

Manahan 586-6011
 Tokioka 6271
 Berg 6511
 Chay 8479
 Evans 8514
 McKelvey 6161

Woolley 8544
 Takai 8459
 Tsuji 8484
 Wakai 6221

LATE TESTIMONY

March 27, 2010

To - Representative Joey Manahan, Chairman

Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chairman

Regarding - HCR 277 and HR 199 - Supporting the recognition of cockfighting as a cultural activity.

From - Ginger Towle, President
 West Hawaii Humane Society
 Box 2695
 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, 96740
 phone 8080329-2051

West Hawaii Humane Society strongly disagrees with any attempt to legalize cockfighting and to recognize it as anything other than it is which is a barbaric activity devoid of any positive value. The rhetoric used in these statues referring to the past is of absolutely no consequence because many cruel and inhumane behaviors and activities took place in years gone by. Throwing Christians to the lions, burning people at the stake as witches were once culturally approved activities. Even here in Hawaii I haven't read about any recent human sacrifices which once was an accepted practice and not that many years ago at that. Civilized people do move on.

I am embarrassed that Hawaii has such inadequate laws covering cockfighting, in 39 states it's a Felony. It is not just the cruelty to the roosters, who have no choice, but there is always gambling involved

and usually drugs as well. Watching such a bloody activity desensitizes any children who are watching.

I grew up on a farm and roosters don't put on a gaff, crow to the nearest rooster and challenge him to fight to the death. If a rooster happens upon another they fly at each other for awhile and then one runs off.

I find it extremely embarrassing that beautiful Hawaii has such little regard for animal welfare. I guess the Aloha spirit doesn't extend to roosters!

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THESE STATUES

PS 34 states and the District of Columbia prohibit possession of roosters for fighting!!

41 states and the District of Columbia prohibit being a spectator!!

000002

tokioka1-Elijah

From: sara kim [nabs1004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 7:06 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: TCI Testimony 3-29-10 930am, Rm 312 OPPOSE HR 199, HCR 277

Dear Honorable Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and House Tourism, Culture and International Affairs Committee Members:

My name is Sara Kim, I am a resident of Makiki and **strongly oppose Resolutions HR 199 and HCR 277** to recognize cockfighting as a cultural activity.

I am Korean-American and spent half of my life in Korea and the other half in the States. There are certain practices in Korea that may be acceptable, however, simply because a few engage in these activities does not justify their continued existence, let alone, their legalized practice in the United States of America. For example, a small percentage of Koreans may eat dog. I am an avid dog lover and have a pet dog that I love dearly. I would never consider my dog as "food" and adamantly object to the eating of dog. Just because it may be an acceptable practice in Korea, does not mean that eating dog is acceptable in the US. This is the same for cockfighting—just because a small percentage of certain ethnicities may practice illegal cockfighting doesn't lessen its inherent animal cruelty or the fact that it is a crime, driven by illegal gambling. It is unfair and prejudicial for an entire ethnicity to be stereotyped or excused for engaging in certain unacceptable behaviors, simply because a small percentage of a group may be involved in such illegal activities.

The state and our legislature should instead be celebrating activities and customs that revere and celebrate life, promote compassion and add value to our communities.

I urge you to oppose these measures.

Thank you,

Sara Kim
926 Spencer St.
Unit 4
Honolulu, HI 96822

nabs1004@yahoo.com

000003

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Kris Hanselman [kris@uhpa.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 7:35 PM
To: TCtestimony
Subject: HCR277 and HR199

To the Honorable Joey Manahan Chair and Committee members

These resolutions give tacit approval to the continuation of cockfighting a cruel sport without any cultural or socially redeeming value. Cockfighting is already illegal in Hawaii but this resolution instead of upholding the law, encourages its practice. The legislature should be advancing protection of animals not trying to make an ugly and bloody sport acceptable because of its historical relevance to some citizens. I urge the committee to reject these resolutions and instead reaffirm the legislatures commitment to protecting animals from all forms of mistreatment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
1177 Mokuhano H102
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

000004

LATE TESTIMONY

Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199
Hearing Date: March 29, 2010; 9:30am

March 28, 2010

Dear Legislators:

I am not in support of HRC 277 and HR 199. Cockfighting should not be allowed as a cultural practice. Not only is cockfighting barbaric, but it is a major link to illegal gambling. People strap sharp knives to the birds' feet and put them in a confined place so that they can claw each other to death. This is not natural. It is cruel on the animals, and it exposes children to violence and conditions them to think that violence is acceptable (and fun). Often times, these events are seen by children. Such violence instilled in young impressionable minds cannot have good results.

Aside from the animal cruelty aspect of this blood-spilling activity, it is the breeding ground for illegal gambling. People who attend these illegal rings do not just sit back and watch the two birds slice each other with their manmade cleavers that are tied to their legs. Often times, illegal betting is involved. With illegal betting, illegal drug use and sales are not far behind. There are so many negative effects stemming from cockfighting that the Legislature was correct to join the other 49 states in banning this inhumane activity. Unfortunately, of the 50 states, Hawaii has one of the weakest penalties when it comes to cockfighting (most states see it as a Felony while Hawaii sees it as a Misdemeanor). We cannot make it even weaker by allowing it as a cultural event.

I cannot see any benefit to allowing cockfighting as a cultural activity. As people become more civilized and humane, we begin to ban cruel and inhumane activities that cause harm and death to unwilling participants. Subjecting torture and death on living creatures so that a few people could get their kicks (be it for money or for the sheer enjoyment of watching another living thing die from torture) cannot be condoned by reasonable minds. Look at what happened to the sport of gladiators. Back then, slave owners forced their slaves to fight to their deaths to entertain their owners. It was a cultural activity then, but we don't do it anymore. Why? The reason is because people become wiser and more humane as time progresses, which is why Hawaii has decided to ban cockfighting.

I hope the Legislature will continue to move forward and to enact laws that will create a safer and more humane society.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,
SueLyn Tran

From: Patricia Reynolds [dcpatricia@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:18 PM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: Rep. Joey Manahan; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Roland Sagum; Rep. Isaac W. Choy; Rep. Lyla B. Berg; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. K. Mark Takai; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Glenn Wakai; Rep. Jessica Wooley; Rep. Barbara Marumoto; announcer@hawaiianhumane.org
Subject: PROTESTING of HCR 277 & HR 199

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

From: Patricia Reynolds... 665 Paopua Loop, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 261-3670

Please know I write to PROTEST the House Resolution HCR 277 that was introduced by three members of the House who noted that cockfighting is the national sport in the Philippines and a "cherished tradition in many cultures throughout the world," according to the resolution.

