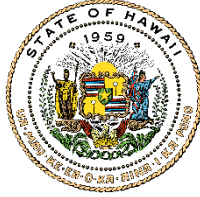


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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**

P.O. BOX 621
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024
10:15 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 415 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 47 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 36
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS THE STATE'S FERAL CHICKEN
POPULATION**

House Concurrent Resolution 47 / House Resolution 36 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to convene a working group to inform the public about the options available to address the state's feral chicken population. The Department offers comments on these measures.

The Department believes efforts to suppress feral chicken in suburban and urban areas are best led by the respective counties.

The Department controls populations of feral chickens (including hens and roosters) 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 believes that urban-interface chicken control on private and county lands is the jurisdiction of the counties. The Department notes that rats, cats, and mongooses pose a more significant threat to native and endangered forest birds, seabirds, shorebirds, and migratory birds as they eat adult birds, chicks, and eggs, and their range is from the shoreline up into the upland forests. There are examples of native bird colonies in Hawai'i extirpated by a single cat.

Cats also pose a particular threat to native species in Hawai'i as their feces carry 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 wildland areas 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, meaning that their feces and the feces of stray cats are impacting the marine environment through rain runoff. Toxoplasmosis is in the water column and Hawaiian monk seal prey (crab, shrimp, lobster, fish, squid, octopus). Toxoplasmosis also harms Hawaiian spinner dolphins and ‘Alalā (Hawaiian crow), which prey on mice and smaller animals with toxoplasmosis from eating cat feces or drinking affected water.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.



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Mar 19, 2024, 1:32 pm

LATE

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March 20, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HCR 47 & HR 36
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE OPTIONS
AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS THE STATE'S FERAL CHICKEN POPULATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 HCR 47 and HR 36, which requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to convene a working group to inform the public about the options available to address the state's feral chicken population.

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 poultry industry in jeopardy.

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.

HCR-47

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:29:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles St. Sure	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The feral chicken problem has been around for years with no apparent improvement or progress in dealing with it. This approach puts information into the hands of individuals so they will have the opportunity to be part of the solution.

HCR-47

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:05:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS THE STATE'S FERAL CHICKEN POPULATION.