

**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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024  
2:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL 2191  
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS**

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2191. This bill allocates funds to the City and County of Honolulu and Department of health for feral chicken control program and the feeding of feral animals education program. The Department expresses our **strong support**.

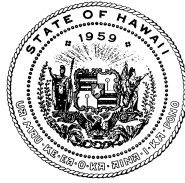
After the department convened the working group to discover best practices with the City and County of Honolulu's feral chicken program, further conversations statewide led to a similar request for the County of Hawaii and County of Maui. Both counties are requesting \$50,000 each to develop and implement a feral chicken control program similar to the City and County of Honolulu.

The department respectfully requests the inclusion of the County of Hawaii and the County of Maui, and increasing the appropriation to \$150,000 for feral chicken control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**LATE**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2191  
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS.**

REP. CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Hearing Date: 2/12/2024

Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will not 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 supports HB2191, which appropriates funds for the  
5 City and County of Honolulu (CCH) in support of their feral chicken control program and the  
6 Department for a statewide education campaign addressing feeding of feral animals,  
7 respectively.

8 The Department acknowledges the need for control of feral chickens and supports the  
9 CCH and other county agencies implementing feral animal control programs. The Department  
10 also supports a statewide education campaign to reduce the amount of feeding of feral animals.  
11 Feeding feral animals, whether chickens, cats, other other animals can increase the feral animal  
12 populations which is not in the best interest of the animals, the environment or in some cases,  
13 human health. Educating residents and visitors about the negative effects of feeding feral  
14 animals is crucial for the success of any feral animal reduction program in Hawaii.

15 In crafting an educational campaign, the Department will collaborate with other  
16 government and private agencies or organizations with similar interests and priorities.  
17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None



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 12, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2191**  
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

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 HB 2191**, which appropriates funds to the city and county of Honolulu for the expansion of the feral chicken project and the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health for a statewide education campaign for the feeding of feral animals.

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.



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

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

Date: Feb. 11, 2024

To: Chairs Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates  
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

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

RE: Comments on HB 2191: Relating to Feral Chickens  
Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, 2 p.m., Room 312 and Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on House Bill 2191, which appropriates funds to the city and county of Honolulu for the expansion of the feral chicken project and the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health for a statewide education campaign for the feeding of feral animals.

Hawaiian Humane is grateful to the sponsors of this measure for recognizing that community education is key to curbing 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 would be less costly than the lethal eradication program currently being employed by the City and County of Honolulu. 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.

**HB-2191**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:17:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passage of HB 2191 this legislative session. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2191.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

**LATE**

ADMINISTRATION  
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



KIMBERLY HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O  
  
DEREK MAYESHIRO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloe, III, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe, and Members of the Committees  
Agriculture & Food Systems:

SUBJECT: H.B. 2191 - Relating to Feral Chickens  
HEARING: Monday, February 12, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu offers its support to H.B. 2191. The Department of Customer Services (CSD) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) entered into a five year master agreement with Terminix International Co., LP, d.b.a. Sandwich Isle Pest Solutions (Sandwich Isle) for feral chicken management services on private property. Under this contract, private landowners on O'ahu may retain Sandwich Isle directly for feral chicken control services, including cage rentals and disposal services. The costs for these services are partially paid by the City and County of Honolulu while the remainder is paid by the property owner/manager.

The table below outlines the price allocations.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Total Price</u>	<u>Landowner's Cost</u>	<u>City's Cost</u>
Full Service (one week)	\$475.00	\$375.00	\$100.00
Cage Rental (one week)	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
Feral Chicken Disposal (per chicken)	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$15.00

Testimony for H.B. 2191  
February 12, 2024  
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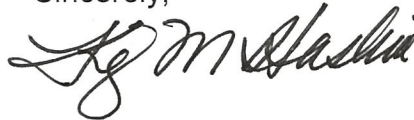
The Contract is funded for the current year with \$50,000.00 from the City & County of Honolulu's general fund. Sandwich Isle commenced services on September 5, 2023, and as of January 15, 2024, the following number of property owners/managers have utilized Sandwich Isle's services resulting in 111 feral chickens euthanized:

Full Services:	21 customers
Cage Rental:	28 customers
Disposal:	18 customers

With additional funding from the State, CSD could amend the contract to include a portion of the expenses to be paid with State funds thereby lowering the cost for private landowners.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer support to H.B. 2191.

Sincerely,



Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director