

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

MARCH 29, 2023
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 110
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, TO COLLABORATE TO
ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A FIVE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO MITIGATE AND
CONTROL THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE POPULATION OF FERAL
CHICKENS AND ROOSTERS.

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

HCR 110 Requests the Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the County of Hawaii, to collaborate to establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens and roosters. The pilot program is to begin in the areas of Moanalua, Kalihi, Kalaeloa, and Kapolei in the City and County of Honolulu and the Puna area in the County of Hawaii, and the Department of Agriculture is requested to submit an interim report regarding the five-year pilot program to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular session of 2026, and a final report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular session of 2028. The Department of Agriculture opposes this resolution and offers comments.



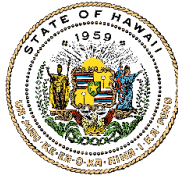
HCR 110 also requires: 1. The five-year pilot program is to provide free traps to members of the public to capture the feral animals; 2. Collect traps containing the captured feral animals; and 3. Return of empty traps to the members of the public.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is able to consult and provide technical information to other agencies, such as restricted use products however, HDOA does not have the personnel or financial resources to support operational or field work activities for these types of animal control projects. Providing, collecting and returning traps, and disposition of captured animals is costly and labor intensive. In addition, nuisance and threat from feral chickens primarily involve urban areas. Consequently, the Department of Agriculture should not be selected to manage this project. Animal control is best accomplished by the counties because it is under their jurisdiction and the counties can objectively target urban areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 110/HOUSE RESOLUTION 116
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, TO COLLABORATE
TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A FIVE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO
MITIGATE AND CONTROL THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE POPULATION
OF FERAL CHICKENS AND ROOSTERS.**

House Concurrent Resolution 110/House Resolution 116 recognize that feral chickens and roosters, and pigs have become a nuisance in suburban and urban areas, and their populations and impacts are increasing. It requests the Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the County of Hawaii to collaborate to establish and implement a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control feral chickens, roosters, and pigs. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department controls populations of feral chickens (including hens and roosters) and pigs on lands under its jurisdiction, with a heavy emphasis on fencing forested lands to prevent deforestation and the spread of invasive plant species and Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) from pigs and other hoofed animals. However, the Department does not have the capacity to implement nuisance chicken and pig control on private and county lands. The Department believes efforts to suppress feral chicken and pig populations in suburban and urban areas are best led by the respective counties. The Department notes that rats, cats and mongooses pose an even larger threat to native and endangered forest birds, seabirds, shorebirds, and migratory birds as they eat adult

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

birds, chicks, and eggs, and their range is from the shoreline all the way up into the upland forests. There are examples of entire native bird colonies in Hawai'i being killed by a single cat.

Cats also pose a particular threat to native species in Hawai'i as their feces carries a parasite that carries the disease toxoplasmosis - a leading cause of death in the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Toxoplasmosis quickly causes inflammation and organ failure in Hawaiian monk seals. When it rains, stormwater picks up toxoplasmosis from dissolved cat feces in yards, streets, sidewalks, drainage canals, and in nature and empties into the ocean waters surrounding the islands. Twenty percent (20%) of households in Hawai'i own cats, and half of those cat-owning households allow their cats outside, which means that their feces plus the feces of stray cats, is impacting the marine environment through rain runoff. Toxoplasmosis is in the water column and in Hawaiian monk seal prey (crab, shrimp, lobster, fish, squid, octopus). Toxoplasmosis has also been found to affect and harm Hawaiian spinner dolphins, and 'Alalā (Hawaiian crow) which prey on mice and smaller animals that have toxoplasmosis from eating cat feces or drinking affected water.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on these measures.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HCR110/HR0116
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, TO
COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A FIVE-YEAR PILOT
PROGRAM TO MITIGATE AND CONTROL THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN
THE POPULATION OF FERAL CHICKENS AND ROOSTERS. □**

REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Hearing Date: 3/29/2023

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This resolution may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department opposes this resolution because the Vector Control
5 Branch is not equipped and not staffed for feral chicken control. Managing the widespread use
6 of live animal traps is an intensive activity requiring equipment and workforce.

7 A five-year pilot project to establish and implement a control program for feral chickens
8 is better suited for agencies already providing feral animal control or the Counties. This pilot
9 program may require additional funding and resources.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None

HCR-110

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:30:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong