

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1427 H.D. 1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

REPRESENTATIVE KIRSTIN KAHALOA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 9:30 am, Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** A proposed budget of approximately \$3,300,000 to \$4,700,000, depending
2 upon availability of federal funds, will support the Department of Health's monitoring and
3 response for avian influenza, both in current state and in the event of a larger outbreak in
4 animals or humans. This amount is not inclusive of funding for activities to be carried out by
5 other agencies, but will position the Department of Health for effective collaboration with
6 other state agencies to respond to avian influenza both in animals and in humans.

7 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") **supports** this measure
8 offering comments.

9 **Department Testimony:** The Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) provides the following
10 testimony on behalf of the Department of Health in support of the proposed Act which
11 appropriates funds for preventing, monitoring, and responding to avian influenza in Hawaii. The
12 recent global health challenges presented by avian influenza underscore the importance of
13 robust monitoring and surveillance measures to protect Hawaii's public health, industry, unique
14 wildlife, and our agricultural economy.

15 Avian influenza poses significant risks not only to our bird populations but also to the broader
16 agricultural and food industries that contribute to the livelihood of many residents. Hawaii is

1 particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious diseases due to its geographic isolation and
2 unique ecosystems. While current overall risk to humans is low, the potential for the virus to
3 mutate and cause more severe disease and/or more widespread human-to-human transmission
4 is a real and present threat.

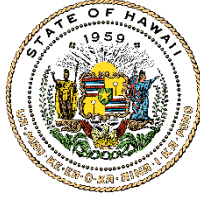
5 This Act will ensure that Hawaii has the resources necessary to quickly respond to any
6 outbreaks, animal or human, and minimize the potential for widespread transmission. The
7 Department has already taken a One Health Approach (the recognition that the areas of
8 human, animal and environmental health intersect) to this issue, by convening representatives
9 from stakeholders in a weekly status call updating partners on surveillance testing, sharing
10 resources, planning response activities, and discussing scenarios where an enhanced response
11 is needed. Heightened awareness of biosecurity and occupational health and safety protocols,
12 along with a robust wastewater and animal surveillance testing program, will protect local
13 farms, safeguard our food production systems, and reduce the risk of the virus spreading within
14 Hawaii. Enhanced monitoring for novel influenza variants in humans will enable early
15 identification and response to cases should they occur in Hawaii, and monitoring of contacts.
16 Timely investigations of cases and clusters of morbidity and mortality events support early
17 detection goals. In addition, the educational efforts outlined in this Act are essential to
18 informing the public about the risks associated with bird flu and the necessary precautions they
19 can take to stay safe.

20 This Act represents a crucial investment in the health and safety of Hawaii's residents and
21 agricultural industry. This legislation will enable proactive steps to prevent, monitor, and
22 respond to avian influenza, ultimately safeguarding our state's economy and public health.

23 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

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

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1427, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

House Bill 1427, House Draft 1 proposes to allocate funds to the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), caused by the H5N1 virus, is a highly contagious disease mainly affecting birds. In November 2024, Hawai'i recorded its first HPAI case in a backyard flock on O'ahu, making it the last state to detect the virus. A migratory bird likely introduced the disease, with the first wild bird case confirmed in a hybrid mallard duck on the North Shore of O'ahu. No additional detections in birds have been reported since these initial cases.

HPAI poses significant risks to poultry and dairy farmers, public health, and Hawai'i's native bird species—many already threatened or endangered. Large-scale die-offs of wild birds, as seen on the mainland, could have serious ecological consequences. The Department supports this measure to ensure necessary funding for monitoring and response efforts that will help mitigate the virus's impact on public health, agriculture, and native wildlife.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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 AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**FEBRUARY 12, 2025
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1427, HD1

RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

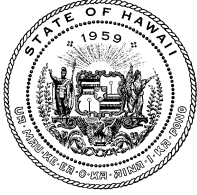
Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1427, HD1. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) supports HB1427, HD1. The purpose of HB1427, HD1 is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health (DOH) and to the Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawaii. The Department is collaborating with DOH on avian influenza and additional funds are needed to support ongoing activities. The Department requests that \$293,000 be appropriated for the purpose of this act including prevention monitoring and response to avian influenza. Two (2) of the largest categories of proposed use of funds by the Department are for public outreach through radio and TV and PPE for producers. Those amounts are estimated at \$100,000 and \$150,000 respectively. Enhanced media outreach improves public information and PPE for producers supports increased biosecurity measures on production sites necessary for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The remainder of \$43,000 is targeted for equipment, supplies, sample



shipping, contracts, and other related expenditures. The department defers to DOH for an appropriation that addresses their needs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

February 11, 2025

To: Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair,
And Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA; and Senior Advisor to
Governor Green On Healthcare Innovation

Re: **HB1427, HD1 - Relating to Avian Influenza**

Hearing: February, 12, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA fully supports this bill appropriates funds to the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Agriculture (DOA) to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i.

