29 at 9:30 am by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and  
> International Affairs. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst  
> states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty.  
> We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this  
> cruel practice, not weaken it.

> Here are some message points to include:

> • Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.

> • Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs  
> of the birds to maximize injury.

> • Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or  
> injured they become during the fight.

> • Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away  
> as garbage and left to suffer.

> • Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal  
> activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.

> • While establishing dominance is a natural behavior,  
> cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased  
> brutality.

> • While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various  
> countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states  
> and in 36 it is a felony.

> • Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King  
> Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884. I Thank you, , Daunna Ynoviak

Daunna Yanoviak  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:54 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HCR 277 and HR 199

H.C.R. 277 and H.R. 199  
Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:30 am

Dear Legislators,

Personally, I'm appalled that in this day and age there are legislators who would even consider such resolutions let alone attempt to introduce them. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states in the nation for it's weak penalties against animal cruelty. It recently received the dubious moniker as being "one of the top five best states in the country to be an animal abuser." That is an embarrassment to us all!

Cockfighting is one of the most egregious forms of animal cruelty, where birds are fitted with razor sharp knives called gaffs and pitted against each other to fight to the death -- all for the entertainment and gambling desires of the spectators.

Illegal gambling, drugs, firearms and other criminal activities such as child endangerment, organized crime and even human violence are all connected to cockfighting.

This has nothing to do with "culture" and everything to do with the suffering of animals for man's own "entertainment." Perpetuating this inhumane activity is hardly the sign of a progressive society.

It is an illegal activity in all 50 states, and 39 states make it a felony. It has been banned in Hawaii since 1884, but Hawaii actually has one of the weakest cockfighting laws in the country. Instead of passing these outrageous resolutions, I urge you to support legislation to strengthen Hawaii's animal fighting law and help crack down on this illegal activity.

Thank you,

Thomas Bailie

[REDACTED]  
Honolulu, HI 96813

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000132

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** audreyandrudy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:01 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* testing; HCR 277 & HR 199

Resolution # HCR 277 & HR 199, hearing 29 March at 9:39

Dear Representative,

Regarding the discussion of cockfighting. Instead of using innocent animals who have no choice, why not authorize the owners of these animals, who have a choice, to strap on bloodletting instruments and have a go at it. Then let's see how long this Cro Magnon tradition/sport lasts?

Let's set an example for the rest of Asia, who is still in the dark ages.

Heartfully and respectfully to all sentient beings,

audrey and rudy decker-boznak

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

000133



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Heather Nishida [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:07 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

**To:**  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

**Re:** Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199  
**Hearing:** Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Please do not support the resolutions that make cockfighting a "cultural activity". Our state is normally the most forward thinking state compared to the rest of the country, do not let this resolution bring us backwards.

Thanks,  
Heather Nishida-Sprouse  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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000134

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Carol Ng [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 12:45 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I am strongly against the resolutions for the simple reason it is totally INHUMANE and also for the following reasons:

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Is eating dogs a cultural activity? Isn't this world bad enough without having this type of "activity" go on? This is only to benefit the gamblers who should get a "real job" instead of using cockfighting as a means of making money.

I strongly urge you to stop the resolutions. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am.

Thank you  
Carol Ng  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000135

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Mayumi Levesque [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:15 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair; Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs:

Re: HCR 277 & HR 199. Hearings on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

There are a good many reasons why cockfighting has already been outlawed here in Hawaii, as in all the 50 states (36 of which it is considered a felony), and most civilized nations worldwide:

\* Cockfighting is linked to increased crime and increased family violence-- partly because of its connection to gambling and drugs, but also because it demonstrates indifference to others, human AND animal. Research has indicated that persons engaging in inhumane activities such as cockfighting and dogfighting are more likely to engage in violent behavior towards other people as well as damage to property. Examples include:

<http://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?collection=journals&handle=hein.journals/anim6&div=5&id=&page=>

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/585705?>

\* Cockfighting purports to demonstrate natural behaviors where in reality, instruments of violence are added for the magnitude of the sport. Imagine being a wrestler, and upon entering the ring finding out your opponent is armed with knives. The "knives" the cocks are armed with are the gaffs-- and they are designed for maximum injury.

\* King Kalakaua, founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

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HCR 277 and HR 199 would be a step in the wrong direction as far as animal cruelty and public safety, and would endanger not only the cocks themselves, but the families and communities in which the fighting takes place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayumi Levesque  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000136

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** dogwalker etc [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:21 PM  
**To:** TCltestimony  
**Subject:** letter of testimony re: cockfighting

TO: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

I am submitting my letter to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 being held on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

I am against this for the following reasons:

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Erin Gerwig  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000137

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** LYN.PENDRAGON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:26 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting in Hawaii

**Importance:** High

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism, and International Affairs

RE: Res. HCR 277 and HR 199

Hearing: Monday March 29 at 9:30 am

Dear Representatives Manahan and Kunane,

We were distressed and shocked to learn that there is a bill that might justify the cruel and inhumane "sport" of cockfighting.

We as human beings cannot continue to justify animal cruelty on the basis that it is a "cultural" activity. We need look no further than King Kalakaua himself, who helped found the Hawaiian Humane Society and personally banned cockfighting in 1884.

Cockfighting often involves drugs, gaffs, and other means to increase the brutality of the "sport." While cockfighting has occurred for centuries in some countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 states it is a FELONY.

Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.

We must stand up and stop this despicable activity now.

We will follow this closely and will not vote for any representative who supports these bills  
Please keep us advised.

Very truly,

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Pendragon  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000138

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Jenny Davidson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:28 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Just wanted to let you know I believe this is a cruel sport which promotes violence toward animals and people and should be outlawed.

It creates the perfect atmosphere for gambling, drunk driving, the selling of illegal drugs and all the harmful things which result from these activities.

Jennifer Davidson, [REDACTED]

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Thank you,

*Jenny Davidson*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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000139

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Lois Yamaguchi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:22 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HCR 277 & HR 199, Hearing on March 29, 9:30 am

This should be simple and intuitive to any reasonable person. Any sport, hobby or money-making activity which is illegal as well as cruel and inhumane, cannot be tolerated for any reason. Period. Have we learned nothing from Michael Vick?

Lois H. Yamaguchi  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000140

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Aloha from Hawaii [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 1:49 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HCR 277 & HR 199, Hearing on March 29, 2010, 9:30 am

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199, Hearing on March 29, 2010, 9:30 am  
**From:** Hiromoto Jerry T [REDACTED]  
**To:** aloha from Jerry [REDACTED]  
**CC:** null

[TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Attention:**  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair,  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair, Committee on Culture, Tourism and International  
Affairs.

I am writing in regards to HCR 277 and HR 199 and wish you to consider my position in  
opposition to these items.

I believe that cockfighting is cruel in it's treatment to the animals used and abused in this  
"sport". The animals are fitted with metal spurs designed to maximize injury and often leads  
to the death or mutilation of the losing animal.

In addition to the inherent cruelty of the activity, the event is often accompanied by  
gambling, durg use and other criminal activity.

Please accept my testimony in opposition to these measures.

Thank you,

Jerry Hiromoto  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000141



tokioka1-Elijah

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From: Patti Mickelsen [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 2:03 PM  
To: TCItestimony; announcer@hawaiianhumane.org  
Subject: HCR 277 & HR199

Dear Representatives Manahan and Tokioka:

UNBELIEVABLE!!!! My family has lived in Hawaii since 1969 and now in the 21st century, along come HCR 277 and HR199.

I am shocked, embarrassed and dismayed that the State Government of the great state of Hawaii would even discuss measures that attempt to classify the cruel and inhumane activity of cockfighting as a "cultural"

activity!!! (Monday morning, March 29th at 9:30a.m.) What does it say to the other 49 states and the rest of the civilized world that this could happen in the United States of America in 2010!?!?!?! I'm sure President Obama and every other intelligent American would be stunned and revolted by these proposed measures.

Perhaps you are not fully aware of what cockfighting is about...crime, drugs, extreme animal cruelty and other illegal activities. This is ILLEGAL in all 50 states (that means Hawaii too!!!) and all evolved countries in the world. There can be NO excuse for attempting to 'water down' an existing law under the guise of 'culture'. This is the very antithesis of 'culture'! This is barbarism at its most blatant. Animals are tortured and left to die horrible deaths - trash to be thrown out.

Hawaii should join the many other states that have already recognized this disgusting activity for what it is - a FELONY!

I know I speak for many thousands of fellow Hawaiian who are caring and compassionate people...everyone may not have the opportunity to express their opinion, but I know the vast majority of Hawaiians abhor animal cruelty and understand the very real connection between animal abusers and wife beaters or child abusers. There is irrefutable proof that these things are linked.

Regardless of any rhetoric from the animal torturers, we can never let our State regress down the path of societies who tolerate this deplorable activity. Remember, it was once a 'cultural' activity to feed early Christians to wild animals for 'pleasure'. It was once a 'cultural' activity to stone women for alleged infidelity. Let's hope we have progressed beyond falling for that argument to justify horrific cruelty to a sentient being. Our own King Kálakaua outlawed cockfighting over 130 years ago. Surely we have made SOME progress since then!

Respectfully, (but disgusted)  
Patti and Paul Mickelsen

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000142

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Letitia Hickson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:20 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199

To the committee:

I would like to register strong opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199, which constitute cruelty to animals. Cockfighting goes against a fundamental behavior that we as a society try to teach our young people in our churches and in our schools - which is respect and care for all living creatures. There is nothing admirable or defensible about it. It is willful infliction of pain - and is known to be associated with gambling, drugs, and other illegal activities. This is why it is outlawed in all 50 states.

Recent studies have shown that cruelty to animals is also associated with other forms of violence and neglect. Condoning violence in one area only makes it more difficult to combat in other areas. Other states are way ahead of us here. Hawaii is ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty - we need stronger penalties against animal cruelty. This proposed legislation is a step backwards.

Submitted by:  
Letitia Hickson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29, 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

000143

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:28 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Aloha Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing you in protest to Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. **Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.

While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

In addition, roosters kept in residential neighborhoods also disturb the peace and quiet of the surrounding area. The crows are heard from far distances and are hard to ignore. Please strengthen our laws against cockfighting and animal cruelty.

Mahalo for your time,

Christy Ryan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

000144

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Denise Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:30 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

**I agree with the following regarding:**

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884

**Denise Anderson**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Lorna K [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:40 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199 - Testimony Against

I am AGAINST this resolution (HCR 277 & HR 199, to be heard on Monday, 3/29 at 9:30am) on the pure grounds of this being cruel and inhumane to animals for the pure enjoyment of people who seek monetary gain at the brutal expense of a living/breathing creature. In no lesser terms, this is gambling, but at gambling at the expense of a life, no matter human or animal.

Respectfully,  
Lorna Kaaloa

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000146

**From:** Marcie Purdy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting should be included in bills!

Πlease consider adding cockfighting to the current bills meant to protect animals.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States , it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

I worked for Hawaiian Tel, and during the 80's the public telephone department was approached to put in a public phone near a cockfighting area. Threats and intimidation were used though eventually the phone company made sure one was not installed. That's just one instance of the criminal element at work associated with cockfights.

Martha M Purdy

C00147

## tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Miyano-Young Babs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 6:00 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Βαβς Μιψανο-Ψουνγ  
2563-Ε Παχιφιχ Ητσ Ρδ  
Ηονολυλυ ΗΙ 96813

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Πλεασε δο νοτ αλλοω χοκφιγητινγ ιν Ηαωαι το χοντινυε. Πλεασε ηελπ στρενγγτηεν τηε λαωσ το σταμπ ουτ τηισ χρυελ  
πραχιτιχε.

Χοκφιγητινγ προμοτεσ ανιμαλ χρυελτψ, ανδ ισ ασσοχιατεδ ωιτη γαμβλινγ, δρυγσ ανδ οτηερ ιλλεγαλ αχτιπιτιεσ.

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Mahalo,  
Babs Miyano-Young

000148

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Victoria B. Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:51 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** I oppose HR199 and 277 in the strongest terms

Dear Chair Manahan, Vice-Chair Tokioka and Committee:

As a Filipino-American, I and my family have kept many of our important cultural practices. But cockfighting is NOT among them! Just because something used to be in our culture does not make it right-- as cultures mature, their members learn to grow out of cruel and inhumane behaviors and institutions.

It's high time to strengthen Hawai'i's weak laws on cockfighting, not weaken them.

I oppose HR199 and 277 in the strongest terms.