I draw to your attention the following.

Cockfighting is NOT a national past time in the United States of America!

State law classifies cockfighting as a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum of one year in prison and \$2,000 fine.

. Both of these House Resolutions 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 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.

I appreciate your attention and ask that all of you consider the importance of this bill advocating cruelty.

Joey Manahan repmanahan@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Keith Argana repkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov
Roland Saguum repsagum@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Issaac Choy repchoy@capitol.hawaii.gov
Lyla Berg repberg@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Cindy Evans repevans@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Angus McKelvey repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov
K.Mark Takai reptakai@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Clift Tsuji reptsuji@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Glenn Wakai repwakai@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Jessica Wooley repwooley@capitol.hawaii.gov
Barbara C. Marumoto repmarumoto@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha

A. Patricia Reynolds
665 Paopua Loop
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
Res: 808-261-3670
Cell: 808-479-1038

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Lisa Nagai [l_nagai@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:48 PM
To: TCItestimony; l_nagai@hotmail.com
Subject: Cockfighting

LATE TESTIMONY

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

This e-mail is to protest legalizing and/or minimizing the ban against cockfighting here in Hawaii. It has been said that an indication of how civilized a society is, is by how they treat the most defenseless and innocent citizens. This is not to say that animals are equal to humans. However, animals are at our mercy. It is important for our children to see that we adults treat all living things respectfully and humanely as possible. I think the "its for cultural reasons" argument can only go so far. In some cultures, it is legal to castrate women but does that justify doing that in America? In Korea, some believe that eating dogs will boost one's health but eating dogs are not acceptable here. I think that cockfighting not is only harmful to the animals but also introduces other illegal activities such as gambling.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Lisa Kwock
95-222 Kapanoe Place
Mililani, HI 96789

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tokioka1-Elijah

From: Lynn Donovan [lyndono40@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:52 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Resolution Numbers:HCR 277 & HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

Importance: High

Dear Representatives Joey Manahan, Chair and James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

My name is Lynn Donovan and I live at 51-140 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaaawa.
The time and date of the hearing: Monday, 3/29/10 at 9:30AM
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 and HR 199

I am concerned about these 2 resolutions. I feel cockfighting is very cruel and brutal! The gaffs that the birds must wear make the practice even more deadly. Gambling, drugs and other criminal activities are usually involved with cockfighting.

I strongly object to making this activity legal for cultural reasons. I don't want people who benefit from dogfighting and other activities that promote animal cruelty to request similar consideration.

I understand Hawaii is one of the worst states for weak penalties for cockfighting which is currently illegal. I recommend these resolutions be totally changed to strengthen penalties for this horrendously cruel activity which would show Hawaii's commitment to eliminating this brutal practice.

Thank you for considering my concerns about this issue.

Sincerely,
Lynn Donovan

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tokioka1-Elijah

From: Donald Matsumori [donaldmm@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 9:15 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HCR 277 & HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

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

I would like to protest against Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199 which support cockfighting as a cultural activity. As I see it, cockfighting is cruel and inhumane, and cannot be excused as a "cultural activity." Cruelty to animals tears the fabric of our civilization and should be banned rather than encouraged.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Matsumori
1234A St. Louis Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96816

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

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Donald Reynolds [donaldreynolds@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 9:19 PM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: Rep. Joey Manahan; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Roland Sagum; Rep. Isaac W. Choy; Rep. Lyla B. Berg; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. K. Mark Takai; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Glenn Wakai; Rep. Jessica Wooley; Rep. Barbara Marumoto; announcer@hawaiianhumane.org
Subject: FW: PROTESTING of HCR 277 & HR 199

Subject: PROTESTING of HCR 277 & HR 199

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

From: Donald Reynolds... 665 Paopua Loop, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 261-3670

Please know I write to PROTEST the House Resolution HCR 277 that was introduced by three members of the House who noted that cockfighting is the national sport in the Philippines and a "cherished tradition in many cultures throughout the world," according to the resolution.

I draw to your attention the following.

We are a nation – not just the State of Hawaii – of many ethnic groups; many of whom have some very disturbing customs. So is the justification for this horrendous activity simply because it is a “cherished tradition” in the Philippines? How absurd!

Should we allow Islamic families in the USA circumcise their daughters as they do in their home countries – just because it is their custom?

Should we allow men to divorce their wives by turning around 3 times in a circle – just because it is their custom?

Should we allow child labor because it is practiced in China – we have lots of Chinese in Hawaii – just because it is their custom?

Should we allow the raising of dogs for food just because it is practiced in the Philippines – just because it is their custom?

Should we allow polygamy just because in Africa and other countries – just because it is the custom?

Should we bar Asians of being citizens of USA just because they are not white or black – as it was the custom and law of the USA at one time. Should we have a people’s vote and go back to it if the majority wants it.

Should we be allowed to kill Jews as it was the custom in Germany in the 1930’s and 1940’s.

And: Cockfighting is NOT a national past time in the United States of America! WE HAVE GOTTEN PAST THAT BARBARIC PRACTICE. AS WE HAVE GOTTEN PAST SLAVERY AND NOT ALLOWING WOMEN TO VOTE – AND OF LOT OF OTHER STUPID LAWS AND RULES WERE PEOPLE ARE SUBJUGATED.

YES, I KNOW, WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ANIMALS. BUT IF YOU CAN JUSTIFY ONE ACTION BASED ON A “CULTURAL PASTIME” – WHERE DO WE STOP? WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS – EITHER OURSELVES OR OUR PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS (EVEN THE “HAWAIIANS” IMMIGRATED TO HAWAII) – WE CAME HERE AND WE ALL LEFT THE BAD BEHIND, AND WE NEED TO ALSO LEAVE THE CUSTOMS THAT THE MAJORITY OF

CITIZENS OF THE USA HAVE DEEMED OFFENSIVE BEHIND TOO. ELSE JUST GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND BE FREE TO PRACTICE ALL OF YOUR STUPID CUSTOMS IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY.

State law classifies cockfighting as a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum of one year in prison and \$2,000 fine.

. Both of these House Resolutions 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 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.

I appreciate your attention and ask that all of you consider the importance of this bill advocating cruelty.

