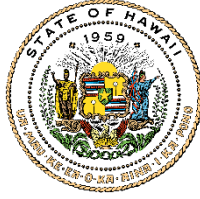


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING 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

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2046 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT

House Bill 2046 House Draft 1 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects. It appropriates funds to the Department to implement feral chicken management. **The Department offers comments on this measure.**

Although feral chickens can be hosts to numerous avian diseases, including avian influenza, the Department believes this threat is not a primary concern for the conservation of native wildlife. The Department believes feral chickens cause more damage to food crops, human health, and noise pollution and are better managed at the local county level. Furthermore, the measure includes the establishment of a program to encourage the beneficial use of feral chicken carcasses, including retail and nonprofit options for feeding the houseless and hungry. The Department supports the intent of this bill but feels the Department of Agriculture is the appropriate agency to determine the feasibility of these opportunities. Programs to control nuisance chickens would help manage this species, but the better nexus is the Department of Agriculture and the local counties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
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**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024  
1:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2046, HD1  
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2046, HD1 relating to feral chicken management. This bill requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects. It also appropriates funds. The Department offers comments.

This bill highlights the agriculture infrastructure needs to take on many of the requirements in this bill. Hawaii does not have a chicken processing facility. Currently all chickens raised in Hawaii and sold are processed under a USDA chicken processing exemption. To fully undertake this work, the Department requests \$10,000,000 in planning and design funds to create a processing facility where USDA pre and post antemortem inspection can occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 20, 2024

To: Chair Rep. Kyle Yamashita  
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa  
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony with support for HB 2046, HD1:  
Relating to Feral Chicken Management  
Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, 1 p.m., Room 308 and Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on House Bill 2046, HD1, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects; and appropriates funds.

Hawaiian Humane is grateful to the sponsors of this measure for looking at this issue holistically rather than presupposing that lethal control is the only possible strategy to curb the feral chicken population.

Two strategies not mentioned in the bill that we would recommend are:

- Stronger enforcement against cockfighting operations to reduce a primary source of this population, as well as prevent animal cruelty and protect human beings from associated illegal activities.
- The adoption of an avian birth control program, which is more humane and less costly than lethal eradication. We urge the committee to ask the state Department of Agriculture to submit a Special Local Need (SLN) registration to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which would allow already existing avian birth control products to be used by qualified local companies to curb the chicken population.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2046, HD1**  
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2046, HD1**, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects.

Across the State, various feral species are creating havoc on agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread.

The feral chicken and rooster populations in Hawai'i have skyrocketed and have become an ever-increasing problem. Aside from roosters crowing in the hours before dawn, the feral chickens damage crops, spread weeds, threaten native plants, and are a road hazard. The noise, health issues, and environmental damage from feral chickens have become major concerns and need to be controlled.

These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock and poultry industries in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Feral chickens and roosters can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets,

and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising. The State and Counties need to develop a long-term management plan, that includes a feeding of feral animals education program, to address this ever-growing problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 20, 2024

To: Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

Aloha kākou,

Hawaii Food+ Policy is pleased to offer testimony in support of HB2046 HD1, which addresses the pressing issue of feral chicken management in Hawaii. As an organization committed to promoting sustainable agriculture and equitable access to nutritious, locally sourced food, we believe that this policy is vital for safeguarding our natural resources, protecting public health, and promoting sustainable communities.

First and foremost, feral chickens pose a significant threat to Hawaii's delicate ecosystems and native wildlife. Their unchecked population growth can lead to habitat degradation, disruption of ecological balance, and displacement of indigenous species. By requiring collaboration among the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Department of Agriculture (DOA), and local government agencies, HB2046 HD1 provides a coordinated approach to feral chicken management, helping to mitigate their impact on our precious natural habitats.

Moreover, feral chickens can serve as vectors for diseases that pose risks to both wildlife and human populations. Implementing mechanisms to minimize diseased feral chickens is crucial for protecting public health and safety, reducing the spread of potential pathogens, and preventing outbreaks of diseases that could have devastating consequences for our communities. The provisions outlined in HB2046 HD1, such as encouraging humane capture methods and establishing best management practices for carcass handling, are essential steps in addressing this public health concern.

In addition to environmental and public health considerations, feral chickens can also cause significant damage to agriculture, threatening the livelihoods of local farmers and food security.

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

By promoting collaboration between agricultural agencies and providing funding mechanisms to support feral chicken management, HB2046 HD1 supports our agricultural sector and ensures a more sustainable future for Hawaii's food production.

Furthermore, the policy's emphasis on incentivizing the beneficial use of feral chicken carcasses, such as through retail and nonprofit options for feeding the houseless and hungry, aligns with our organization's commitment to social responsibility. By addressing the issue of feral chickens while simultaneously combating food insecurity and poverty, HB2046 HD1 exemplifies the intersectionality of environmental and social justice concerns.