Sincerely yours,

Victoria Balboa Anderson  
Palolo resident

--

000149



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:58 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR199

I wish to protest to the Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Cockfighting is illegal and inhumane.

Cultural; enrichment for society is important but we need to pick and choose what we wish to retain from the diverse cultures we all came from. Cockfighting should not be retained. Logical.

We should not eat dogs or whales or keep the women in our lives subservient, etc.

Richard Fujie DVM  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

REGISTERED VOTER

re HCR 277 and HR 199  
hearing on March 29, 2010 Monday 9:30 am

000150

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:55 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Hearing: Monday, March 29, 9:30 AM  
Resolutions: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Sirs:

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Mahatma Gandhi

I could not believe that this attempt to justify cockfighting is actually happening. Even if we feel we have to eat an animal, to make it suffer needlessly only puts us far lower (so-called) than any animal. Cockfighting is an expression of our fear that we have to be better or more powerful, than another to feel good about ourselves. King Kalakaua realized this when he outlawed this practice in 1884.

Every culture has had practices and attitudes that were better left behind (eg. slavery, institutionalized ethnocentrism, religious persecution). And do not WE, inhabitants of this planet, want to keep moving forward in our consciousness? Cockfighting is illegal. And it is a felony in many states. Does Hawaii actually want to reflect this bloody consciousness? Do we actually want to establish ourselves as even worse an advocate for animals than we already are? How can we say this is paradise? How can we even speak the word Aloha, if we so horrifically abuse innocent animals?

The only honorable direction to go here is to strengthen all our laws to really protect animals.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Clough

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000151

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** autumn lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 3:06 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** AGAINST cockfighting HCR 277 & HR 199

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair:

Even though a lot of Filipinos live here, this is not the Philippines!

Please don't embarrass the residents of the State of Hawaii with this resolution (HCR 277 & HR 199) to legalize cockfighting as a cultural practice.

I understand that Filipinos also love to eat dogs -- a cultural delicacy? By your same "logic" of legalizing cultural practices, will your next resolution be to legalize eating "black dog"?

I imagine your real purpose of this resolution is to gain the favor of those who like to gamble on cockfighting. You have also gained the disfavor of those like myself who you offend with this ridiculous resolution. Don't you have anything more useful to think about?

Wynnie Joy Hee

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

000152

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Paul Hatae [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 2:11 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: Please submit letter of testimony

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chairman  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chairman  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Our family is in total support of the Hawaiian Humane Society's protest of Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

Paul Hatae  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** The Hawaiian Humane Society  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:33 PM  
**Subject:** Please submit letter of testimony

**Subject:** *Please submit letter of testimony*

Dear Supporters,

We need your help!

We are asking as many people as possible to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions, which support cockfighting as a cultural activity, will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs. **Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

**Here are some message points to include:**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.

000153

- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Submit your testimony by Monday via email to:

[TCltestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TCltestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov).

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Make sure to include the following:

- Your Name & address
- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Mahalo for your help - please call or email me if you have any questions.

**Vanessa Golding-Fox**

**Community Advocacy Liaison**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Lora Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Re HCR 277 and HR 199

From: Lora Williams  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Hearing regarding Resolution Numbers HCR 277 and HR 199 Monday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.

It is completely unconscionable that abusing and maiming animals of any kind should become acceptable by law. "Culture" can be argued for many reasons, most of them not appropriate in society today.

Above and beyond disregard for cruelty, cock fight gaming involves further cruelty in our society by perpetuating illegal gambling, drugs and the like. One only has to read the headlines on a regular basis to know that, especially now, crime is on the rise. Why would we vote to support these activities?

Please do not let these Resolutions get beyond the committee floor.

Thank you.

000155

**Testimony STRONGLY OPPOSING HCR 277 for the Record**

**TO:** Committee on Tourism, Cultures, and International Affairs

**FROM:** Patricia Jardin Urieff, Licensed Social Worker, current homeowner in Kalihi residential neighborhood between Bishop Museum and Damien Memorial School; current payer of state taxes and `Oahu property taxes; Kalihi resident since 1957; Hawaii Resident over 71 years; and third generation descendant of immigrants to Hawaii for purpose of work in sugar cane fields. [REDACTED]

**RE:** HCR 277, a Resolution that recognizes cockfighting as cultural activity.

The Resolution says, "...gamecocks are raised in fresh air and sunshine and are given plenty of room to move around.." Reality follows. During the past eight (8) years I have called 911 numerous times to ask for help because some persons who live in my residential neighborhood raise fightingcocks that start crowing around 3:00 AM in the morning; some roosters crowed all day for months while I was at home trying to recover from open heart surgery; some roosters roamed my property and dug up my plants (resulting in expense to me to have to apply additional soil and fertilizer to replant the ruined areas); and the roosters left their feces all over my open garage, cement walkways, and patio areas. I do understand cultural wishes, yet I experienced feeling abused on a daily basis and resentment toward my neighbors. I have a friendly relationship with all of my neighbors and to prevent open hostility, rather than talk directly to my neighbors, I called police to ask for help; I called the city and the Mayor's Office that referred me to a service that put traps in my yard to catch the roosters and take them away; I called and wrote letters to my representative to the Hawaii Legislature and to the `Oahu City Council. The roosters continued to crow for years. I have put off talking to an attorney.

For persons who immigrated to Hawaii, the motivation was probably to have a better quality of life for themselves, their children, and their relatives. However, people like my neighbors need more help, education from their representatives, to understand that in a residential area people expect and pay property taxes to have quiet, peace, no trespassing and no damages caused by neighbors pursuing practice of cultural activities, and raising cockfighting roosters results in abuses endured by neighbors.

**OPPOSE RAISING GAMECOCKS. INSTEAD, PROVIDE EDUCATION RELATED TO ASSIMILATION.**

When legislators show support for immigrants to continue cultural activities that result in abuses to their neighbors, result must be confusion in the immigrant population that needs MORE helps to understand how to live in Hawaii's multi-cultural residential zones where home owners have rights supported by American laws. GAMECROCKS CROW, WONDER NEIGHBORHOODS, AND DIG UP PLANTS. THAT IS EXPERIENCED AS ABUSES, ON-GOING BASIS.

000156

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Leila Lipton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** TCltestimony  
**Subject:** Cock- Fighting

Rep. Joey Manahan, and Rep. James Tokioka  
Committee on Culture  
Re: House Resolutions HCR277 and HR199  
Hearing on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am

I and my family protest the attempt to justify the hideously cruel and inhumane practice of cock-fighting as a "cultural" activity. It is already illegal!!!

Lila Lipton  
[REDACTED]

000157



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:03 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Resolution #: HCR277 HR199 .

Hearing time: 03/26/10 @ 9:30 am

I am against cockfighting, it is cruel and inhumane. Just image you are the animal, do you want to be in the cockfighting ring.

Shirley Yeung

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000158

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Ginger Kolonick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:30 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE TRUE. To sanction this activity while denying adult citizens the right to gamble in a pleasant environment where NO ONE gets hurt is ridiculous.

Cockfighting may be a cultural activity in some countries - but not in the United States of America!  
Cruelty to animals is just as bad as cruelty to people - perhaps more so, since they can't complain.

Please be realistic and humane and reject these resolutions.

Thank you,

Ginger A. Kolonick  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000159

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** PoolSmithHawaii [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 5:04 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** announcer@hawaiihumane.org  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

My name is Mike Smith.  
[REDACTED]

I am adamantly opposed to cock fighting. It is also illegal as outlawed by King Kalakaua in 1884! Your argument that it is "cultural activity" is bull. It is illegal! and in all 50 states.

Drugs and gambling have been associated with cock fighting.

Hawaii is already ranked as one of the lowest states for penalties for animal cruelty. Do you people want to propagate this crap?

Rep. Joey Manahan and Rep. James Yokioka, you are being watched.

Respectfully,

Mike Smith.

C00160

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Phyllis Tavares [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 5:04 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* CULTURAL RIGHTS

Condoning cruelty because a culture considers it their cultural right gives one pause to think: Shall we condone human sacrifice because the ancient Hawaiians practiced it. Shall we throw men to the lions because ancient Romans practiced it? Cruelty is cruelty and should not be inflicted on helpless animals who have little power to oppose the mighty human race. Shame on the Hawaii legislators who so far have chosen to listen to a loud, vocal minority because they are afraid of voter backlash. Where is your conscience? You know right from wrong. Now put it into law.

000161

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Bruce Iverson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 5:26 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HCR 277 & HR 199

To The Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

From Bruce Iverson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: HCR 277 & HR 199  
Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Re Opposition to HCR 277 & HR 199,

Shame on you for the audacity of attempting to bring this reprehensible practice any semblance of approval.

As you undoubtable know,

• Cockfighting is ILLEGAL throughout the United States of America, the Philipines, and was illegal even under the Hawaiian Kingdom

- Cockfighting is cruel,
- Cockfighting is always connected to gambling, drugs, and other illegal criminal activities

Do you want to say that illegal, cruel, and immoral activities are to be celebrated as part of our culture? They are not part of the culture to be celebrated, and do NOTHING to promote tourism and international affairs of the State of Hawaii.

You are supposed to represent the constituents, the laws and customs of your community, not special interest groups that want to promote illegal and immoral activities.

Vote against these outrageous proposals.

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000162

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 5:38 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HRC277 and HR199

For heaven's sake, let's get Hawaii off the list of one of the WORST states for animal protection. When you come to live in America, act like an American. If the cock fight is so important a part of your culture, please return to the a country that recognizes it as cultural.

Cock fighting is nothing but cruel treatment of animals. Hawaii has evolved beyond it.

There is NO PLACE for cock fighting in Hawaii. Please pass all legislation to eliminate this embarrassing behavior from our lives.

Mahalo,

Eileen Byrnes

[REDACTED] et  
[REDACTED]

000163

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kailuasue [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 5:42 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testing

I am disgusted with my state gov't for even entertaining the idea of legalizing cock fighting. It is inhumane and people and gov'ts that support this activity are degenerates in our society.

Robert and Susan Hughes  
[REDACTED]

C00164

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** kelley sakai ([REDACTED])  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:10 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HCR 277 & HR 199 Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka,

I protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.

It is absolutely DISGUSTING that cockfighting allows:

- Metal knife spurs to be attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.

Cockfighting sends a message that BRUTALITY is OKAY.

Please DO NOT PASS THESE BILLS.

Kelley Sakai  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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000165



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** haroldyne ho [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 6:46 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Manahan and Rep. Tokioka,

Please submit my testimony regarding HCR 277 & HR 199 as follows on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Please let us not waste resources, time, and energy we need for better causes restating an issue that was illegalized by King Kalakaua in 1884 and clearly condemned by the community many times since then.

Like our terribly unhealthy tradition of burning fireworks, cultural roots should have no power in causing us to ignore values such as compassion, refusal to encourage gambling and other illegal activities which cockfighting accompanies, and banning cruelty. This is just another shibai, another way for the manipulating criminal lobby to control what should be common sense.

We are all immigrants here and we all have had to leave some of our traditions behind because they were not appropriate in Hawaii at the time. No one will be unfairly injured without this so-called cultural activity being continued, but many animals and animal lovers would be and that would be a ridiculous trade-off!

Thank you for allowing my testimony in the interest of providing a role model for the generations who will follow.

Haroldyne L. Ho  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000166

tokioka1-Elijah

---

**From:** John Loncar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:16 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HCR 277 & HR 199

Attn: Joey Manahan, Chair and James Kunana Tokioka, Vice Chair

RE: HCR 277 & HR 199 being heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30AM

I urge both of you to make every effort to kill HCR277 and HR199. Cockfighting is already illegal. In 36 out of 50 of the United States it is a felony crime. It is a blood sport of the cruelest nature and has no place in Hawaii. Hawaii already has a miserable record on animal cruelty. How cockfighting could possibly have anything to do with "Culture", or "Tourism", or "International Affairs", is beyond my understanding.

This is obviously a trumped up effort by a few politicians who think that they can get some votes in the next election from a small part of a minority immigrant community that is trying to keep things the way they were back in the old country. If this bunch of insensitive ingrates wants to engage in cockfighting, let them go back to the old country.

*John Loncar*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000167

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Peggy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:26 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Hearing on Monday March 29 @ 9:30 am on HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear House Representatives,

I respectfully request that HCR 277 and HR 199 NOT be passed.

We are a tourist destination, and I can't imagine promoting Hawaii as the Aloha State, yet we fight animals for gambling purposes.

Cockfighting is unnecessary cruelty to animals, and birds injured during the fight are left to die.

The claim that cockfighting has cultural ties is negated by the fact that way back in 1884, King Kalakaua had outlawed it.