Joey Manahan repmanahan@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Keith Argana repkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov
Roland Saguam repsagum@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Issaac Choy repchoy@capitol.hawaii.gov
Lyla Berg repberg@Capitol.hawaii.gov
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K.Mark Takai reptakai@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Clift Tsuji reptsuji@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Glenn Wakai repwakai@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Jessica Wooley repwooley@capitol.hawaii.gov
Barbara C. Marumoto repmarumoto@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Roxanne Darling [roxanne@barefeetstudios.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 9:23 PM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: Roxanne Darling; The Hawaiian Humane Society
Subject: Testimony: HCR 277 & HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. I appreciate that it once was a sport enjoyed by some, but surely we have reached a new level of understanding that this is far more animal cruelty than a reasonable form of human entertainment!

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

Please stop all forms of cock-fighting, and certainly do not expand it!

Aloha and Mahalo,

Roxanne
--
Roxanne Darling
808-384-5554
P O Box 596
Kailua HI 96734

Read Our Blog: <http://www.barefeetstudios.com>

000013

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Lavada Caldwell-Smith [vadarae@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:01 PM
To: TCtestimony
Subject: Cockfighting

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs.

Please do not make cockfighting legal or acceptable in this state. I have seen the young boys in my own neighborhood run after roosters and tie twine to their legs and make them fight. What kind of example is that for our children?

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 help stop this inhumane practice now.

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. Shame on us!

Mahalo for your support

- Lavada Caldwell-Smith 121A Cypress Ave Wahiawa
- Date & Time of Hearing: Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Jennifer M Ko [jko@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:14 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: I Protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

To whom it may concern:

I definitely protest Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. The Hearing for consideration is on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am. I feel that it is absurd and ridiculous to consider cockfighting as a Filipino sport. A slippery slope will be made if cockfighting is no longer considered to be cruel and inhumane. In Japan, it is also a tradition to eat Whales, however America has outlawed the very presence of Whale meat deeming it to be inhumane and not a delicacy. Another example, is China's tradition of eating dog . . . what about dog fighting?

The facts are that cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds to maximize injury. The 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 consider cockfighting as anything but absurdly inhumane! As a concerned citizen and member of society, I ask for your vote to be against Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ko
98-2019 Kipikua Street
Aiea, HI 96701

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Alex Weinstein [xwein@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:53 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Letter of testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Sirs: [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 which support cockfighting as a cultural activity in Hawaii. This is an illegal activity and cruel and inhumane. I have been an animal lover for 73 years and wish to join my name to the list of people, including members of The Hawaiian Humane Society, who are protesting these resolutions.

This is a barbarous activity. Cockfighting is illegal in the U.S. It also leads to other illegal activities. Those individuals who depend on the sport for their cultural fulfillment should travel to other countries where they can view it legally. Nevertheless, to my mind, it is not an acceptable activity anywhere because of its barbarous treatment of the cocks.

Please accept my testimony in this matter.

Respectfully submitted from Naomi T. Weinstein; 149 Makaweli St.; Honolulu, Hi.
Monday, March 29 at 9:30am
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Ginny [g2@hokua.org]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 2:04 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to HR 199 & HCR 277- Recognizing cockfighting as a cultural activity:
Monday, March 29,2010, 9:30am

To the Honorable Chair Manahan, Vice-Chair Tokioka,
House Committee on Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs,

LATE TESTIMONY

Cockfighting is a totally inhumane and heinous form of cruelty, inflicting immense suffering on living creatures who feel pain the way you and I do. To justify it by saying that it is a cultural activity (which many of my Filipino friends feel very insulted with that form of stereotyping) is as ridiculous as saying that we have to respect and accept some cultures who practice marrying 12 year olds, or who stone their wives if caught in adultery. This country welcomes and respects people of different races and cultures, as long as they are respectable practices. That is why we have laws- so that there are consequences for doing things for the wrong reasons. We all know that gambling plays a big factor in cockfighting. If you want to legalize gambling, then why don't you come right out and try to pass a bill to do so, and at least (as proponents of legalizing gambling argue) it would bring in much needed revenue for the state? The majority of the people of Hawaii are against legalized gambling because of the negative elements it brings in. The same can be said of the gambling and other illegal criminal activities that are part of cockfighting events. If one denies that this goes on and that it is just a form of entertainment, then isn't it just as bad to allow people to get their entertainment in such a debased way? Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, for very good reasons. Why do we want Hawaii to stand out as a state that wants to allow people (for whatever "reason") to practice such barbaric activity?

As representatives of the entire State of Hawaii, who were elected by the people of Hawaii, and NOT just a minority, I ask you to please use your conscience and your position of power to do the right and humane thing, and not succumb to the loud voices of a few.

Yours sincerely,
Ginny Tiu

tokioka1-Elijah

From: elizabeth mann [elizmann1430@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 1:51 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Resolution Numbers HCR 277 & 199

LATE TESTIMONY

To:

TCItestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

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

From:

Elizabeth Mann
84-825 Hanalei St.
Unit A2
Waianae, Hi. 96792

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

Dear Sirs,

I am protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and 199. Cockfighting is illegal in Hawaii as it is in all 50 States and should not in any way, shape or form be condoned, or promoted. Using "cultural activity" as an excuse is inexcusable. Let the "cultural activity" stay in the Philippines. We are the United States of America and we do not condone cruelty to animals of any kind nor should we.

Let me tell you about my personal experiences. Where I live, young kids run around the neighborhood with fighting cocks under their arms to have cock fights with their friends. The problem is that, to get these birds, they jump over people's fences, into their yards, to steal the birds. These kids are belligerent, antagonistic and have no respect for the law, demanding that you give up your chickens to them. My neighbor across the lane from me refused to give up their chicken and the kids threw a huge rock through their picture window late one night. You can go see it if you wish. It's Unit B, same address as mine. I told the kids to stop jumping into my yard to catch chickens and they smashed the window of my car one night. I have seen a young kid stomp a rooster to death right in front of me because it kept getting away from him and kept running toward me to try to get into my yard. These kids have stomped baby chicks to death as well. I cringe every time I think about it. Cock fighting and anything associated with it promotes cruelty to animals as well as to human beings. It promotes lawlessness and gambling and a lack of respect for life of any kind. If you were to walk with me along the sides of the road in Waianae you'd see the dead rotting carcasses of roosters tossed into the brush at the side of the road.

