

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**MARCH 2, 2023**  
**2:30 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 576, HD1**  
**RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 576, HD1 requires the department of land and natural resources and department of agriculture to collaborate on feral chicken management projects. Appropriates funds. The Department of Agriculture opposes this bill and provides comments.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is able to consult and provide technical information to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, or other agencies, such as restricted use products however, HDOA does not have the resources to support operational or field work activities for these types of animal control projects. Animal control is better accomplished by the counties because it is under their jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3391 FAX: (808) 768-1591  
<http://www.honolulu.gov>

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR

DEREK T. MAYESHIRO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

**SUBJECT: H.B. 576 H.D. 1 - Relating To Feral Chicken Management**  
**HEARING: Thursday, March 2, 2023, 2:30 p.m.**

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) strongly supports this bill and offers comments.

The increase of feral chickens is a concern for all residents in Hawaii. Not only do their crows disrupt sleep, but their foraging damages our landscapes, both public and private, spreading invasive weeds and crippling native plants. Furthermore, their droppings create health hazards for residents, their pets, and species.

Feral chickens are a statewide problem. As such, CSD is more than willing to provide it's support and input for this bill and the development of solutions; however, we suggest that comprehensive programs to manage the feral chicken population should be present in all counties and would be most effectively be administered by the State. Oversight at a statewide level will provide for consistency during implementation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 576 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Hashiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:41:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ARH supports HUMANE feral chicken control such as contraception in feed. We strongly oppose lethal control.

Mahalo

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 6:06:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter Donaldson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree that feral chickens (Red Junglefowl, Gallus gallus) can be noisy and may cause some other problems. However, I don't see how enacting this bill into law will help. I would oppose spending Hawaii state funds on this issue without more specific information on how the funds would be spent and how that spending would help. Perhaps the state could fund more research on this issue.

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:46:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Beekman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I live in Aiea (Waimalu) and the feral chickens are numerous, loud and annoying. The crowing is not just at the break of dawn, it goes on throughout the day. They hop the fence at my home and eat my garden vegetables before I can.

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 6:53:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kirk Southcott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Its extremely disturbing to have roosters calling out to one another all night long waking us up. There are 3 in our neighborhood that spent most of their day in the drainage channel but them roost at night in peoples properties and trees. We saw kids come and catch them last year which was great it was quiet for a time but they have moved back in. We need to get this under control before it gets out of control like it is on Kauai.

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 7:57:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Streitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for taking action to address the feral chicken infestations throughout the islands, which are particularly concerning in our urban areas. This problem can be managed through thoughtful legislation and funding for eradication.

Although this bill specifically acknowledges feeding the homeless as a potential secondary benefit of the program, livestock feed could be another option, particularly if the quality of the captured chickens is not suitable for human consumption.

The bill's appropriation for a full-time specialist is critical. Dedicated staff allows for full attention on this growing problem. Staff can help with obtaining funding, identifying priority spots, education, facilitating a hunting program, and if time, assisting with trapping. However, please ensure there is sufficient funding to not only study the matter but also undertake eradication efforts right away, such as testing out approaches through pilot programs. There is no time to waste between legislative sessions on these efforts.

I appreciate this bill proposing creative ways to address the feral chicken population. In the spirit of this thoughtfulness, please also consider incorporating the following items:

- Utilize/mobilize free help by making it easier for do-it-yourselfers (DIYers):
  - Loan traps. Preference is not to charge a deposit so traps are more accessible and people don't have to worry about stolen or damaged traps costing them money. Accompanying legislation should make stiff penalties for stealing, tampering with, or damaging traps.
  - Drop-off locations. It is critical to provide the public free drop-off locations so people who catch feral chickens on their own don't let them become someone else's problem (e.g., residents catching chickens and dropping them off in another neighborhood's parks, which then also spread into the neighborhood). The Humane Society previously accepted feral chickens on Oahu, but not anymore. This may be one of the biggest contributors to the recent spread of feral chickens in previously uninfested neighborhoods.
  - Allow hunting on state property (e.g., parks). A permitting system could allow just pellet guns and bow/arrow, with a required safety course.
    - Legislation should remove legal liabilities affecting DIYers and remove any protected status of feral chickens so people don't have to worry if shooting a nuisance chicken. Hunting is not the same as animal cruelty

and should be clarified. Hunting will probably be a last resort, after requesting government services or attempting to trap on own, but traps don't always work and owners shouldn't be expected to find/pay for costly services for a common problem (crossing property lines) that falls upon government to deal with.

- Make interfering with feral chicken removal a crime, including tampering with traps (letting caught chickens out, damaging equipment) and harassing people trying to trap, regardless of whether they're a DIYer, contractor, or government employee.
- Remove feral chicken legal loopholes (where people can just say chickens are feral and don't have to do anything) and clarify responsibilities:
  - Require landowners to allow trappers on their property, if offered, or do it themselves within a certain timeframe. Otherwise, classify the chickens as de facto pets subject to noise laws and containment in a coop. This allows the City/State or neighbors to force action, while providing an option that removes financial burden from the owner.
  - Make it illegal to feed feral chickens, unless trying to trap (must prove by showing active trap to officer). Feeding attracts and retains the nuisance, while making it more difficult for those trying to trap them.
- Prioritize contractor funding to focus on hard-to-catch chickens (e.g., chickens that won't go in a cage). This will also cut down on the need for people to take things into their own hands via hunting as a last resort.



**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:28:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pandurangasayi Nuti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feral chickens are a major problem. Some neighbors keep them and they migrate into other properties causing property damage, continuous noise and unchecked proliferation. My property located in Pacific Palisades (1133 Awahiwa Street) is in particular is an agriculturally zoned one mostly covered by a forest with hilly topography. It is impossible to control the chickens migrated from neighbor's property. It is absolutely important for me to get rid of these feral chickens as they are very disruptive to our normal life in particular at night. I would welcome and appreciate the state putting measures in place to control or eliminate the feral chickens from our neighborhood and from our properties. I support the bill wholeheartedly.

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:58:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Rod	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Sir:

I support this bill in its intent to regulate and control the feral chicken population that has become an established nuisance and now health concern in the Momilani residential area. Besides all the daily raucous we endure, the flies, and now.... the droppings...which may be deadly to pets ( my dog was severely ill what is speculated to be caused by chicken droppings).

It is known that the feral chickens have a sanctuary in Momilani where they breed without fear. This area is observable and can be seen in the early morning and at twilight. That area is on State health department property on the corner of Hookiekie and Waimano Homes road. I have taken photos of their emergence to and from the courtyard. From there they come in broods and populate our residential homes in search of food and a secondary roost.

I offer my presence should you wish to meet and validate this one source of this feral chicken problem.

Aloha...

Bob Rod

502 Hoomoana St.

808-383-0800

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:50:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feral chickens are big and ever growing problem. They are an all-hours noise nuisance, traffic hazard, and present an uncontrolled bird flu risk.

**HB-576-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2023 8:48:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edmund Pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The feral chicken problem is getting worse. The big issue is that the rooster crow early in the morning and don't stop. Even when you chase them away, they come back the next day at 4:30am.