We also use to sacrifice humans as part of the culture, but we no longer practice that.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

I urge your support in voting AGAINST the State of Hawaii being part of any kind of animal fighting for gambling or spectator purposes.

Sincerely,

Peggy Fern  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000168

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:28 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 / HR 199

I am strongly opposed to these resolutions! Cockfighting is a cruel sport which has no place in our society. Cockfighting may be a national sport of the Phillipines, but this is the United States of America, not the Phillipines. As a voting citizen, I am appalled that the State Legislature would even consider such a measure! You can still save some of your credibility by not passing this measure.

Maurice Tamura  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000169

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Elaine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:54 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Please consider my testimony - HCR277 & HR 199

Attn: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair, Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Cockfighting is barbaric and inhumane. How can you even consider supporting it in any way, shape or form?

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- Cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

**“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” Mahatma Gandhi**

What is wrong with us?

Elaine Dobashi  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Hui Pono Holoholona Vivian Toellner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:54 PM  
**To:** TCitestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Oppose Cockfighting

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR MANAHAN, VICE-CHAIR TOKIOKA  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
[tcitestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:tcitestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO HR 199 AND HCR 277; RECOGNIZING COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Monday, March 29, 930am, Rm 312

**Unbelievable ! Cockfighting a Cultural Activity**

Okay were do we stop? Bullfighting, dog fighting, family abuse, anything my ancestors did, I can do? Kill Indians, Jews, buffalo, just say

**"I have the excuse my cultural allows it"**,

so you must allow me to harm, kill, terrorize, threaten, to no end.

This **"Cultural Activity"** allows me to be **above the law** of the United States of America, the State of Hawaii, and common sense.

If physically fights determine the best culture, will there ever be peace?

And remember the money....Illegal Gambling, Illegal revenue that is untaxed.

To recognize Cockfighting as a legal cultural activity is a step backwards. You can learn new better cultural activities, that don't involve the death and defeat of others, for fun and enjoyment.

Be proud Be Humane.

Do not support this bill.  
Sincerely,

Vivian Toellner,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 3  
[REDACTED]

Thanks for being a part of the Hui Pono Holoholona community.

Let us know if you want to unsubscribe from our list, just please reply to this email. Mahalo

Hui Pono Holohohona  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** autumn lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 7:59 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Revised testimony RE: HCR 277 & HR 199

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair:

I misunderstood and would like to revise my earlier letter.

I understand now that you are NOT trying to legalize cockfighting -- you only want the state of Hawaii to recognize Filipinos' love of their national sport of cockfighting. Why are you wasting the legislature's time on this? Don't you have anything better to do?

This is not the Philippines, even if a lot of Filipinos do live here.

I imagine your real purpose of this resolution is to gain the favor of those who like to gamble on cockfighting. You have also gained the disfavor of those like myself who you offend with this ridiculous resolution.

Wynnne Joy Hee

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



000172

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 8:54 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR277 on 3/29/2010 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 3/29/2010 9:30:00 AM HCR277

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bonnie Malia Livingston  
Organization: Individual  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kristina Mauak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 9:00 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** testing

From:  
Kristina Mauak

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Joey and James,

I protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.

- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

I'd be ashamed to be an American citizen, if his cruel "sport" was allowed at this day and age in Hawaii.

Best regards,  
Kristina Mauak

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Marcia Little [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:16 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair,

I would like to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

**Basically, I protest lowering ourselves as humans to degrade and abuse those creatures who are not able to help themselves and don't have the voice to defend themselves.**

**I appeal to your good nature and the ability to know what is right in making the best decisions for those who cannot speak for themselves.**

**Thank you.**

**Marcia Little**

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** MediGal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:17 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PROTEST of Resolution numbers HCR 277 & HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Dear Reps. Manahan and Tokioka:

Regarding Resolution numbers HCR 277 & HR 199 to be heard on Monday, March 29, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.:

**PLEASE do NOT allow the inhumane, unconscionable torture of cockfighting to continue. There is simply no excuse for it--especially in what is supposed to be "The Aloha State."**

**If the proponents of this idea want to gamble on watching suffering, I propose that they tie razor blades to each other's ankles and be confined to pits that they cannot leave.**

Thank you.

**Terry Werning**

**[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**

**P.S. Shame on us, Hawaii, for allowing this to go on for so long!!!!**

Below please see facts supplied by the Hawaiian Humane Society

Dear Supporters,

We need your help!

We are asking as many people as possible to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions, which support

cockfighting as a cultural activity, will be heard on Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

**Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

**Here are some message points to include:**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, **it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.**
- **Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua, outlawed cockfighting in 1884.**

Submit your testimony by Monday via email to:

[TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov).

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Make sure to include the following:

- Your Name & address
- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Mahalo for your help - please call or email me if you have any questions.

**Vanessa Golding-Fox**  
**Community Advocacy Liaison**

~~808-531-1234~~  
 ~~Honolulu, HI 96822~~

000178

tokioka1-Elijah

---

**From:** Diana Pugh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:47 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Chicken fighting

THIS IS MY ADDRESS OF  
BILL#HCR 277  
BILL#HR 199  
March 29,2010  
9:30a.m.  
MY NAME: diana pugh  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

i do not feel comfortable using my address. i have lived in the agricultural area for over 40 yrs. i strongly oppose any animal cruelty,under the guise of cultural tradition. If you want to continue your tradition go back to where you hail as your country of tradition!! Please do not force us to condone your tradition!!! This is also true for dog fighting as well!!! Across my street on a regular basis i have chicken feed bags full with cock fight losers inside. This practice is a very ugly tradition to such a pretty bird. Please vote to have cock fighting(and dog fighting)really against the law with enforced penalties for all involved including spectators!!  
Mahalo diana pugh

000179

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** bruce barben [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:51 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** respect for cockfighting

To: Rep. J. Manahan and J. K. Tokioka

Many cultural traditions are not practiced anymore because humanity has evolved from a barbaric past.

Getting 'kicks' from the torment of roosters is sick.

KILL RESOLUTIONS HCR 277 AND HR 199 !

000180

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** margene ayers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:12 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** VOTE AGAINST: HCR 277 and HR 199

ATTENTION: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

## COCKFIGHTING IS CRUEL AND INHUMANE.

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

VOTER INFO: Margene A. Ayers  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Establish your vote AGAINST HCR 277 and HR 199

DO NOT downplay this bloodsport as "cultural" it is cruel and has no place in a civilized society. This is the United States of America, NOT some foreign country. Cockfighting is not American culture! It is illegal in this country!

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

 Margene Ayers  
[REDACTED]

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000181



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Helen Porter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 4:56 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution HR277 & HR199

My name is Helen Porter currently residing at [REDACTED] I am still very attached to Hawaii with all of my family living in Hawaii. I also visit Hawaii frequently.

I understand there is a upcoming hearing on Monday, the 29th of March, 2010, on the issue of cruelty to animals. It saddens me and disappoints me that Hawaii will still allow cruelty to animals such as cockfighting. If this is a cultural issue then this should go on in their own country, not in US. Let them go to the country where they would actually tolerate such inhumane behavior and stay there.

Please do the right thing and ban this unthinkable and cruel activity once and for all.

Helen Porter

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Jackie Javier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 6:14 AM  
**To:** TCltestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Hi,

I testify that cockfighting definitely is cruel and inhumane due to the following:

- Metal knife spurs attached to the bird's legs to maximize injury to other birds.
- It's cruel that birds are forced to fight even after injury; left to suffer and thrown away like garbage which is brutal to anything
- Cockfighting enhances activities such a gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities.
- Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states so Hawaii should not be excluded.

I am protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

Thanks,  
Javier (SF)

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Michael Doran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 6:47 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Rep. Manahan & Rep. Tokioka,

Please do NOT support resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199. Cockfighting is not a cultural sport. It is cruel and inhumane. The metal knife spurs attached to the legs of birds maximize injury. The animals cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are tossed away and left to suffer. Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. This is a brutal sport and is illegal in all 50 United States, and it has been OUTLAWED since 1884 by King Kalakaua.

Thank you for your time. I remain, dianne jinbo.

000184

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:30 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** PLEASE READ

RE: Inhumanity towards animals  
Resolution numers HCR 277 and HR 199  
Time of Hearing: Monday March 29 @ 9:30 am

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair and Ref. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair.

Recently I was astounded to read that Hawaii has the weakest penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. This has to change. I simply cannot believe that these laws have not been strengthened to be in line with the other 50 states, 36 of which regard such activities as a felony.

When one views videos of cockfighting practices it is simply disgusting! How can we allow such cruel and inhumane activities to occur in Hawaii? These birds suffer, are critically injured and left to suffer and die after such events. In addition, such cockfighting practices has been shown to be linked to other illegal activities such as drugs, homicide and gambling.

How can we consider cockfighting as a legitimate activity in any way? We MUST strengthen our laws towards animal cruelty in Hawaii and make them in line with the other states of America and actually, the whole western world. Come on, grow some hairs on your chest and stick up for animal rights. It is our responsibility to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rebecca Carey  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

--  
-----  
Dr. Rebecca Carey  
Researcher  
University of Hawaii  
University of California at Berkeley  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000185

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 8:12 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR277 on 3/29/2010 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 3/29/2010 9:30:00 AM HCR277

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Shalane Sambor  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
[REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

**Comments:**

It is shocking that cockfighting is even considered a possibility in the State of Hawaii! Awe! The argument that it is a 'cultural' tradition is immaterial. Human sacrifices were also a 'cultural tradition' in Hawaii's past. Does that mean we should allow it to continue? We are not incapable to rising above the mistakes our human ancestors have made. This is not only an animal cruelty issue, but a moral one as well.

000186

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Janet Watts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 8:22 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony

Representative Joey Manahan and Representative James Kunane Tokioka

I am writing as a member of the Hawaiian Humane Society and want to strongly protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 regarding the legalization of cockfighting in Hawaii. The hearing is set for Monday, March 29 at 9:30am. I am amazed that such legislation would even be considered. I believe this practice is barbaric and extremely cruel. It's hard to imagine that anyone could find pleasure in torturing any living creature. I am proud to live in Hawaii and I want to preserve what the founding member of the Humane Society, King Kalakaua wanted as he outlawed this practice in 1884.

Janet Watts  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Registered Hawaiian Voter

000187

tokioka1-Elijah

---

**From:** André Yee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:32 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

RE: Hearing on above resolutions, Monday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m...

This is an outrage that any of our legislators would come up with any resolution approving of this type of behavior. We are NOT the Phillipines, we are Hawaii where King Kalakaua actually outlawed cockfighting in 1884. This is animal cruelty of the worst kind where innocent animals are gaffed to death or left to die of their injuries in a garbage can. I cannot believe that is has actually come up in this legislative session. It makes me ashamed to live here. It also sickens me. We need STIFF penalties against this type of inhumane behavior.

---

André Yee  
[REDACTED]

000188

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:46 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Please hear me & count me as PROTESTING the following Resolutions!!!!!!!!!!:

Tracy Kane [REDACTED]  
Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

**NOTICE TO RECIPIENT:** If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are prohibited from sharing, copying, or otherwise using or disclosing its contents. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and permanently delete this e-mail and any attachments without reading, forwarding or saving them. Thank you.

000189



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Millie Hernandez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:47 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

Μιλena Μ Ηερνανδεζ

68155 ΑΥ Στρρεετ Πεντηουσε 6

Ωαιαλυα, ΗΙ 96791

Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

To the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs, please end cockfighting in Hawaii if we wish to grow as a civilized culture here in the islands.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50

states and in 36 it is a felony.

- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter

Sincerely

Milena M. Hernandez

000191

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Patricia Donegan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:54 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Please do NOT support Resolutions Number HCR 277 & HR 199.  
Hearing Monday, March 29 at 9:30am.

Cockfighting is illegal - and it should be!  
The penalties for cockfighting are too low already.

The claim that cockfighting is a 'cultural practice' has absolutely NO merit. Slavery, clitoridectomy, gladiator fights, and wholesale slaughter of animals for sport (like the extermination of the passenger pigeon) are or have been "cultural practices", but that doesn't make such things acceptable or moral.

Cockfighting is an excuse to hang out, drink, and gamble. All of these can be done without cruelty to animals.

Thank you,  
Patricia Donegan

---  
Patricia J. Donegan Associate Professor and Graduate Co-Chair University of Hawai'i at Manoa [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** karen adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:54 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting IS CRUEL AND HATEFUL

NO NO NO to COCKFIGHTING, Cockfighting is CRUEL AND HATEFUL. NO one should be allowed to participate in it here in Hawaii.