Prior to living in Waianae, I had the experience of being in close association with a group of men whose business was raising fighting cocks. I was actually on their property witnessing everything and everything included free flowing drugs and gambling. I also went to a cock fight at a secluded location to see for myself. How can anyone say that it isn't cruel to attach knives to the roosters so that one of them ends up dead or maimed? I was there to witness it all. Cultural activity? What a joke! Shame on anyone who tries to make torture sound OK. Besides the cruelty to the birds, people

have been murdered at these illegal cockfights. Cops have been corrupted covering up the locations of these illegal games. This is not a wholesome activity and never can be.

But my biggest concern is the young people who witness this abomination. Yes, there are children at these events. What kind of values do they grow up with? None. They become the law-breakers of the future. Children learn by example. This is not an example we should be passing on to the young people of Hawaii—that it's OK to torture animals, that it's OK to break the law. What we need are tougher laws against those who promote this illegal activity.

Please do not support cockfighting as a cultural activity. Cockfighting is illegal, cruel, and promotes crime. Let's keep Hawaii a safe place for people and animals. Hawaii does not need the trouble and bad press that will surely come if we allow any leniency for the illegal bloodsport of cockfighting.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mann

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Marshall T. Ingraham [mticpa@aloha.net]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 6:24 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Resolutions HCR 277 and HR199

LATE TESTIMONY

Rep Joey Manahan and Rep James Kunane Tokioka:

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of any resolution or legislation which attempts to justify cruelty to animals, which these resolutions do.

It is absolutely incredible to me that you folks in the legislature would even consider the above measures. We elect you to "do the the right thing" , give us positive leadership, and provide solid examples to us and our children of the proper way to live and treat all living creatures, whether they be human or animals. To attempt to justify cockfighting as "cultural" is simply wrong and represents a giant step backwards. It is a slap in the face to anyone who has even an ounce of common sense.

When today's hearing is done, I sincerely hope that this resolution finds its way to its proper destination -- the trash heap - - and that all of those who support are severely rebuked for attempting to condone or justify an activity that has no place in civilized society. If, however, these measures somehow pass, I will personally do all I can to "un-elect" anyone who gives any measure of support to their passage.

Sign me as an extremely angry voter that you're even considering this,

Marshall T. Ingraham

Marshall T. Ingraham
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

E-Mail: mticpa@aloha.net

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Michelle Chang [mchang@foodland.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 6:49 AM
To: TCtestimony
Subject: HCR 277 & HR199

Importance: High

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

LATE TESTIMONY

Make sure to include the following:

- Michelle M Chang
45-421 Pailaka Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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

Do not let this legislation pass! Cultural differences aside these birds need to live their lives as God intended and not let the human race make them a deadly sport where gambling and other illegal activities occur!

The culture that does this type of activity is not Hawaiian, therefore that argument does not hold water in our state.

Do not pass this legislation!

*Note: This message, including any attachments, contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should destroy this message, including any attachments. Any disclosure, copying or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Ken [sales@internationaltile.us]
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:43 PM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: Natalie Thompson
Subject: Cockfighting!!!

LATE TESTIMONY

To whom it may concern,

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
Birds cannot leave the ring, no matter how exhausted
or injured they become during the fight.
Cockfighting is illegal in many states and it should be
in every state.

Natalie Thompson
2223A Hoonee Pl.
Honolulu, HI. 96819

Hearing date: March 29th, 2010

Resolution #'s: HCR 277 & HR 199

Thank you,
Natalie Thompson

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Jacque LeBlanc [jacquelyn_leblanc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 7:36 AM
To: TCtestimony
Subject: testing

LATE TESTIMONY

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.

Jacque LeBlanc
480-B Mananai Place
Honolulu Hawii 96818

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Michelle Hamilton [michelle_n_hawaii@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 7:42 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Cockfighting testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Honorable Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and House Tourism, Culture and International Affairs Committee Members:

My name is Michelle Hamilton, I am a resident of Moililii and **strongly oppose Resolutions HR 199 and HCR 277** to recognize cockfighting as a cultural activity.

Cockfighting is a crime and is cruel and has no place in Hawaii or any civilized society.

Cockfighting also 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. For example, below are some recent cases of cockfighting 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).

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 strong opposition to these measures.

Michelle Hamilton
747 Hausten St Apt 2
Honolulu HI 96826
michelle_n_hawaii@hotmail.com

tokioka1-Elijah

From: LuLu Cey [lulu.cey@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 7:52 AM
To: TCltestimony
Subject: NO TO HCR 277 & HR 199.

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Representative Joey Manahan, Chair & Representative 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

My name is LuLu Cey and I reside at 95-1011 Kuauli Street Unit #134, Mililani, HI 96789.

I am against cockfighting because it is cruel and inhumane.

Just because an activity is cultural does not also mean it is humane. There are many cultural practices to rape women in tribes in Africa but this does not make it humane.

Please ban HCR 277 & HR 199. Thank you for your time & attention!

tokioka1-Elijah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 8:06 AM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: esmeralda002@hawaii.rr.com
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: Shelly Esmeralda
Organization: Individual
Address: 91-1034 Kaiohee St. Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: 689-3355
E-mail: esmeralda002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

This is state government approval of animal cruelty! Do not pass this bill!
"Cultural" practice does not mean that is right. Would you approval other
abhorrent cultural practices like female circumsion and the selling of children? You make it
sound like these law breakers are doing us a favor of strapping on razor gaffs to a chicken,
pumping them full of agression-causing hormones, only to have each chicken slash each other
until they bleed to death(if they're lucky). I've heard of horror stories from actual
witnesses that they don't bother to take off the gaff -- they take off the whole leg and dump
the chicken. It's a bloodsport, illegal and the law should be enforced to the utmost.
Animal violence desensitizes people to violence against people, too. How can children watch
such events cloaked in a carnival atmosphere (yes, it happens here)and be sympathetic to the
violence going on! Do not pass this cruel bill! It will be a dark day in Hawaii if ever such
a thing passes! Support animal rights, not cruelty -- Ghandi once said that you can tell a
lot about a society by how it treats its animals. This is ever so true in Hawaii nei, we are
a land of aloha, not cruelty.

Attention: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Tears of love for my family and friends.

I'm here to justify that cockfighting is a culture and has been for many years of many cultures including the Hawaiians.