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy urges the House Committee on Finance to support HB2046 HD1 and prioritize the effective management of feral chicken populations in Hawaii. By doing so, we can protect our natural resources, safeguard public health and safety, support our agricultural sector, and build resilient communities. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this important policy.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this important issue,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 11:21:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stacy K Evensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Finance Committee members,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 2046 HD1. My husband and I run a 2-acre "food forest" in Kane'ohe the goal of which is food production. Our main agricultural pests are feral chickens who regularly decimate any and all seedlings we plant. In addition--and this is hard to believe--they started eating our taro corm during our summer drought! Hawaii continues to be food insecure, relying heavily on imported food. Home growers like ourselves can be a part of the solution but we our efforts are made increasingly more difficult by the growing feral chicken population. I support HB 2046 HD1 as a means to address this problem with the following recommendations: include the UH College of Tropical Agriculture's Animal Science department in the mix of entities involved in this effort, and ask them to investigate the development of a chicken birth control or use of OvoControl (a product developed to reduce egg hatch in pigeons--could it or a similar product be used for chickens?). Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support on HB 2046 HD1. I urge you to pass this measure. Stacy Evensen



**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:36:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Clemens Mayer, and I strongly support HB2329 HD1

As someone involved in several aspects of conservation, as well as a practitioner of hana no'eau threatened by invasive species, I know the value of protecting our environment. Invasive species, such as feral chickens, are or can be major threats to our ecosystems, as well as impacting commercial sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, I strongly support this motion to protect the environment of Hawai'i nei from the rampant feral chicken population.

With warmest regards, Clemens Mayer

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:00:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Zane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members,

Thank You for this opportunity to express my concern to you today. My name is Irene Zane, a resident of the Nuuanu Valley community.

I would like to add my voice to others in **support** of HB2046 relating to feral chickens.

I deeply appreciate Representative Takenouchi listening to residents, like myself, and trying to help find solutions to managing the feral chicken population, especially in and around residential neighborhoods. I champion the idea of “all hands on deck” with the State DLNR, Agriculture Department, and counties **working together** to help develop humane and effective solutions to manage and implement actions to control the feral chicken population in especially residential neighborhoods. e.g. Nuuanu Valley.

My concern - When I close the windows at night and turn on the air conditioner, I no longer hear the midnight to 1:30 a.m. rooster(s) crowing. However, I can still hear a rooster(s) crowing nearby where I live, around 3:00 a.m. - 4:00 a.m. in the morning. Then, throughout the day, roosters can be heard crowing closer to where I live. I’ve searched the Internet to try and better understand the behavior of roosters and other community ideas for controlling rooster crowing. The Hawaiian Humane Society and other organizations were also contacted with no achievable solutions.

**Thank You again for your time and consideration of this problem. I encourage you to, at the very least, discuss possible solutions to help neighborhoods with this similar challenge.**

Respectfully,

Irene Zane

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:54:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Irene Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB 2046 HD-1 Relating to Feral Chicken Management**

**Submitted by: Irene Nakamoto**

**Strongly in support of Bill HB 2046**

**Residents in our Senior Housing Facility in Nuuanu have experienced the loud crowing of the feral chickens at all hours of the day and night, which has affected their sleep patterns. The result has been health issues due to a lack of sleep. As president of our Residents' Association, I appeal to your committee to vote in support of this bill so steps can be taken to remedy this situation. The residents of Honolulu need your help in curbing/lessening the increased population of the feral chickens who are over-running our community. They roam in our neighboring properties and on the side streets. Your vote in support of this bill is essential! Please help us! Thank you!**

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:08:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel A Curran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support of this bill. The chicken populations have been growing on this island and need to be curbed. They are destructive to plants and gardens and a general nuisance. Thanks you

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:03:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Titiimaea Ta'ase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Titiimaea Ta'ase and my girlfeind and I are residents of Pauoa. I write in support of HB2046.

We live right next to Booth Park and the area is infested with feral chickens. They make noise from before sunrise and all through the day. It has had a great effect on both of us. We are never able to get a full night's rest and are often tired throughout the day because of the noise. The chickens dig up dirt along our fense line. They have now grown accustomed to going underneath our house and digging there. It is of great concern to us because our home has a crawl space and we are afraid that they are disturbing the earth beneath our home possibly causing instability to our foundational columns. Try as we may, we cannot be home all day to try and chase them out. They are breeding and multiplying. I have personally witnessed people release new chickens into the park.

After reading the bill, I hope that the types of programs it envisions may be implemented quickly and that we can have real meaningful answers to this problem. I hope that management of the feral chicken problem will allow those of us who are dealing with the problem fast and effective solutions. While the problem my seem to be localized to people such as myself who live in certain areas, it has far reaching possible implications for our employers, those that my girlfriend and I serve as state employees, and even those that we share the road with.

We ask that you vote in favor of HB2046 and that you please continue addressing this issue now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Titiimaea N. Ta'ase

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:56:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alison Bhattacharyya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please take some action regarding the feral chickens. They have become a nuisance, making a mess and producing an unpleasant odor. This has been an issue for the past year and will only worsen if not addressed now.

Thank you,

Alison Bhattacharyya

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:24:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Philip Nerney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feral chickens are a significant concern. Growing populations disturb neighborhoods and require effective control. Please pass this bill.



**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:16:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melanie Shiraki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feral chickens do not belong in the city. They dig holes in your yard and crow at ALL HOURS of the night. Please find a humane solution to this real life problem.

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:31:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesscia Tindall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

About a year and a half ago feral chickens in Booth Park and in Pauoa Valley started to become more evident. They cause damage to our property including digging dangerous holes around and on our property to the point that we had to spend thousands of dollars to landscape our yard. They are constantly coming in our yard and destroying our property. Once our yard was landscaped with rock, they dug holes around our property in order to "dirt bathe" that have become dangerously deep for those walking around the neighborhood. They have done the same in Booth Park making it dangerous when walking or when the children are playing baseball/soccer due ot all the deep holes. The roosters fight with one another throughout the day and they crow throughout the night (12pm, 3am, 5am, etc.) and the day making it difficult to get a good nights rest. I wake up every night to roosters crowing. They are multiplying quickly in our neighborhood. Please do something to stop this so we can rest peacefully and use our neighborhood safely. Thank you for your time.