Karen J. Adams  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

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000193

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kim Maruyama [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:32 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Aloha Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs,

This is a plea to vote against cockfighting in Hawaii.

**Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

**Here are some message points to include:**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Please hear our plea and strengthen our laws against this cruelty to animals:

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

Mahalo for your help - please call or email me if you have any questions.

Kim Maruyama, Realtor, PB  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** alicesaul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 10:16 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

TO:  
Representatives Joey Manahan, Chair and  
James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

RE:  
HCR 277 and HR 199

TESTIMONY FOR HEARING:  
Monday, March 29 at 9:30am

Dear Representatives Manahan and Kunana Tokioka:

Please add my voice to those protesting any attempt to condone actions of unspeakable cruelty toward animals.

I have read opinions about recognizing the cultures of other societies, and in most respects would agree with them. However, we cannot lose sight of the kind of society we in Hawai'i want for ourselves.

We should not allow ourselves to be defined as a people who overlook the brutal practices that inflict pain and suffering.

I urge you to uphold the principle of King Kalakaua; if any action is called for today, it is to strengthen enforcement of the law banning cockfighting, and increasing the penalties against those who don't abide by it.

Alice Saul  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000195

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** JosetteLou [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 12:05 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

We would like to have our thoughts on the subject measures heard at the 29 March 2010 hearing, scheduled for 9:30 am, before Chair Joey Manahan and Vice-Chair James Kunane Tokioka:

HCR 277 and HR 199 are dreadful. Solely the fact that King Kalakaua banned cockfighting ought to be enough to consign both proposals to the trash.

Arguments of so-called "cultural" tolerance for pitting animals against each other in bloody are inane. Singapore, mainly Chinese, outlawed fireworks, supposedly vital to the Chinese. Viet-Nam did, too. Female circumcision, so ingrained in some African societies, is almost universally despised. Cannibalism and human sacrifice were important rites to some peoples, yet those cultures have thrived without those atrocities.

Nothing can justify having birds with razors attached to their feet tear one another apart. And that slaughter is always accompanied by gambling, which our state has repeatedly rejected as allowable.

The case against HCR 277 and HR 199 is so overwhelming that we see no reason to go on and on. We hope that you agree.

Thank you for hearing us: Josette and Louis Rosof, [REDACTED]  
(telephone [REDACTED]).

Again, Sirs, our thanks.

000196

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Suzanne Surratt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 12:09 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Protest to Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

ATTN: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

This letter is to inform you of my vehement protest to the resolutions being proposed regarding cockfighting.

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

V/r,  
Suzanne Surratt  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

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000197



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Shirley Malmud [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 12:58 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HCR 277 & HR 199

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**From:** Shirley Malmud [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 12:46 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Representatives James Kunane Tokioka and Joey Manahan:

I am writing to protest House Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199, which will be heard on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:30 am, by the Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs. The resolutions ignore the illegal status of cockfighting and attempt to justify a cruel and inhumane blood activity. Knife spurs called gaffs are secured to the legs of the innocent birds to increase the level of brutality, and the critically injured birds are then tossed away in trash to suffer until death.

Not only does cockfighting support cruelty, but studies have shown that gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities are connected to this sadistic behavior. Particularly in this recession, the level of violence and gang related crimes have escalated in our islands. To support cockfighting, is to encourage cruelty, violence, drug trafficking and crime. To attempt to reduce its criminal status and water-down its cruelty by calling it a cultural sport is irresponsible and unacceptable.

Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, is a felony in 36 states, and in 1884, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in Hawaii. In addition, Hawaii is known as one of the worst offenders in our country for weak penalties against animal cruelty and cockfighting. I urge you to work towards strengthening our laws and commitments to eradicate this sadistic and illegal practice.

Very truly yours,

Shirley Malmud  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Anne Palagyi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:01 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Please vote against HCR 277 and HR 199 - The cruelty to animals in Hawaii is obscene.

The hearing is Monday, March 29th at 9:30

From - Anne Palagyi

[REDACTED]

000199

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Marilyn Cupchoy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:06 PM  
**To:** TCitestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Letter of Testimony Against Cockfighting

**ATTN:** Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka,  
Vice Chair Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

**RE:** Letter of Testimony  
Protest against Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199  
Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am

Gentlemen:

I hereby protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 states it is a felony
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Marilyn CupChoy  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Cc:** Vanessa Goulding-Fox  
Community Advocacy Liaison  
Hawaiian Humane Society

000200

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Crisologo Gregorio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:12 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony; TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OPPOSING Resolutions HR 199 and HCR 277

I am writing in opposition to resolution HR 199 and HCR 277. My father is Filipino and I have spent much time in the Philippines as a child. My grandfather used to raise chickens for the purpose of fighting and he made his living gambling on cockfights. My grandfather could not read or write but managed to raise 10 children, send my father to medical school, and live in a very large home, all from gambling proceeds. I have been taken to cockfights on numerous occasions in my youth and I have witnessed the senseless violence of watching animals fight to the death for man's amusement. The amount of gambling that surrounds the practice is beyond comprehension to the uninitiated. Thousands of dollars exchange hands in just one round. Gambling in itself is illegal in Hawaii, and cockfighting would not be popular if it was not for the gambling aspects, as the two are inseparable. By allowing cockfighting, passage of this resolution would quietly support illegal gambling.

To allow cockfighting as a "cultural" practice I would personally find offensive, as that would include me in a group of people who bet on violence. The Michael Vick dog fighting scandal is an example of one man who has tried to use the excuse of "...it was part of my culture growing up..." and that reason alone does not justify the existence of violence being perpetuated. Dog fighting and cockfighting are two very similar practices, both have equal outcomes; death of an animal, and money exchanging hands. This money is often untaxed and not recorded as income, and goes back into the system of perpetuation of the practice. As a Filipino-American, with my parents currently living in the Philippines, I vehemently oppose calling violence "cultural". In ancient Rome, gladiators and slaves fought to the death for amusement of those not in the ring and one could use the same argument of "...it is my culture..." to justify its practice, when in reality, it is just an excuse to bet on who or what dies first in a forced, violent encounter.

--

Crisologo Gregorio  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Ross Kurihara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:18 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

This letter is in regards to cockfighting in Hawaii. I am against this so called sport because it is just like dog fighting. It is inhumane. As for a cultural activity it is the same as eating dogs or cats a cultural thing. Our laws need to protect any animals just like humanes.

000202

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Dr. Bernard K. Chun [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:44 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Re: HCR 277 and HR 199  
Hearing on March 29,2010 at 9:30A  
Cockfighting

Cockfighting is not a cultural event in the United States and Hawaii should have stronger laws prohibiting this event. Is it cultural to fin sharks and release them to suffer and die a slow death while we have shark fin soup?

Let's do things to us human beings as sports so that other animals can watch and enjoy like feeding us to lions.

Bernard K. Chun, M.D.

000203

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** michelle hsia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 6:00 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Please submit letter of testimony

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, My name is Michelle Hsia and I am writing in protest to Resolution Numbers HCR 277 & HR 199, hearing which will be held on Monday, March 29th at 9:30am. I am writing because cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer. Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs gaffs and other means for increased brutality. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884. Please reconsider these House Resolutions.

Michelle Hsia  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000204

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Kari Nakano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 6:36 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs:

I am emailing to protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 as both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal but instead attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. These House Resolutions seem to support cockfighting as a cultural activity. **Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.**

**Please note that:**

- Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kari Nakano

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am



tokioka1-Elijah

**From:** Gary E. Weller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:37 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Bills HCR 277,HR 199

Please sent testimony to [TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

## Cockfighting law Hawaii: Barbaric and Inhumane

I can not believe that we the people of Hawaii are paying you to be so dumb, stupid, and wasteful of our time and money, some of you had to have done your home work on this I hope!!!!:Bills HCR 277,HR 199.

Take the CULTURE and send it back a 1000 years, along with all the other dumb, stupid, and wasteful thinking of that time, such as old men having sex with under age children. It is this kind of thinking that make Hawaii the laughing State of The United States of America. When will you bozos wake up.

John Cambra, 53, a state employee who grew up around game birds, Cambra, who is one of the largest game-breeders in the state, said he's considered moving to the Philippines because he doesn't intend to stop.

### I say Good ridded, go back to the Philippines and take your sick CULTURE with you!!!!!!

Legislature Overrides Age-Of-Consent Veto

First Override During Statehood

HONOLULU, 6:47 p.m. HST July 10, 2001 -- For the first time since 1957, the Hawaii state legislature voted Tuesday to override a veto by a governor. State lawmakers held a special session Tuesday morning to vote to **override** *Filipino* Gov. Ben Cayetano's **veto** of a bill to raise **Hawaii's age-of- consent for sex from 14 to 16**. Why Ben??? Your culture.

## The dumb Bills

[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/Bills/HCR277\\_.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/Bills/HCR277_.pdf)

[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/Bills/HR199\\_.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/Bills/HR199_.pdf)

Your own People do not want this!!!! Why do you waste the tax payer money!!!!

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/clip.php?appid=595570845>

### COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Rep. Lyla B. Berg

Rep. Isaac W. Choy

Rep. Cindy Evans

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey

Rep. K. Mark Takai

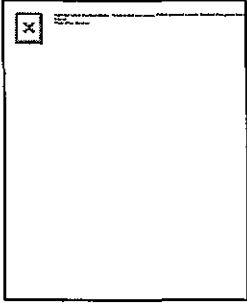
Rep. Clift Tsuji

Rep. Glenn Wakai

Rep. Jessica Wooley

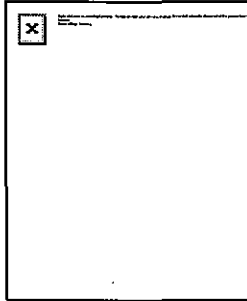
Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto

# Tourism, Culture, & International Affairs Committee



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Chair



Representative James Kunane Tokioka

Vice-Chair

Members:

- Representative Lyla B. Berg
- Representative Isaac W. Choy
- Representative Cindy Evans
- Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey
- Representative K. Mark Takai
- Representative Clift Tsuji
- Representative Glenn Wakai
- Representative Jessica Wooley
- Representative Barbara C. Marumoto

**Read # four you should all go back to school!!!!!!**

## History

1. Federal Court Dismisses Challenge to New Federal Cockfighting Law January 26, 2009  
President George W. Bush signed a new federal anti-animal fighting law in 2007

January 26, 2009

COLUMBUS, Ohio —The Humane Society of the United States is hailing a decision issued today by a federal district court in Ohio throwing out a lawsuit challenging the country's newly expanded federal animal fighting law. The suit was brought by individuals aligned with the United Gamefowl Breeders Association — a national front group for criminal cockfighting rings — and claimed that the law infringes on plaintiffs' alleged constitutional rights to travel and associate for the purpose of fighting animals.

"We commend the Court for dismissing this frivolous and misguided attack on the federal Animal Welfare Act," said Jonathan R. Lovvorn, vice president & chief counsel for animal protection litigation and research for The HSUS. "Congress has rightfully cracked down on interstate and foreign commerce in fighting animals and weapons, especially in light of the violence, drug trafficking, and other serious social ills that animal fighting brings to our communities."

The Gamefowl Breeders filed a similar suit in 2003, which was dismissed on all counts by a federal district court in Louisiana in 2005.

The Court today found that plaintiffs lacked standing to bring their challenge in light of the fact that all 50 states now ban cockfighting, and thus a ruling in their favor would not even help plaintiffs fulfill their desire to traffic in fighting animals and cockfighting paraphernalia. As explained by the Court:

Cockfighting is now illegal in all fifty states and in the District of Columbia. Thus, even if the federal prohibitions related to cockfighting were not in place, there is still no legal domestic market for cockfighting and its materials. Plaintiffs' pointing to the Animal Welfare Act as the cause of the purported lost revenue is thus insufficient, not only because it presents conclusory speculation as fact, but also given the existence of the overlapping state laws that serve to defeat the contention that federal law is the traceable cause of the economic injuries asserted.

President George W. Bush signed a new federal anti-animal fighting law in 2007, upgrading the federal penalties for illegal dogfighting and cockfighting from misdemeanor to felony status. Congress strengthened these laws again in July 2008, after the plaintiffs filed this case. It is now a federal felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, not only to fight animals, but also to possess or train animals with the intent to fight them.

The Humane Society of the United States is represented in the case pro bono by former Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro of Waite, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley in Columbus, Ohio, and Arnold & Porter LLP.