It's highly embraced in Hawai'i by many people who are honorable persons of the community. Some people do not understand that it's been a way of life for many and they don't know anything else. Not to say they have any lack of respect for life, law or rights. It's just a way of life and embracing a once great activity that has horribly turned into a misunderstood evil. Many of us like myself have wonderful memories, family memories of cockfighting, believe it or not. There are many of us who want to keep these memories alive in the positive light and not the negative one that a lot of people have misunderstood cockfighting to be.

Cockfighting back in the old Hawai'i was not illegal. When the missionaries arrived in the islands they persuaded kingdom law to recognize gaming as illegal. The community that does not understand the culture of cockfighting needs to realize that cockfighting became corrupted by individuals who decided to use it as a venue to deal drugs. But we have drug dealing and gambling linked to every other sport you can think of but have not been made into such a huge deal because football, horse racing and boxing, to name a few, are not considered illegal. What if they were?

Hula at one time was banned from the Hawaiians and became an underground activity for its so-called "pornographic" nature but was kept alive by those who believed in it. Can you imagine if we had no hula?

Cockfighting was never banned in Hawai'i. Cockfighting has become misunderstood and misrepresented.

I am a man with integrity and pride. I consider myself to be a positive contributor to the community. There are many people like me who can relate to what I am talking about. In my 56 years of seeing actual chicken fights I have not once witnessed drug use or drug transactions. The people who attend the chicken fights I have attended are all people like me, honest hard-working and genuinely good people with a great passion for chickens. In a 2002 article in the Maui newspaper there was a year-long surveillance of cockfights and during that time, quoted by officer Kiyoto of the Maui police, officers didn't observe illegal drug transactions at the cockfights "but there were known drug people that attended."

Yes, cockfighting is a part of the Filipino culture, as it is in many. You are sadly mistaken when you say there is no evidence that it's not part of the Hawaiian culture. You obviously do not know your Hawaiian history. The rooster, or moa, was used as many ancient Hawaiians amakuas — they strongly believed that these true warriors should be as advantageous as the rooster. The alii used a feather headdress or mahiole, which is like the comb of the cock. Their weaponry, the kakal or spur was used in battle, and mannerism in battle were all the same as a rooster as well. On the Big Island you can find actual archaeological sites today and see pens or the chicken pens that chickens were kept in and trained in, in the area of the most noted alii, "Uni."

000027

They are still located on maps, and in fact, on the state reservation maps. So there is physical evidence that chickens were a part of traditional Hawaiian society.

Palolo Valley on O'ahu which we call today, Pua Kaaui or Kaaui Crater, is named after that famous rooster who is an ancestral guardian of the alii fighting class. There is so much to the history of the rooster and cockfighting that stems to the great Kamehameha which denoted his great warrior spirit.

This is something that the warrior and the rooster should be known for and not its abused outcome of drugs and gaming. I ask you to look up great historians like David Mao, Abraham Fornanda, Kama Kao and Hoi Pio who wrote text in the 1800s; you can find sections of Paa'ani or Mea Paa'ani at play or leisure and game.

As far as good ole Abe. I know that honest Abe was a chicken fighting referee. Not a picture perfect ending for some. But hey, he lived in the forest surrounded by wildlife and game-chicken fighting wasn't illegal then.

You make the decision. God bless their souls. My sons, father-in-law and uncle requested to have chicken sculptures on their headstones because other than their family that's all they knew.

Chickens were a way of life.

• *Harvey Garcia, Kalaheo, KAUAI, HI.*

Harvey Garcia

000028

Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs
Dear Honorable Chair Manahan
Members of the committee
Support of - HCR 277 & HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

As of 38 yrs ago, (1972) Maui County Council has Certified and Adopted
Resolution # 45.

Requesting the Recognition, Preservation and Acceptance
of Cockfighting in the State of Hawaii as a Cultural Heritage.

I ask only for your openness and respect towards our commitment and love for our
deeply-rooted Hawaiian Cultural Heritage. Which is well-documented. reference to
Hoo-Haka-Moa (Cockfighting) in "Hawaiian Antiquities" by David Malo, Bernice
Bishop Museum, Special Publication 2, Second Edition, Chapter 53, Page230.

I fully understand HCR277 & HR199, does not legalize our Culture Sport, but merely
de- stigmatizes it. I feel any step of progress, is definitely a big step in the right direction.
I strongly urge your support of HCR 277 & HR 199.

Aloha & Mahalo
Ke Akua

Alton De Gama

PH 250-4291

Cockfighting

The actual act of cockfighting is a really small part of the raising our
gamecocks. But it's a minuscule part of the gamecock, an essential part.
And it's definitely a combination of all the efforts too. Also when you
consider the amount of time 2 to3 years that has been spent nurturing them,
from the egg to maturity, and then only after thoughtful consideration is
given, to their health, abilities an potential, are they chosen to go through
another test, the pre-keep and conditioning cycle, that is 3 to 4 weeks before
they are selected to enter the keep. The final part of their preparation with
special feed and moisture control is given. At this point only the best we feel
that are ready, will be selected to have the opportunity to fight for their
lives, or dieing trying, of clinical death that will take from ten to twenty
seconds, then you realize that the fighting part is a minor part of the whole
ritual and cultural tradition

This is to protest Bills Bill Number:

HI HCR 277/HR 199 & HCR 217/HR 146

LATE TESTIMONY

And shame – shame for Bill Sponsor (s):

Rep. Joey Manahan (D, 29)

Rep. Roland Sagum (D, 16)

Cockfighting is animal cruelty –To allow it as a culture acceptance is unacceptable. Hawaii has a diverse society, but in order for all of us to get along, we must reach for the positives within each of our cultures and rid ourselves of any cruelty towards animals, and people.

I am ashamed that anyone would try to use their position like Rep. Joey Manahan (D, 29) & Rep. Roland Sagum (D, 16) to pass HI HCR 277/HR 199 & HCR 217/HR 146 under the disguise as a culture right. Malarkey!

If this bill passes, then there should be an investigation with it, as we all know that gambling is big business at the cockfighting events. How unique to try to pass this bill as a culture absurdity when we all know the real reason to allow this, is to allow gambling at the cost of these animals which is animal cruelty.

If anything, there should be a bill to prevent these animals from being tied up with a string, as they should be behind protective fencing.

Again, born of these islands, I protest any bill like this that subjects any form of cruelty to animals and to humans.

