

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2401
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: Feb. 9, 2024

Room Number: 224

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 of Health (Department) supports SB2401, which
5 appropriates funds for the City and County of Honolulu (CCH) and the Department for feral
6 chicken control and a feeding feral animal education campaign, respectively.

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

13 In crafting an educational campaign, the Department will collaborate with other government and
14 private agencies or organizations that have similar interests and priorities.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16

17 **Offered Amendments:** None

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL 2401
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS**

Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Richards and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2401. 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.



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

ADMINISTRATION
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LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



KIMBERLY HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

DEREK MAYESHIRO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and Members of the Committees Agriculture and Environment and on Health and Human Services:

SUBJECT: S.B. 2401 - Relating To Feral Chickens
HEARING: Friday, February 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu offers its support to S.B.2401. The Department of Customer Services (CSD) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) entered into master agreement, up to five years, 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

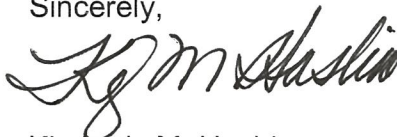
The Contract is funded for the current year with \$50,000.00 from the City & County of Honolulu's general fund. Sandwich Isle commenced services on September 5, 2023, and as of January 15, 2024, the following number of property owners/managers have utilized Sandwich Isle's services resulting in the elimination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

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 S.B.2401.

Sincerely,



Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 9, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2401
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Aquino and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 2401, which appropriates funds to the City and County of Honolulu and the Department of Health for a feral chicken control program and a feeding of feral animals education program, respectively.

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), Hawaii's native species and ecosystems, and Hawaii's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawaii'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.

SB-2401

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 3:27:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Misakian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I share the concern regarding roosters waking up the public early, so to do the private trash company trucks that roam around as early as 3:00 AM, and nothing is being done about that.

I'm an animal advocate and support a program to catch and release on farmlands. Let's find other caring animal lovers to watch over our ferrel friends.

I do not support SB2401 as written.

Greg Misakian



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

LATE

February 8, 2024

To: Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice-Chairs Richards and Aquino, and the members of the Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Service Committees.

Subject: **Support of SB2401**

Aloha kākou,

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

Hawaii Food+ Policy is writing to express our strong support for SB2401, which addresses the critical issue of feral chickens and roosters in Hawaii. As an organization dedicated to [briefly describe the organization's mission or relevant interests], we believe that controlling the population of feral animals is essential for protecting public health, preserving native ecosystems, and promoting responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Feral chickens and roosters have become a persistent nuisance in suburban and urban communities, causing damage to property, threatening native species, and creating safety hazards on our roads. Their unchecked population growth poses significant challenges to our environment and public safety, and it is imperative that we take action to address this problem.

SB2401 provides a comprehensive approach to controlling the population of feral chickens and roosters by implementing a control program and educating the public about the dangers of feeding feral animals. By working collaboratively with counties and relevant agencies, we can develop effective strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of feral animals on our communities and ecosystems.

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy urges you to support SB2401 and take decisive action to control the population of feral chickens and roosters in Hawaii. By doing so, we can protect our

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

natural resources, enhance public safety, and promote responsible behavior among residents and visitors.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this important matter.

Mahalo,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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