Copies of the decision, which was issued by the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, are available upon request.

## **2. The President Signs Landmark Animal Fighting Legislation**

May 3, 2007

The fighting dog's life is full of misery.

Today, President Bush signed into law a bill that will help law enforcement rid the United States of dogfighting, cockfighting, and other forms of animal fighting.

Dogfighting and cockfighting crimes are rampant in the United States, with individuals arrested every week in scores of locations under state laws. The vast underground networks generate pervasive animal cruelty, drug trafficking, illegal gambling, public corruption and even violence and murder. The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, which passed Congress with large bi-partisan support, will give law enforcement a stronger tool to crack down on this illegal activity.

"Animal fighting is a barbaric and inhumane practice, and it is fitting and appropriate that we now have a national policy condemning and criminalizing this form of organized animal cruelty," states Wayne

Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, which has led the national battle against animal fighting and been the primary advocate for this federal legislation.

### The HSUS Asks NFL to Sideline Dogfighters

In a letter sent May 3, 2007 [PDF], HSUS President & CEO Wayne Pacelle offered NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell help in creating a zero-tolerance NFL policy against dogfighting. More »

The law takes effect immediately. It provides felony penalties for interstate commerce, import and export related to animal fighting activities, including commerce in cockfighting weapons. It will make it much harder for criminals who engage in dogfighting and cockfighting to continue their operations. Each violation of the federal law may bring up to three years in jail and up to a \$250,000 fine for perpetrators.

Cockfighting is outlawed in every state except Louisiana, although there is mounting pressure in that state to ban the practice. Many states still have misdemeanor penalties for cockfighting. The federal law slaps felony penalties on interstate cockfighting trafficking, and this should provide an enormous deterrent for the tens of thousands of people involved in this criminal industry.

## **3. Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act Approved by Congress**

U.S. Congress Gives Final Approval to Legislation to Knock Out Organized Animal Fighting in the United States HSUS Now Asks President to Sign Landmark Anti-Cruelty Measure WASHINGTON (April 10, 2007) – After an almost six-year battle, the U.S. Congress has passed tough new legislation to crack down on organized dogfighting and cockfighting. Tonight, the U.S. Senate approved by unanimous consent a bill, H.R. 137, providing felony-level penalties for interstate and foreign animal fighting activities, and outlawing commerce in cockfighting weapons. The House passed the measure on March 26 by a vote of 368-39. The bill will now be sent to President Bush for his signature.

The original Senate bill, S. 261, was introduced by Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), John Ensign (R-Nev.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), and it was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 15.

“With the passage of this landmark anti-cruelty legislation, law enforcement agencies now have the tools to dismantle the vast underground network of dogfighting and cockfighting syndicates that operate throughout the country,” said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States.

“Staged animal fights spawn not just malicious animal cruelty, but also drug trafficking, illegal gambling, public corruption, and even murder. We are fortunate to have had an extraordinary team of legislative champions to craft and pass a powerful law that will go a long way toward eradicating these sickening forms of animal cruelty.” “We’ve waited six years to see this legislation signed into law. With this law, we can clamp down on these cruel, inhumane practices,” stated Sen. Maria Cantwell, primary author of the Senate legislation.

“Our nation should have a zero tolerance policy for this cruelty and I hope the president will sign this bill immediately.” Nearly every week there are reports of illegal dogfighting and cockfighting crimes in the United States. In March alone, raids in Ohio and California yielded dozens of arrests, the seizure of 64 dogs, 300 birds, \$30,000 dollars in illegal gambling proceeds, guns and an explosive device. Two major cockfights pits in Louisiana were raided because they were operating as illegal gambling houses;

the raids also resulted in charges being brought against organizers for possessing methamphetamines and contributing to the delinquency of minors. In the same month, a man was fatally shot at a cockfight in Hawaii. In addition to such public safety concerns, lawmakers have expressed concern about the role of the worldwide trade in fighting birds and the spread of avian flu.

The HSUS recognized Sens. Cantwell, Ensign, Specter, Feinstein, Wayne Allard (R-Col.), David Vitter (R-La.), Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), and Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for their leadership on the issue in the Senate. The organization also expressed its thanks to Reps. Elton Gallegly (D-Calif.), Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), and Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) – the prime sponsors of H.R. 137 – and Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.), Subcommittee Chairman Bobby Scott (R-Va.), Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), Subcommittee Ranking Member Randy Forbes (R-Va.), Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), and Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) for their shepherding of the legislation through the House.

The bill now awaits signature by President Bush, and will take effect immediately once it is signed into law.

#### Facts:

S. 261 had the bipartisan support of 39 cosponsors, and its House companion, H.R. 137, had 304 cosponsors.

More than 500 groups have endorsed this legislation, including all major humane organizations, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Chicken Council, the National Sheriffs' Association, and more than 400 local law enforcement agencies covering all 50 states.

The legislation establishes a felony-level penalty of up to three years of jail time for any interstate or foreign transport of animals for fighting purposes.

Currently, moving animals across state lines or national borders for the purpose of fighting them is a misdemeanor. The bill also makes it a crime to move cockfighting weapons (razor-sharp knives and ice pick-like gaffs attached to the birds' legs) in interstate or foreign commerce.

Dogfighting is illegal in all 50 states. Cockfighting is illegal in 49 states, with Governor Bill Richardson signing a bill to ban cockfighting in New Mexico last month. Only Louisiana allows legal cockfighting.

Lawmakers across the country are trying to strengthen anti-animal fighting laws; legislators in Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas are considering bills.

#### Timeline:

April 10, 2007 – Senate unanimously approves H.R. 137 and sends to the president for his signature.

March 26, 2007 – House overwhelmingly approves H.R. 137 by a vote of 368-39.

March 15, 2007 – Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approves S. 261 by voice vote.

March 1, 2007 – House Judiciary Committee files reports on H.R. 137 and House Agriculture Committee waives jurisdiction, preparing for floor action.

February 6, 2007 – House Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee holds hearing on H.R. 137, and approves bill following hearing.

December, 2006 – H.R. 817/S. 382 dies as House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner blocks floor consideration, despite bipartisan support of 324 cosponsors (more than any other pending bill in the 109th Congress).

May 18, 2006 – House Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee holds hearing on H.R. 817.

April 29, 2005 – Senate approves S. 382 by unanimous voice vote.

September 30, 2004 – House Judiciary Committee approves H.R. 4264 by vote of 18-8.

October 30, 2003 – Senate unanimously approves S. 736 as Ensign amendment to Healthy Forests bill (H.R. 1904), but it is later removed in conference with House Agriculture Committee.

May 1, 2002 – House Agriculture Committee conferees remove felony animal fighting provisions from Farm Bill (H.R. 2646).

February 13, 2002 – Senate approves Farm Bill (S.1731) containing felony animal fighting language, along with provisions to close loopholes on interstate movement of birds for cockfighting and export of any animals for fighting.

October 4, 2001 – House unanimously approves felony animal fighting amendment offered by Reps. Blumenauer and Tancredo during floor debate on Farm Bill, along with amendment to close loopholes on interstate movement of birds for cockfighting (H.R. 1155) and export of any animals for fighting.

March 2, 2000 – Senate Agriculture Committee approves S. 345 to close loopholes on interstate movement of birds for cockfighting, but it doesn't reach Senate floor.

#### 4. Animal Law Seminar Reader

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS (3rd ed., 2006)

Recommended: C. Sunstein, ANIMAL RIGHTS (2004)

Recommended: D. Favre, ANIMAL LAW: WELFARE, INTERESTS, AND RIGHTS (2008)

##### Course Description:

This seminar offers a practical survey of legislative efforts and litigation on behalf of animals at the local, state, and national level. The course will address the historical status of animals in the law; the current application of animal protection laws to captive animals, wildlife, and farm and other domesticated animals; legislative efforts and citizen initiatives to strengthen animal protection laws; the role of international conventions and other laws concerning trade in animals and animal products; and the limitations on implementation and enforcement of laws addressing anti-cruelty, hunting and trapping and animal fighting. Emerging areas of animal law, such as veterinary malpractice and other animal-related torts; the use of consumer protection statutes to address animal welfare concerns; and the impacts of free speech, religious expression, and other Constitutional provisions on animal protection statutes will be explored. The course will also address legal constraints on animal advocacy, and the movement to obtain legal recognition of the rights of animals.

##### Evaluation:

Student grading will be based on completion of a research paper and class participation. Students will receive two grades – a course grade based on overall performance in the course, and a separate writing grade based on the research paper alone. Class attendance and participation are an important component

of a successful seminar and students will be expected to be ready to discuss the assigned reading for each session.

2

This course meets George Mason Law School's writing requirement (AR 3-3.3). Research papers will be due on Monday, December 14, 2009 and should be at least 20 pages of typed, double-spaced text, with one inch margins and no less than 12 point type. All papers must be paginated at the bottom of each page, and sources must be cited in footnotes rather than end notes. Proposed paper topics are due on or before October 13, 2009. Outlines must be submitted on or before October 31, 2009. Final papers must be submitted during the examinations period on or before December 14, 2009.

#### Reading Assignments:

This syllabus sets forth the basic reading assignments for each class session. The syllabus may be supplemented each week with additional materials. Every effort will be made to discuss the topics and assignments as indicated in the syllabus. However, exact dates for discussion of particular assignments may change as the semester progresses, and there may be occasions where the subject from one class will carry over to the next. Students will receive advance notice of any variance from the schedule in the syllabus.

#### Schedule and Assignments

##### Session 1 – August 24, 2009:

Introductions, overview, and discussion of course requirements. Outline of major topic areas of the course. Discussion of potential topics and requirements for research papers. Overview and history of state, federal, and international laws and regulations pertaining to wild and captive animals.

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 1 (3rd ed., 2006)

J. Lovvorn, Animal Law in Action: The Law, Public Perception, and the Limits of Animal Rights Theory as a Basis for Legal Reform, 12 ANIMAL L. 133 (2006)

W. Pacelle, Law and Public Policy: Future Directions for the Animal Protection Movement, 11 ANIMAL L. 1 (2005)

D. Favre & V. Tsang, The Development of Anti-Cruelty Laws During the 1800's, 1993 DETROIT L. REV. 1 (1993)

Recommended: C. Sunstein, Intro.: What Are Animal Rights?, ANIMAL RIGHTS (2004)

Recommended: H. Cohen, Brief Summaries of Federal Animal Protection Statutes (2008), available at: <http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/08Jun/94-731.pdf>

##### Session 2 – August 31, 2009:

Animal Litigation in State and Federal Courts – Part I: Building a Case and Establishing Standing

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 4, pp. 183-271 (3rd ed., 2006)

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ALDF v. Dep't of the Air Force, 44 F.Supp. 2d 295 (D.D.C. 1999)

The Fund for Animals v. Norton (I), 281 F.Supp.2d 209 (D.D.C. 2003)

Cary v. Hall, Civ. No. 05-4363, 2006 WL 6198320 (C.D.Cal. Sept. 30, 2006)

Baur v. Veneman, 352 F.3d 625 (2nd Cir. 2003)

Levine, et al. v. Johanns, Memorandum and Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Motion to Dismiss, Civ. No. 05-05346 (N.D.Cal. September 5, 2006)

Haven's Realty Corp. v. Coleman, 455 U.S. 363 (1982)

Humane Society v. United States Postal Service, 609 F.Supp.2d 85, 90-93 (D.D.C. 2009) (standing analysis only, full decision assigned for Session 5)

V. Chilakamarri, Taxpayer Standing: A Step Toward Animal-Centric Litigation, 10 ANIMAL L. 251 (2004)

W. Reppy, Citizen Standing to Enforce Anti-Cruelty Laws By Obtaining Injunctions: The North Carolina Experience, 11 ANIMAL L. 39 (2005)

Recommended: C. Sunstein, Can Animals Sue?, ANIMAL RIGHTS (2004)

Recommended: M. Tushnet, Some Legacies of Brown v. Board of Education, 90 VA. L. REV. 1693

(2004)

Session 3 – September 14, 2009:

Animal Litigation in State and Federal Courts – Part II: Causes of Action and Judicial Review

Hammer v. American Kennel Club, 1 N.Y.3d 294 (N.Y. 2003)

Humane Society of the United States v. HVFG, Complaint, Civ. No. 06-6829 (S.D.N.Y., filed Sept. 6, 2006)

Seeton v. Pennsylvania Game Com'n, 594 Pa. 563 (Pa. 2007)

LePage, et al. v. Wizard of Claws, Inc., et al., Complaint, Civ. No. 0714015 (Broward Co. Cir. Ct., filed June 18, 2007)