Frances Pueo, P.O. Box 943, Mt. View, Hi 96771 (808) 968-8279

000030

tokioka1-Elijah

From: mmokinaka@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 8:28 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: NO to HCR 277 & HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Please do NOT pass the above referenced resolution to cockfighting as a cultural activity.

We, as a State, especially the Aloha State, should not give credence to killing of any kind. What are we saying about ourselves, as people, if we allow this resolution to pass?

It may be a culturally accepted activity in the Philippines, however it is not here in Hawaii--it's illegal. I don't even understand why this topic should even be open to discussion.

Sincerely,

Mary Okinaka

411 Hobron Lane #713
Honolulu, HI 96815

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

Rep. Lyla B. Berg	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Cindy Evans	Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. K. Mark Takai	

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 29, 2010
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY. HCR 277

Aloha my name is Lynn DeCoite and I am the largest sweet potato farmer in the state of Hawaii, and a supporter of HCR 277. To understand my point of view these animals are bred to fight. Organizations such as the Humane Society have come to Hawaii to change the face of our culture. Some for the good and some for the bad. But there are certain things that have a limit such as cockfighting. It is cultural, that reigns back to the time of Kamehameha. This organization will **alter** the Hawaiian culture. The Humane Society will come in and utinize the animals which actually means they are killing them. The old saying goes, allow nature to take its course. These animals will fight with out humans that is there common nature. Humans have altered some many things in the world that we have become our worst enemies. That has been linked to climate change. If we keep making to many changes we will destroy ourselves, and the life forms that exist around us.

As a farmer on Molokai I use these animals to also eat the bugs in my field so I don't need to spray and I also free range them to use there manure for fertilizer. It helps me to push for going green in a safe environment and utilizing these chickens for my farm. I believe the Humane Society is a good organization and what it does for other things. But this is one matter that they need to leave alone. Because without these chickens being around and the many that raise them if we do not support them, you can believe farmers will be affected by this. Many of us buy our fertilizers and irrigation supplies from Hikiola a cooperative where it is affordable. One because we depend on these cockfighters that buy feed, we buy all the supplies in bulk and than containerize and ship to our island. The feed accounts for 35% of the income. If we take the factor out. Jobs

000032

will be lost and farms will continue to shut down it will be a crippling effect across the state. Do we really want to do that.

For those reasons I support HCR 277.

Thanks you for allowing me to submit testimony.

Mahalo,
Lynn DeCoite

000033

tokioka1-Elijah

From: MLOBrien02@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 9:13 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: cockfighting

LATE TESTIMONY

Hearing Monday March 29 and 9:30 am
Resolution Number HCR 277 and HR 199

Gambling is an issue that needs to be addressed on its own. Gambling using live creatures to see which one can abuse the other the most is totally cruel and inhumane. I hope you can prevent this event from continuing. Live creatures should not have to be abused for the amusement of people.

Mary Louise O'Brien
44-686 Kahinani Place
Kaneohe HI 96744

tokioka1-Elijah

From: D'Arcy Kerrigan [darcy@homesbythesea.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 8:54 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HCR 277 & HR 199

LATE TESTIMONY

Categories: Red Category

From; D'Arcy Kerrigan
1016 Kapahulu Ave. # 200
Honolulu, HI 96816

Re; HCR 277 & HE 199

Unbelievable 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, especially when animal abuse is involved.

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.
D'Arcy Kerrigan
darcy@homesbythesea.com
808-371-5123 cell

March 29, 2010

late

The Honorable Representative Joey Manahan
Chair,
House Committee on Culture, Toursim and International Affairs
State Capital.

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199

My name is Valerie Trotter and I am testifying in opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199. I've been a resident of Hawaii for over 50 years and I have family who have enjoyed the cultural experiences of cockfighting but I personally oppose this and urge this committee to oppose these resolutions.

I'd like the committee to consider these points of information:

1. Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane.
2. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the legs of the birds for maximum injury
3. Birds are imprisoned in the ring no matter how injured or exhausted they are
4. Gambling, drugs, homicide and other illegal criminal activities are connected to cockfighting
5. While cockfighting occurred for centuries in other countries, it is illegal in all 50 states and in 36 it is a felony

Please consider holding these resolutions in committee.

Respectfully,



Valerie L. Trotter
2802 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 9822

000036

late

March 29 2010

Representative Joey Manahan and

Members of the committee on Culture, Tourism and International Affairs

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 277 and HR 199
9:30 a.m. Monday March 29 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Viola Moon. I'm a lifelong resident of Hawaii and very familiar with the customs of our local people. My children have married into families who love cockfighting as a sport. I for one abhor the sport as to its cruelty to animals.

I am a veterinarian assistant and I have witnessed the damage to birds and I find it unacceptable in todays world , I don't want to see my grandchildren dragged off to these game places not knowing what impact that would have on there young innocent lives,

Please do not remove the restrictions on cockfighting. It's a custom that needs to stop completely if we are to protect our young children,

I am a grandmother of 9 and I hope you will take this under consideration

Respectfully,



Viola L. Moon

2802 Oahu Avenue

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

000037

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Mary D. Duryea [mary@duryea-cpa.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:02 AM
To: Rep. Cynthia Thielen; TCItestimony
Subject: HCR 277 and HR 199

late testimony

Dear Representatives,

I recently became aware of legislation which would give approval to cockfighting as culturally acceptable. Cultural acceptance of an activity does not make it right. There was a time when it was culturally accepted to segregate black people and to physically hurt them. For the KKK it was culturally acceptable. However, it wasn't right. It is now illegal.

Cockfighting is ALREADY illegal. To allow it as culturally acceptable is a step in the wrong direction. When we start giving a approval to activities which hurt other beings, human or animal, we are going backwards. Our government protects both humans and animals from abuse, cruelty, and inhumane treatment. Cockfighting is all of the above. The animals are made to fought until an animal is injured to the point it cannot fight or is dead. Then when they are no longer of use (income producing), they are tossed aside to suffer. If we did that to a common household pet, like a dog or cat, we would be jailed. Why should that be different for these animals?

Further, it is a commonly know fact that many other criminal activities surround cock fighting. If cockfighting is legalized, it is likely to drastically increase the other criminal activities surrounding cockfighting rings. We should be improving our communities and reducing crimes like the drug use and other illegal activities that surround cock fighting.

I urge you to stop this legislation from passing.

Mahalo,
Mary

Mary D. Duryea

387A Kaelepulu Dr.