Humane Society of the United States v. Glickman, 217 F.3d 882 (D.C. Cir. 2000)

New Jersey SPCA v. New Jersey Dep't of Agriculture, 196 N.J. 366 (N.J. 2008)

Session 4 – September 21, 2009:

Animal Litigation in State and Federal Courts – Part III: Strategic Considerations in Animal Law Litigation (Intended & Unintended Consequences of Pursuing Litigation in an Emerging Area of the Law)

Fund for Animals v. Clark, 27 F.Supp.2d 8 (D.D.C. 1998)

Fund for Animals v. Clark, Civ. No. 98-02355, Stipulation of Dismissal (D.D.C. Aug. 22, 2007)

La Jolla Friends of Seals v. NOAA NMFS, 2009 WL 1862424 (S.D.Cal., 2009)

T. Perry, Judge Orders Seals Away from La Jolla Beach, L.A. TIMES (July 20, 2009), available at <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/07/la-jolla-seals.html>

D. Baker and S. Shroder, La Jolla Seals Get Another Break, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE (July 23, 2009), available at <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/23/bn23seals091232/>

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PETA v. California Milk Advisory Board, 125 Cal.App.4th 871 (Cal.App. 1 Dist., 2005)

Winter v. NRDC, 129 S.Ct. 365 (2008)

The Fund for Animals v. Norton (II), 374 F.Supp.2d 91 (D.D.C. 2005)

In re: United Egg Producers, Inc. (Animal Care Certified Eggs), NAD CASE REPORTS (Oct. 2003)

Session 5 – September 28, 2009:

Part I: Legal Protections for Companion Animals

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW:CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 6, pp. 472-493, 505-514 (3rd ed., 2006)

Martinelli, et al. v. Petland, Inc., et al., Complaint, Civ. No. 09-06131 (D. Ariz., filed Mar. 16, 2009)

Humane Society v. United States Postal Service, 609 F.Supp.2d 85 (D.D.C. 2009)

Federal Depictions of Animal Cruelty Statute, 18 U.S.C. § 48 (2007)

United States v. Stevens, 533 F.3d 218 (3rd Cir. 2008)

Federal Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, § 7 U.S.C. 2156 (2002)

United Gamefowl Breeders Ass'n, et al. v. Veneman, Ruling, Civ. No. 03-00970 (W.D. La. May 27, 2005)

Humane Society of the United States v. Amazon.com, et al., Complaint, Civ. No. 07-00723 (D.D.C. Feb 8, 2007)

Part II: Veterinary Malpractice and Other Tort Actions Concerning Companion Animals

S. Wise, Recovery of Common Law Damages for Emotional Distress, Loss of Society, and Loss of Companionship for the Wrongful Death of a Companion Animal, 4 ANIMAL L. 33 (1998)

C. Green, The Future of Veterinary Malpractice Liability in the Care of Companion Animals, 10 ANIMAL L. 163 (2004)

Session 6 – October 5, 2009:

Laws and regulations concerning farm animals; including federal laws (Humane Slaughter Act, Twenty-Eight Hour Law, Federal Meat Inspection Act).

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW:CASES AND Materials, Chapter 5, pp. 307-374 (3rd ed., 2006)

D. Wolfson, Foxes in the Henhouse: Animals, Agribusiness, and the Law, ANIMAL RIGHTS (2004)

In re: The HSUS: Petition to Apply 28 Hour Law to Truck Transport of Farm Animals (Oct. 4, 2005)



(excerpt)

In re: D'Artagnan, Inc. (Foie Gras), NAD CASE REPORTS (Jan. 2009)

Levine v. Conner, 540 F.Supp.2d 1113 (N.D.Cal. 2008)

People of the State of California v. Navarro, et al., Felony Complaint and Supporting  
5

Documents (2008)

United States of America ex rel. The Humane Society of the United States v. Hallmark Meat Packing  
Company, Westland Meat Company, Inc., Civ. No. 08-0221 (C.D.Cal., seal lifted April 18, 2009)

In re: Processed Egg Products Antitrust Litigation, Civ. No. 2:08-md-02002-GP (E.D. Pa., filed Jan. 30,  
2009)

Session 7 – October 13, 2009 (TUESDAY):

\*\*\*Research paper topics are to be submitted prior to class by email

Laws and regulations concerning animal experimentation, performing animals, and other captive  
animals, including the federal Animal Welfare Act.

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW:CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 5, pp. 374-403, 410-433, 445-  
468 (3rd ed., 2006)

ASPCA v. Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, 502 F.Supp.2d 103 (D.D.C. 2007)

ALDF v. Woodley, Civ. No. 04-1248 (N.C. April 12, 2005)

ALDF v. Yost, Civ. No. 05-1066 (C.D. Cal, Nov. 18, 2005)

Chimps Inc. v. Primarily Primates, Civ. No. 08-6097 (D.Or., Filed Mar. 25, 2008)

American Zoological Association, Joining Forces for the “Suarez Six” (2003)

Session 8 – October 19, 2009:

Domestic and international laws and regulations concerning wildlife protection and trade in wildlife  
specimens; litigation under federal wildlife laws.

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 9, pp. 619-690 (3rd ed.,  
2006)

Humane Society of the United States v. Gutierrez, 523 F.3d 990 (9th Cir. 2008)

The Fund for Animals v. Hall, 448 F.Supp.2d 127 (D.D.C. 2006)

Friends of Animals v. Salazar, 2009 WL 1743501 (D.D.C. 2009)

Humane Society of the United States v. Kempthorne, 579 F.Supp.2d 7 (D.D.C. 2008)

Humane Society of the United States v. Dep't of Commerce, 432 F.Supp.2d 4 (D.D.C. 2006)

Born Free, USA v. Norton, 278 F.Supp.2d 5 (D.D.C. 2003)

Anderson v. Evans, 314 F.3d 1006 (9th Cir. 2002)

Peter Stevenson, The World Trade Organization Rules: A Legal Analysis of Their Adverse Impact on  
Animal Welfare, 8 ANIMAL L. 107 (2002)

Session 9 – October 26, 2009:

State & Federal Enforcement of Wildlife Protection Laws – Guest Speakers

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S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW:CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 6, pp. 493-505, 514-527 (3rd  
ed., 2006)

\*\*\*Research paper outlines are to be submitted on or before October 31, 2009 by email

Session 10 – November 2, 2009:

Brief presentations of research paper topics by students; discussion of issues and ideas, review and  
feedback

Session 10 may also be used for discussion of materials and information that we were unable to cover in  
prior sessions. If there is an animal law issue or topic that students would like to discuss in class, please  
make such suggestions prior to Session 8 on October 19, as we may be able to cover it in Session 10.

Session 11 – November 9, 2009:

State and Federal Legislative Process for Enacting Animal Protection Laws – Part I: Lobbying and  
Grass Roots Activities – Guest Speakers

Session 12 – November 16, 2009:

State and Federal Legislative Process for Enacting Animal Protection Laws – Part II: Citizen Initiatives and Referenda; and Issues in Legislative Drafting

Dane Waters, INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM IN THE UNITED STATES (2002)

California Proposition 2: A Watershed Moment for Animal Law, 15 ANIMAL L. 149 (2009)

Californians for Humane Farms v. Schafer, Civ. No. 08-03843, 2008 WL 4449583 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 29, 2008)

Commonwealth v. Looper, Civ. No. 00850, 2009 WL 1272625 (Ky.App. May 8, 2009)

Illinois Restaurant Assn. v. City of Chicago, 492 F.Supp.2d 891 (N.D. Ill. 2007)

Session 13 – November 23, 2009:

Constitutional Limitations on Animal Protection Laws – Interaction Between Freedoms of Speech and Religion and Protection of Animals. Other Legal Constraints on Animal Advocacy (including libel and defamation, invasion of privacy, and the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act).

S. Waisman, et al., ANIMAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Chapter 4, pp. 272-306 (3rd ed., 2006)

United States v. Stevens, No. 08-769, Brief for the United States of America (June 9, 2009), before the U.S. Supreme Court on writ of certiorari to the 3rd Circuit

International Dairy Foods Association v. Amestoy, 92 F.3d 67 (2nd Cir. 1996)

United Gamefowl Breeders Association v. Veneman, No. 03-970 (W.D. La. May 31, 7

2005)

Empacadora de Carnes de Fresnillo, S.A. de C.V. v. Curry, No. 02-804, 2005 WL 2074884 (Aug. 25, 2005)

Viva v. Adidas, 36 Cal.Rptr.3d 19 (Cal. App. 1 Dist. 2005)

PETA v. Bobby Berosini, 111 Nev. 615, 895 P.2d 1269 (Nev. 1995)

Ethan Carson Eddy, Privatizing The Patriot Act: The Criminalization of Environmental and Animal Protectionists as Terrorists, 22 PACE ENVTL. L. REV. 261 (2005)

Session 14 – November 30, 2009:

The movement to obtain legal recognition of the rights of animal; the question of animal “rights” vs. animal “welfare;” rhetorical choices in advocating on behalf of animals; and the future of animal protection in the United States.

Patricia Roberts-Miller, John Quincy Adam’s Amistad Argument: The Problem of Outrage, the Constraints of Decorum, 32 RHETORICAL SOC’Y QUARTERLY 5 (2002)

Laurence H. Tribe, Ten Lessons Our Constitutional Experience Can Teach Us About the Puzzle of Animal Rights: The Works of Steven M. Wise, 7 ANIMAL L. 1 (2001)

Recommended: C. Sunstein, ANIMAL RIGHTS (2004), pgs. 19-90.

5. 110TH CONGRESS REPT. 110–27

1st Session " HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ! Part 1

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

MARCH 1, 2007.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CONYERS, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 137]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 137) to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen

prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

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**THE AMENDMENT**

The amendment (stated in terms of the page and line numbers of the introduced bill) is as follows:

Page 4, beginning in line 13, strike “or animals, such as waterfowl, bird, raccoon, or fox hunting”.

**PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

H.R. 137, the “Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007,” strengthens the Federal prohibitions against animal fighting ventures. Under current law, animal fighting violations are misdemeanors under title 7 of the U.S. Code. H.R. 137 makes the buying, selling, or transporting of animals in interstate commerce for participation in animal fighting ventures felonies to be charged under title 18, with maximum prison sentences of 3 years, increased from 1 year under current law.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION**

Prohibitions against knowingly selling, buying, transporting, delivering, or receiving an animal in interstate or foreign commerce for the purposes of participation in an animal fighting venture were added to the Animal Welfare Act in 1976, with misdemeanor penalties of up to \$5,000 in fines and up to 1 year in prison. Since then, Federal authorities have pursued fewer than a half dozen animal fighting cases, despite receiving numerous tips from informants and requests to assist with state and local prosecutions. The animal fighting industry continues to thrive within the United States, despite 50 State laws that ban dogfighting and 48 State laws that ban cockfighting. Numerous nationally circulated animal fighting magazines still promote these cruel practices, and advertise fighting animals and the accouterments of animal fighting.

There are also several active websites for animal fighting enthusiasts, and paid lobbyists advocating animal fighters' interests.

In 2002, Congress amended these prohibitions to extend them more fully to live birds. Previously, none of the prohibitions had applied to live birds if the destination was a State in which their use in fighting was not a violation of that State's law.

While the 2002 amendments also increased penalties slightly, from a potential fine of \$5,000 to one of \$15,000, they were left at the misdemeanor level. By increasing penalties to the felony level, H.R. 137 will give prosecutors greater incentive to pursue cases against unlawful animal fighting ventures, and strengthen deterrence against them.

#### HEARINGS

The Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on H.R. 137 on February 6, 2007. Testimony was received from two witnesses: Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO, The Humane Society of the United States, and Jerry Leber, President, United Gamefowl Breeders Association.

#### COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On February 6, 2007, the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security met in open session and ordered H.R. 137

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favorably reported, without amendment, by voice vote, a quorum being present. On February 7, 2007, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill favorably reported by voice vote, with an amendment by Mr. King to make more general the exception for using animals in hunting, by voice vote, a quorum being present.

#### VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that there were no recorded votes during consideration of H.R. 137.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

#### NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the bill, H.R. 137, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,

Washington, DC, February 16, 2007.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Mark Grabowicz (for Federal costs), and Page Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact).

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG,

Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 137—Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007

H.R. 137 would make buying, selling, or transporting animals for participation in animal fighting ventures (defined as any event which involves a fight between at least two animals and is conducted for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment) a Federal

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crime. The bill also would prohibit any person from using certain forms of communication in interstate commerce to promote an animal fighting venture. Because those prosecuted and convicted under this legislation could be subject to criminal fines, the government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. However, because of the small number of cases likely to be involved, CBO expects that any impact on revenues and direct spending would be insignificant.

In addition, CBO expects that any increase in Federal costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations also would be insignificant and subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 137 contain no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. H.R. 137 would impose private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, but CBO expects the cost of complying with those mandates would be small and well below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for Federal costs), and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

#### PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the purpose of the bill, H.R. 137, is to curtail the interstate transport of animals and

related instruments for purposes of engaging in an animal fighting contest.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

#### ADVISORY ON EARMARKS

In accordance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 137 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

The following discussion describes the bill as reported by the Committee.

##### Sec. 1. Short title

This section sets forth the short title of the bill as the "Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007."

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##### Sec. 2. Enforcement of animal fighting prohibitions

This section makes it a felony under chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, for any individual to knowingly exhibit, buy, sell, deliver, or transport a bird, dog, or other animal in interstate commerce or foreign commerce for participation in animal fighting ventures. Additionally, this section makes it a felony for an individual to use the Postal Service or other interstate instrumentality for promoting an animal fighting venture or for selling, buying, or delivering in interstate or foreign commerce a knife, gaff, or other sharp instrument attached or intended to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture.

This section expressly provides that this legislation will not supersede or otherwise invalidate any State, local, or municipal legislation or ordinance relating to animal fighting ventures. As a special rule with respect to fighting ventures involving live birds in a State where they would not otherwise be in violation of the law, this legislation provides that the prohibition against the knowing sponsorship or exhibition of a bird in a fighting venture applies only if the person knew that any bird in the fighting venture was knowingly bought, sold, delivered, transported, or received in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of participation in the fighting venture.

The section provides that any person who violates it shall be fined under title 18 or imprisoned for not more than three (3) years, or both, for each violation.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE

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PART I—CRIMES

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CHAPTER 3—ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISH, AND PLANTS

Sec.

41. Hunting, fishing, trapping; disturbance or injury on wildlife refuges.

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49. Animal fighting prohibition.

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§ 49. Animal fighting prohibition

(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or ex-

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hibit an animal in an animal fighting venture, if any animal in the venture was moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN STATES.—With respect to fighting ventures involving live birds in a State where it would not be in violation of the law, it shall be unlawful under this subsection for a person to sponsor or exhibit a bird in the fighting venture only if the person knew that any bird in the fighting venture was knowingly bought, sold, delivered, transported, or received in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of participation in the fighting venture.

(b) BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, OR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver, or receive for purposes of transportation, in interstate or foreign commerce, any dog or other animal for purposes of having the dog or other animal participate in an animal fighting venture.

(c) USE OF POSTAL SERVICE OR OTHER INTERSTATE INSTRUMENTALITY FOR PROMOTING ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly use the mail service of the United States Postal Service or any instrumentality of interstate commerce for commercial speech promoting an animal fighting venture except as performed outside the limits of the States of the United States.

(d) VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), the activities prohibited by such subsection shall be unlawful with respect to fighting ventures involving live birds only if the fight is to take place in a State where it would be in violation of the laws thereof.

(e) SHARP INSTRUMENTS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver in interstate or foreign commerce a knife, a gaff, or any other sharp instrument attached, or designed or intended to be attached, to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture.

(f) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates subsection (a), (b), (c), or (e) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 3 years, or both, for each such violation.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “animal fighting venture” means any event which involves a fight between at least two animals and is conducted for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment except that the term “animal fighting venture” shall not be deemed to include any activity the primary purpose of which involves the use of one or more animals in hunting another animal;

(2) the term “instrumentality of interstate commerce” means any written, wire, radio, television or other form of communication in, or using a facility of, interstate commerce;

(3) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States; and

(4) the term “animal” means any live bird, or any live dog or other mammal, except man.

(h) CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW—The provisions of this section do not supersede or otherwise invalidate any such State, local, or municipal legislation or ordinance relating to animal fighting ventures

except in case of a direct and irreconcilable conflict between any re-

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quirements thereunder and this section or any rule, regulation, or standard hereunder.

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## SECTION 26 OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT ANIMAL FIGHTING

SEC. 26. (a) \*\*\*

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(e) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates subsection (a), (b), or (c) shall be fined not more than \$15,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both, for each such violation.

6. by Brandon Bosworth

7. It's bad enough that my home, Hawaii, is one of the five best states to be an animal abuser. Now some local politicians want to pass a resolution calling the barbaric, illegal act of cockfighting a "cultural activity" and a "long and cherished tradition."

It's not surprising. As I've written before, the Aloha State has little aloha for animals. Cockfighting is technically illegal, but happens all the time. It's not uncommon to see T-shirts and bumper stickers celebrating the grisly bloodsport. And it isn't as if politicians haven't tried to woo the animal abuser vote before. For instance, one state representative, Rida Cabanilla, introduced resolutions in the 2008 legislative session asking the United Nations to “officially commemorate cockfighting as a global sport.

Introduced by Joey Manahan, the proposed current resolution is both tiresome and just a bit odd. It's odd because an elected official, sworn to uphold the law, is asking other elected officials to affirm an activity that has been illegal since King Kalakaua (a founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society) outlawed cockfighting in 1884.



It's tiresome because Manahan uses the same rhetoric of culture and tradition used by all those who stand in the way of a more humane and just society. Throughout the resolution are references to cockfighting as "part of American culture since colonial times," Abraham Lincoln's "honesty as a cockfight referee," cockfighting as "a proud Hispanic tradition" and so on. Supporters of everything from female circumcision to Jim Crow laws have used similar arguments. Does Manahan realize an appeal to tradition is a logical fallacy?

Oh yeah... the resolution also notes that cockfighting is a "legal activity in Mexico." How reassuring.

Local animal advocates are not too thrilled by the proposed resolution. In the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Jacque LeBlanc, Humane Society spokesperson, was quoted as saying, "It's an ignorant claim to say cockfighting is cultural. It's not cultural. It's cruel and it's a crime." Jennifer Kishimori, co-founder of the Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, called cockfighting "barbaric and inhumane." "In different cultures, it's acceptable to have slaves. It's acceptable to have multiple wives," Kishimori said. "But just because that's part of someone's culture doesn't mean it should be acceptable here in the United States."

Surprisingly, Joey Manahan's record on animal issues isn't that bad. He has supported bills strengthening animal cruelty laws, as well as a bill to protect manta rays. Paradoxically, he was in favor of a bill making dog fighting a felony.

So why be against dog fighting but say nice things about cockfighting? According to the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Manahan said "he introduced the resolution after speaking with constituents, many of whom are of Filipino ancestry." He also doesn't expect the resolution to pass. Most likely, he thinks voters will remember his valiant effort on behalf of cockfighters and reelect him to office.

Joey Manahan is essentially playing the faux bloodsport of politics with the real bloodsport of cockfighting.

8. <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2008/Feb/21/br/hawaii80221068.html>

9. **U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo  
Announcement of Anti-Cockfighting Measures  
And Humane Society of the United States' Animal Fighting Reward Program  
August 27, 2008**

As you know, in February of this year, we announced that federal charges were filed against Joseph Toralba for smuggling into Hawaii from the Philippines 263 gaffs. His act was in violation of the newly amended federal anti-animal fighting law, and was the first of its kind in the Nation.

This month, U.S. District Judge David Alan Ezra sentenced Mr. Toralba to 60 days imprisonment with a one year period of supervised release. This case sent a clear message --- that those who are involved in any form of cruelty to animals will suffer stiff penalties, because this activity is now not only in violation of state law --- it is also a violation of federal laws. On August 15th of this month, Louisiana became the last state in the Union to outlaw and ban cockfighting. This signifies that there is no place in our country that recognizes any form of animal fighting. The entire country now agrees that it is cruel and vicious to pit animals against each other until one of them dies a violent death.

At the time of Mr. Toralba's arrest, I said that where ever you saw cockfighting and gambling activities, that organized crime was not far behind. I also said that in the near future

we would be re-establishing contact with the local and state police and other agencies to deal with cockfighting and gambling activities in this state.

The time has now come to let you know what I am seeing and what I am proposing to do in this State to stop these illegal activities.

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Since April of 2007, we have been noticing an increase in the importation of fighting gaffs into this state. In fact, in the last 16 months, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officials alone have confiscated over 400 gaffs from either in-bound passenger luggage or through the mail from either the Philippines or from Guam. We have also seized various amounts of veterinarian medicine used in furtherance of cockfighting.

On August 4th of this month, Honolulu agents intercepted a mailed parcel from the Philippines to an address in Hawaii. This parcel was opened revealing 24 fighting gaffs, which were thereafter seized. This case is now pending further investigation for possible federal charges.

Up until today, federal Custom investigators have also been given discretion on whether or not to seize small numbers of gaffs or other animal fighting paraphernalia. Effective today, this discretion stops and I am instructing our agencies that all in-coming or outgoing fighting gaffs and paraphernalia and proceeds must be seized and forfeited to the United States Government. We will also work closely with the State prosecutors on deciding which one of us should prosecute these cases.

Additionally, federal prosecutors will be working closely with our County Police Departments and their Vice Divisions. My instructions will be to develop cases so that we can start seizing and forfeiting land and property and proceeds which are used to further any animal fighting or gambling venture. If you are allowing cockfighting on your property, --- be prepared to lose your land.

Finally, I am instructing my federal prosecutors to work with our local police in developing and prosecuting more organized crime cases tied to animal fighting or any other illegal gambling activities in this State. We in law enforcement all know that gambling feeds

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organized crime, which could even lead to the corruption of public servants whom we are suppose to trust.

Thus, we have seen law enforcement officers charged with protecting illegal cockfighting activities in Hawaii. Additionally, as with the Pali Golf Course shootings, which happened in the vicinity of innocent golfers, we have also seen organized crime groups fighting and killing each other for control of gambling establishments here in Hawaii.

And, to those out there in our community who would say that cockfighting is just a cultural form of recreation --- I ask, "if this is cultural, then why would you lay money down to bet on which animal will die?" Additionally, of every dollar you bet, a substantial portion of it will go into the pocket of those who are tied to organized crime in Hawaii. This is not cultural, it is against all the state and federal laws in the United States.

Make no doubt about this, --- we intend to become more active in the investigation of these organized crime related cases. We intend to make our state a safer place to live by not allowing Hawaii to become a haven for criminals utilizing animal fighting or gambling for profit.

10. Now, I will allow Ms. Inga Gibson from the Humane Society of the United States to present their Animal Fighting Reward Program. I am in support of this animal fighting crimestopper program, and I believe this program will assist law enforcement to make more cases in this area with the help of information coming from the public.

11. **Vote No!!!!!!!**

--

Gary E. Weller  
President  
Mana Ikaika, Inc.  
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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Stephen Canham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 8:20 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

RE: Resolution Numbers HCR 277 & HR 199; Hearing Monday, march 29, 2010 at 9:30 AM

Sirs: I urge you to withdraw support for HCR 277 and HR 199. This resolution and bill are astonishing in their shortsighted, insensitive attempts to sustain a blood "sport" that has no place in the United States.

I don't have much hope of changing your personal opinion on the illegal activity. If you must condone and support it, do so elsewhere, please, not in my home state and not on my tax dollars. And realize that many, many people abhor blood sports of all kinds, and their proponents. Don't write me off as a soft-hearted liberal. I spent four years in a USAF uniform, including duty in war. If you want blood, we make plenty of it already. Go have a look.

Stephen Canham (

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

tokioka1-Elijah

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 8:45 PM  
To: TCitestimony  
Subject: HCR 277 & HR 199 Testimony

Janice M. Lloyd  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

March 27, 2010

Re: Hearing on Monday March 29, 9:30 am, regarding HCR 277 & HR 199

Committee on Culture, Tourism & International Affairs

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair and Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair:

Please do not condone any form of cockfighting again. Not only is it cruel and inhumane, it has already been declared illegal in all states. King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting here in 1884. It is not a part of Hawaiian culture or any culture that should be continued. It is one of those barbaric practices, like animal or human sacrifice, whose time has definitely passed. It has also become a magnet for drugs, gambling and other illegal criminal activities.

I am sure the majority of citizens here are against cockfighting. Please do not weaken the existing laws against this terrible practice. It does not add anything culturally important - quite the opposite, it is a black mark upon the culture.