Kailua, HI 96734

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Carole Hagihara on behalf of EBMtestimony
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:10 AM
To: TCtestimony
Subject: FW: Protest against Bill HCR277/HR199 &HCR217/HR146 Cockfighting is animal cruelty!

Sent to EBM Testimony email box.

late testimony

From: owlit@netzero.net [mailto:owlit@netzero.net]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 8:06 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: viviansuet@hotmail.com
Subject: Protest against Bill HCR277/HR199 &HCR217/HR146 Cockfighting is animal cruelty!

This is to protest Bills **Bill Number:**

HI HCR 277/HR 199 & HCR 217/HR 146

And shame – shame for Bill Sponsor (s):

Rep. Joey Manahan (D, 29)
Rep. Roland Sagum (D, 16)

Cockfighting is animal cruelty –To allow it as a culture acceptance is unacceptable. Hawaii has a diverse society, but in order for all of us to get along, we must reach for the positives within each of our cultures and rid ourselves of any cruelty towards animals, and people.

I am ashamed that anyone would try to use their position like Rep. Joey Manahan (D, 29) & Rep. Roland Sagum (D, 16) to pass HI HCR 277/HR 199 & HCR 217/HR 146 under the disguise as a culture right. Malarkey!

If this bill passes, then there should be an investigation with it, as we all know that gambling is big business at the cockfighting events. How unique to try to pass this bill as a culture absurdity when we all know the real reason to allow this, is to allow gambling at the cost of these animals which is animal cruelty.

If anything, there should be a bill to prevent these animals from being tied up with a string, as they should be behind protective fencing.

Again, born of these islands, I protest any bill like this that subjects any form of cruelty to animals and to humans.

Frances Pueo, P.O. Box 943, Mt. View, Hi 96771 (808) 968-8279

000039

Late testimony

**Testimony before the House Committee on Culture, Tourism and
International Affairs.**

HCR 277 and HR 199: Supporting the Recognition of Cockfighting as a Cultural
Activity.

Monday, March 29, 2010 – 9:30 am
By: Roxie Flynn

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and members of the committee:

I am writing to 'Strongly Oppose' Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199 which support cockfighting as a cultural activity.

Although it may be considered "cultural" in another areas, I strongly disagree with it being considered cultural here in Hawaii. Our own King Kalakaua, the founding member of the Hawaiian Humane Society, outlawed cockfighting back in 1884. It was not part of the Hawaii culture then & it shouldn't be considered so now.

Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, it is a cruel, inhumane practice that allows birds to use metal knife spurs on each other, all for the sport of mankind. It's a horrible sport, altering what may come natural to the birds by adding life threatening weapons to them, making them fight basically until death and majority of them getting tossed out & left to suffer after the fights. Connected to many of these activities are gambling, drugs and criminal activities.

No, I believe Hawaii should not consider this as a 'cultural' activity. I strongly oppose Resolutions HCR 277 & HR 199.

Thank you for taking this testimony into consideration.

000040

Amy Luke

From: Patrick Gould [gould.patrick@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:59 AM
To: TCltestimony
Subject: Please Oppose HCR 277 and HR 199

Lake testimony

To the Committee:

Cockfighting is a cruel and inhumane activity that cannot be excused or justified based on cultural "traditions". This is a moral issue with absolute terms associated. It is highly immoral to support activities that promote and encourage animal cruelty. To suggest that it is natural and part of the establishment of the pecking order is absurd. These birds do not attach metal talons and blades in the wild and fight in caged conditions.

I sincerely hope it is not too late and you do what is morally correct and right.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gould

LATE TESTIMONY

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Bianca Trombi [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 9:13 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HRC 277 & HR 199

Late

My name is Bianca Trombi. I am currently living in Waikiki at the Kalakauan. When I heard that the bills HCR 277 & HR 199 were up for review at the hearing on Monday, March 29 at 9:30am.

Cockfighting is cruel and inhumane. Metal knife spurs called gaffs are attached to the leg 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.

These are just a few points why everyone should appose these two bills. 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.

Thank you,

Bianca Trombi

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

Rep. Lyla B. Berg	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Cindy Evans	Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. K. Mark Takai	

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 29, 2010
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capito:
415 South Beretania Street

LATE TESTIMONY

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY.
HCR 277

Hi my name is Ronald M. Rapanot Jr. and I am the President of the Molokai Gamefowl Association, and we support HCR 277. We strongly believe that is one resolution in the right direction. For the many on Molokai we have practice this culture for generations, yet the Humane Society a mainland found entity comes to Hawaii to make changes base on their terrorist beliefs. We recognize all cultures that practice this sport. We are hard working American tax payers and we support the cultural practice. We are not crooks or organizations that use tax payers and are right now being investiagated for illegal use of tax payers monies.

Gamefowl by nature are bred to fight. Why do we continue to interfere with nature we need to let takes its course. For those reasons the Molokai Gamefowl Associtaion supports HCR 277.

Thanks you for allowing me to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Ronald M. Rapanot Jr, President

000043

Late

tokioka1-Elijah

From: Emily Armijos [earmijos@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 9:15 AM
To: TCItestimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Emily Armijos
92-107 Kohea Way
Kapolei, HI 96707
Monday March 29, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
Resolution Numbers: HCR 277 & HR 199

To You, the People who believe that placing innocent animals into circumstances that will leave them dead or seriously injured is acceptable:

Perhaps humans have evolved so far from their origins in the animal kingdom that it may seem impossible that we were ever once a part of that. But regardless of this and regardless of whether or not you believe in evolution or creationism, the most crucial factor in the matter of this argument is this: pain, bloodshed, humanity or the lack thereof and the value of life and death are universal to any living creature-- humans and animals alike. So it never fails to alarm me that there are humans who are so arrogantly negligent of how cruel and inhumane the act of cockfighting is.

This "sport" is a bloody, violent act of malice that is, despite people's claims to its cultural components, absolutely unnecessary and uncalled for. Having been born and raised here in the islands, Hawaii's rare and beautiful mix of ethnicities has always been a beautiful testimony of its culturally tolerant spirit of Aloha. But it is absolutely shameful and degrading to think that there are others who, quite primitively, promote and argue that the vicious act of pitting animals whose legs are strapped with knife spurs, also known as "gaffs" also known as razor sharp blades is acceptable. Although the act of cockfighting may be a natural behavioral pattern for these animals, humans who participate in the sport have turned something natural into an unnatural, bloody, cruel, unnecessary form of gore for sheer entertainment. How disgusting to think that some people believe they have the right to utilize the lives of other living creatures for their own sick and twisted enjoyment. The fact that these animals are left to fight to their death is exemplary of how little respect cock fighters have for another creature's life; dead animals or animals injured too badly to continue to fight but are not yet dead are left, like garbage, to suffer.