Sincerely,  
Janice Lloyd

000226

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** georgie fong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:11 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR277

Aloha:

I am against passing Cockfighting as Culture into Law. I am against seeing a law that legally consent to one of God's creature, in this case, the rooster, declared as legally right to be born into enslavement, imprisoned, and the forced to fight to the death to defend his God given life.

This culture is a mentally SICK, DISEASE CULTURE. It not mentally "healthy", it definitely is DEADLY FOR THE ROOSTER so the cockfighter can get their adrenaline high, maybe that why metampethamine can be founded there also.

I believed that humans while on this earth should spend their energy creating better life for all living creatures on this earth instead of spending their time creating suffering and death, therefore, recognizing cockfighting as a culture legitimized that we HONOR SPENDING OUR TIME TO CREATE SUFFERING AND DEATH, which I think only a "brain damaged" human can be it "honorable".  
(must be from the crystal met).

No on cockfighting as culture.

It certainly not Hawaiian Culture, Native Hawaiians were farmers, not cockfighters.

Dr. Georgie Fong

**tokioka1-Elijah**

---

**From:** Jo Ann Trask [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:20 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** cockfightning

please enter the 21st century and end this sad excuse for killing.

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Leilani Hinds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:00 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Cockfighting resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

I would like to offer testimony to supporting the elimination of cockfighting in Hawaii. House resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 would both support cockfighting as a cultural activity, and I am totally opposed to them.

First of all, cockfighting is cruel and inhumane because metal knife spurs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury to the birds. Moreover, the roosters are prevented from leaving the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Finally, many times the critically injured roosters are not even put out of their misery but instead are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer horrifying deaths. No purpose, cultural or otherwise, other than terrible suffering is served by this kind of treatment. The "cultural" argument has also been used to support slavery and spouse abuse at various times in history, but we have advanced beyond both of those activities, and it is time we advance beyond this reminder of our ancient past as well.

Second, gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is currently illegal in all 50 states, and in 36 it is a felony. On a practical level, the state should not be supporting an activity that encourages criminal behavior in our state.

Finally, no less a significant figure in Hawaiian history than King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in the Hawaiian kingdom 125 years ago. He was a man well ahead of his time, and one we should emulate.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Leilani Hinds  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

May a star shine on the hour of our meeting.

000229



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Cat Gelman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:52 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Oppose HCR 277 & HR 199

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Cat Gelman <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Sat, Mar 27, 2010 at 9:03 AM  
**Subject:** Oppose HCR 277 & HR 199  
**To:** [repmanahan@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmanahan@capitol.hawaii.gov), [reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Subject: Oppose HCR 277 and HR 199**

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**From:** Catherine Gelman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hearing Date: Monday, March 29th at 930 AM

Dear Representative Joey Manahan & Representative James Kunane Tokioka,

In Spain, killing a bull in front of thousands of people is considered part of the culture. Shall we build a ring and allow that here? Of course not! Cockfighting is cruel and abusive. Saying "it's part of the Filipino culture" is not a reason to make it legal. Cockfighting is already illegal and these resolutions seem to be trying to say it's okay to put together events that are blood sports. It is illegal in ALL 50 states for a reason. Please, let's not let Hawaii be the state that doesn't "get it". We would be an embarrassment to the U.S. and the world.

Thank you for your time, Catherine Gelman

000230

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Catherine Goeggel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 9:40 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 199, HCR 277 (oppose)

Chair Manahan and Members of he Committee:

Animal Rights Hawai'i opposes both these absurd resolutions. Cockfighting is a sad remnant of earlier barbarism in society. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, both patriots and presidents of the United States may have participated in cock fights, but they also held human beings as slaves.

Yes, there is modern barbarism, as evidenced in the factory farming of hens, and society is moving forward towards cage free environments for chickens- not quickly enough, but that certainly does not excuse the wonton cruelty of setting animals against each other. Cockfighting is illegal, engenders a lack of respect for life, involves gambling and prostitution (also illegal.)

Please do not pass these resolutions.

Mahalo  
Cathy Goeggel  
President  
Animal Rights Hawai'i

000231

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Jon Gelman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:03 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on HCR277 and HR199

To Representative Joey Manahan and Representative James Kunane Tokioka  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing to voice **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HCR277 and HR199 which would resolve that cockfighting is a cultural activity.

This is an outrageous idea. King Kalakaua, himself, outlawed cockfighting in 1884. While it may be considered culturally acceptable to some, it is an illegal activity in all 50 states. Resolving that cockfighting is a cultural activity is a backhanded way of giving those who continue this illegal activity a way of justifying their behaviors.

In Spain and Mexico, it is considered culturally acceptable to kill bulls in a ring while hundreds of people cheer. We have thousands of people living in the islands from Spain and Mexico. Should we resolve that bullfighting is a cultural activity??

In rural parts of China, it is considered culturally acceptable to kill and eat cats and dogs. We have thousands of people living in the islands from China. Should we resolve that eating cats and dogs is a cultural activity??

These proposed resolutions are an insult to our laws and to the clear majority of the population of Hawaii. I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the passage of these resolutions.

Jon Gelman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Jon D. Gelman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



000232

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** June Hasegawa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:04 AM  
**To:** TCitestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Μην να με ισ θυνε Ηασεγαωα ανδ μη αδδρεσσ ισ 1130 Κολοα Στρεετ, Ηονολυλυ, ΗΙ 96816. Ι αμ ωριτινγ ιν ρεγαρδσ το:

- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

I oppose cockfighting because it is cruel and inhumane and although it may be a cultural sport in another country, it should not be considered and allowed as such in the United States. It does not not conform to the ethical standards of this country.

000233

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** island zena [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:31 AM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

RE: Hearing on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
HCR 277 and HR 199

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I am writing to encourage you to strongly object to Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Over the history of mankind, many practices that were inhumane to humans and animals rightfully have been deemed illegal and subsequently abolished, despite the initial claims that they were culturally protected. In each case, there was no harm to the culture. Instead, the culture grew to be more civilized and respectful of life.

The cruel and inhumane nature of cockfighting also brings with it milieu social problems, including gambling, drugs, and more violent crimes. As representatives of Hawai'i and its cultural base, you have the opportunity to maintain one of King Kalakaua's legacies to protect the humane, ethical and morally responsible treatment of animals and humans. Reject the entirety of Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

Respectfully,  
Julie Smith  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. - -*

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**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** judith anderson [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 2:06 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

My name is Judith Anderson. [redacted]

The tired old argument about cockfighting being a cultural tradition is ridiculous and specious. Cannibalism is a cultural tradition among some peoples; if they lived in Hawaii would we allow that? Beating one's wife and children is a tradition in far too many cultures. Do we allow that?

Any 'cultural tradition' which involved inflicting pain and suffering on another living creature is a tradition that needs to be abandoned. The fact that the creatures are not human makes it no less disgusting, immoral, cruel, inhumane and intolerable. People who have no problem hurting and killing animals are not far from the line between that and hurting and killing humans; Insensitivity to the suffering of an animal dulls any scrap of insensitivity to the suffering of humans, too.

Even if you discount the above statements, there remains the fact that there is no purpose for these exhibitions beyond gambling, which is supposedly illegal in this state. It's not religious, it's not art, it's nothing but an opportunity to gather together a bunch of people who want to get drunk, see a lot of blood and gore and mayhem and bet as much money as they can scrape up. There is no moral, legal or any other kind of justification for this disgusting practice, and there is no moral, legal or any other kind of justification for these bills.

*Judith Anderson*

000235

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Corinne Stefanko [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 2:50 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony

Please, enforce the ban on all cockfighting. it's really only illegal gambling anyhow. Thank you, Mrs. Corinne Stefanko, Honomu, Hawaii.

000236

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

I am writing to strongly protest Resolutions HCR277 and HR199. Cock Fighting is not a cultural activity---it is nothing more than a cruel and inhumane practice that inflicts pain and suffering on helpless animals for money. It is associated with gambling, drugs and other criminal activity. It has no place in a civilized society. It is disgusting that the legislature would even consider this a "cultural activity". Keep it illegal and enforce that laws against it.

Janice A. Smolec, M.D.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000237



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Ricki Hanzel Perez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 3:11 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

I am writing in protest to Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 to be heard Monday, March 29 at 9:30 am.

Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempts to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport. Hawaii is already ranked as one of the worst states for its weak penalties against cockfighting and animal cruelty. We need to strengthen our laws and our commitment to stamping out this cruel practice, not weaken it.

It is known that Cockfighting is a cruel and inhumane activity. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury and harm to God's creatures for needless personal entertainment. These birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight. Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.

Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.

Cockfighting is not natural when Hawaiians interfere by drugging, gaffing and other unnatural manipulations for increased brutality. This creates unproductive intentions in the hearts and minds of Hawaiians and participants that could be focused on worthwhile activities that promote wellness.

Cockfighting may have occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, but it is now illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony. Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884 and these values should be taught to our present and future generations to promote a better society that regards the health and welfare of all other beings include our own.

Thank you for making the right decision for a humane civilization for all creatures.

Ricki Perez  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Pauline Osborne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 3:26 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on Resolutions HCR277 and HR 199

Re: Hearing at 9:30 am.  
March 29, 2010  
Resolutions HCR277 and HR 199

To: Representative James Kunane Tokioka  
Chair, Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am writing in opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199 relating to cockfighting. Cockfighting is rightfully illegal in Hawaii and in all the other 49 states, and a felony in many of them. It's illegal because it is barbaric and inhumane. It is also associated with gambling, drugs, and violence. These resolutions should be defeated.

Thank you.

Pauline Osborne  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

000239

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** jec [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 4:47 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** House Resolution HCR277&HR199 Hearing on March 29,2010 @9:30am

Dear Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair and Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

I am protesting these resolutions as to say that no one has a right to hurt animals, culturally or not. We need to strengthen our animal cruelty laws and not weaken them. I have seen fighting chickens thrown out like rubbish. I am also against dog fighting.

Thank You  
Judy E. Cho

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Claudette S Bernabe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 7:11 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 277 and HR 199

I believe legalizing cockfighting is not only cruel and inhumane but an attempt to legalize gambling which only takes advantage of a weak economy. What are we? We, humans, call ourselves enlightened and evolved. Pitting one animal against another for sport and then legalizing it, does not appear to be this human to be evolved or enlightened.

- Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury.
- Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted or injured they become during the fight.
- Birds that are critically injured are often tossed away as garbage and left to suffer.
- Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities have been shown to be connected to cockfighting.
- While establishing dominance is a natural behavior, cockfighting involves drugs, gaffs and other means for increased brutality.
- While cockfighting occurred for centuries in various countries, including the United States, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony.
- Founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, King Kalakaua outlawed cockfighting in 1884.

Sincerely,

Claudette Bernabe

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** keith sullivan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 6:36 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** I support the chicken fights.

The life of the fighting chicken is great compared to the life of the chickens laying eggs and the chicken raised for meat. The fighting chicken has plenty space and gets to see the sun and eats the best food. Way better than chickens who are in the egg laying factories, they don't even have room to spread their feeble little wings. Whats next with these animal rights people? No leather for shoes? No cricket fights? No bug spray? "Roaches have rights too you know!" If they don't like chicken fights, they shouldn't go to chicken fights. Too many folks nosing in on others, I think. Thank you for your consideration and respect for cultural diversity.

000242

tokioka1-Elijah

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**From:** Keoni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 4:46 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** Regarding HCR277

Rep. Joey Manahan  
Chair & Rep. James Kunane Tokioka  
Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.  
Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am  
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277

Hello,

My name is Keoni, I'm a resident of Kalihi and I'd like to voice my **SUPPORT for HCR277** to designate cockfighting a cultural activity. Cockfighting is legal in many countries and generates lots of money, it should be legalized and taxed to help generate money in these tough times and this will help push it one step closer. States like Oklahoma used to generate a \$100 million in revenue every year while cockfighting was legal there, now Oklahoma has a \$40 million debt.

Hawaii is all about culture and unfortunately many on the mainland do not understand or have culture and feel the need to push their beliefs onto the people of Hawaii. We here in Hawaii are perfectly capable of making our own decisions without the need of mainland interests like the HSUS. Cockfighting, like removing your slippers before entering a home, bon and dragon dancing, is a cultural activity and should be recognized as such. We cannot let our culture in Hawaii be eroded away even further than it has.

Cockfighting should be legalized and taxed to help all the people in Hawaii, let the Humane Society of the United States, the Oahu ASPCA and the like help animals before they help people, human beings help human beings and by taxing cockfighting we will be able to pay for services that we desperately need.

**Thank you to the committee and please PASS HCR277.**

-Keoni Andrews

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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