Which brings me to this point: Consider the kind of being who believes the act of cockfighting is acceptable. Although it'd be wrong to stereotype or judge the people who partake in the promotion of this animal cruelty, it is absolutely undeniable that this sport encourages brutality, violence and is associated with other controversial forms of behavior like illegal gambling, drug involvement and even homicide. And while I can not judge the beings who partake in cock fighting, I will most definitely not hesitate to judge their actions and neither should anyone else be afraid to embrace the idea that cock fighting is in no way a form of cultural practice but instead a ridiculous, evil excuse for bloodshed, brutality and violence. Let us not overlook what the real situation is beneath the act of cockfighting-- it is a scary practice that promotes violence, criminal behavior, bloodshed, and is a blatant demonstration of a lack of respect for the value of life. Is this really what the culture of the islands stands for? I'd hardly think so and I'd imagine arguing otherwise should prove difficult.

Emily Armijos
English Major, University of Hawaii at Manoa

808.542.0764

000044

Amy Luke

Late testimony

From: Coralie Vellis [coralie@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:40 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: testing

As a keiki o ka Aina, please make cock fighting illegal. It is an inhumane act and as human beings should repulse us all. Filipinos have many wonderful traditions--
Cockfighting should NOT BE ONE OF THEM. Mahalo and Aloha, Mrs. Demetrius John Vellis

Amy Luke

late testimony

From: Dottie Prideaux [dmp@rsmhawaii.net]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:38 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: testing

Sir
I think cock fighting is CRUEL and we should ban it from our society. (also including dog fighting and any other cruel acts to animals) Please Please do what you can to stop this.
Sincerely

Dorothy M. Prideaux

1100 Kaimoku Place

Honolulu Hawaii 96821

808-373-3344

Cell Phone 808-368-7747

C00046

Amy Luke

late testimony

From: Donna Whitaker [exec.dir@hihs.org]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:27 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HCR 277 and HR 199

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

Hearing Date & Time - Monday, March 29, 2010

Resolution Numbers - HCR 277 & HR 199

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in protest to HCR 277 & HR 199 . 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 important facts about 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.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Donna Whitaker

Hawaii Island Humane Society

Donna Whitaker

Executive Director

Hawaii Island Humane Society

808-329-8002

808-329-7375 Fax

000047

Amy Luke

From: Bonnie Osaki [bosaki@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 12:14 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Protesting Resolutions HCR 277 and HR 199.

Luke testimony MI

Importance: High

Honorable Chair and Representative Joey Manahan and Honorable Vice Chair and Representative James Kunane Tokioka,

I am in protest of both HCR277 and HR 199. Both ignore the fact that cockfighting is already illegal and attempt to justify a cruel and inhumane blood sport and 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 inhumane and cruel. We would not want such a sport done to enslaved humans – why would we justify this for another living creature? Please do NOT pass either resolution.

With respect,
Bonnie Lee Osaki
801 S King Street, #2208
Honolulu, HI 96813

~~~~~  
Bonnie Osaki  
Education Coordinator, Hawaiian Humane Society  
2700 Waialae Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
Direct line: (808) 356-2206  
FAX: (808) 955-6034  
[www.hawaiianhumane.org](http://www.hawaiianhumane.org)  
~~~~~

000048

Amy Luke

From: Susy Chillingworth Ruddle [schill@hawaiiseaadventures.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 1:06 PM
To: TCtestimony
Subject: testing

late testimony

As a teenager growing up in Honolulu I was present at a cockfighting game near Makapu'u. I was with some guys that I was hanging around trying to be cool. The fighting between roosters was horrible to witness but the feeling of being involved with the "underworld" that encourage such barbaric acts was very scary. I cannot imagine that anything good could or ever would come out of bringing back a "cultural" event that our own King Kalakaua deemed illegal over one hundred years ago. It seems someone is trying to hide the word "cruel" behind the word "cultural". Imua the mindset! Susy Chillingworth Ruddle

000049

ALOHA,

My Name is Joseph Nozawa, Retired
STATE worker, ~~AND~~ FARMER, AND 4th generation
Cockfighter. My children and grandchildren ARE
5th and 6th generation gamefowl enthusiasts.

I'm here in support of ~~Bill~~ ^{Resolution} # 277 AS I ~~AM~~ Feel
gamefowl and the fighting of gamefowl are a part
of my heritage, and growing up here in Hawaii also
makes it a cultural tradition. I've ~~kept~~ kept my
children, as well as many troubled neighborhood children
out of trouble, by getting ^{them} involved with the
raising and caring for gamefowl. I consider myself
just a backyard operation, but have still managed
to contribute modest resources to various youth
programs in need, because of my association ^{with} gamefowl.

I know the police will say cockfights are
a breeding ground for drug crimes. Like in all walks
of life there are always a few bad apples that
taint activities or give it a bad name. But in
cockfights drug activity is not the norm, nor
is any other violence. Cockfighters do their best
to keep their sport clean. Though it is still, at
this time illegal. From January to June every year
since the time anyone here was born somewhere
on every island there are several cockfights. Can
anyone here remember the last time or
anytime they read the paper or watched 000050

Joe Moore Report of ~~the~~ Violence, Fights, Shootings
STABBINGS AT a Cockfight. Because there aren't
any. For the most part Cockfighters respect
each other and there, part time.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SAYS COCKFIGHTING IS
Cruel. THATS A matter opinion. Everyday you go
shopping, you Buy meat products, eggs etc. Our Cows
pigs, Chickens, Fish all might THINK ITS Cruel
THE way THERE Slaughtered, So THAT YOU CAN
EAT. Eggs, have you ever seen how Laying chickens
are kept in a small 2'x2' square metal cage with
THE lights ON 24 hours a day so she can lay
more eggs. Then after a year hauled OFF in a
Truck to be killed. But THIS Type of Cruelty is
accepted. So I say ACCEPT THE COCKFIGHTING. A
Gamecock enjoys what he does, if he didn't he
could simply Fly away. My gamefowl are very
well taken care of and I would like to
have THE Right to keep enjoying THEM.