While we defer to the DOH and the DOA in terms of appropriation requests and to detailed response to this measure, it is critically important for this to pass and be funded to prevent the spread of avian influenza here and moreover, if not controlled, to reduce the risk of the development of potential human-to-human transmissions and a possible new pandemic in the future.

We also note the sluggish response of the federal government on this issue at this time, which underscores the importance of proactive action in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 9:30am
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Enright and I represent Villa Rose and Waialua Eggs. We strongly **SUPPORT** HB1427, HD1 Relating to Avian Influenza.

At this time when the poultry industry needs protection nationwide, the State showing support for this industry is absolutely necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,
Scott Enright
President
Scott E. Enright Company LLC



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

February 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1427, HD1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 1427, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i. Given the significant threat that avian influenza poses to Hawai'i's poultry industry, food security, and broader agricultural sector, proactive measures are critical to safeguarding the state's economy and public health.

Avian influenza outbreaks have devastated poultry industries worldwide, leading to the culling of millions of birds, supply chain disruptions, and severe economic losses for farmers. Hawai'i's poultry farms, egg producers, and backyard flocks are vulnerable to the disease, which can spread rapidly and result in severe production declines. Any outbreak in Hawai'i could lead to shortages of locally produced eggs, increased reliance on imported products, and higher prices for consumers.

Beyond poultry production, the spread of avian influenza could have far-reaching effects on Hawai'i's agricultural industry. The disease could impact feed suppliers, processing facilities, and other agricultural operations that rely on poultry production. Additionally, if an outbreak were to occur, strict quarantine measures and trade restrictions could disrupt the movement of agricultural goods, harming farmers and ranchers across the state.

Avian influenza also presents serious public health concerns. While transmission to humans is rare, highly pathogenic strains have the potential to cross species barriers, posing risks to farm workers, veterinarians, and those in close contact with infected birds. Early detection and containment efforts are essential to prevent any potential public

health crisis. The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasize the importance of monitoring avian influenza strains for potential mutations that could lead to human-to-human transmission. Strengthening surveillance and biosecurity measures will help protect both animal and human health in Hawai'i.

Funding for prevention, monitoring, and response efforts will help minimize the risk of an outbreak and ensure rapid containment if avian influenza is detected.

We urge the committee to advance HB 1427, HD1 to protect Hawai'i's poultry industry, maintain food security, safeguard public health, and preserve the state's agricultural economy from the devastating effects of avian influenza.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Executive Officers

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Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*
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Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 12, 2025

TIME: 9:30am

RE: HB1427 HD1 Relating to Avian Influenza

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. As the measure notes enhanced biosecurity will help protect local farms and food production, and increased testing of birds will help better understand the spread of bird flu in Hawaii.

Increasing local food production is a goal we all share. The first step in achieving that goal is protecting the food producers we already have. This measure is an important step to help many of our local agricultural producers continue to provide food for our state.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:11:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Kapapala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB1427



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

February 9, 2025

Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Representative Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1427 HD1, Relating to Avian Influenza

Dear Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, I would like to express our support of HB 1427 HD1 and its appropriation of funds to support the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawaii.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza has already become endemic in the rest of the United States, but is a recently emerging disease in Hawaii. Its spread throughout the United States has already caused widespread economic losses in poultry and dairy operations. This virus is zoonotic and can spread from animals to people. Furthermore, influenza viruses are highly mutable and have potential to evolve into the next human epidemic.

As health professionals dedicated to the protection of animal health and welfare, promotion of public health, and advancement of medical knowledge, the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association strongly supports this legislative response to avian influenza in Hawaii. We also encourage the Department of Health to re-establish its public health veterinarian position to more effectively prevent, monitor, and respond to public health threats such as avian influenza. Re-establishing a public health veterinarian position within the state would align us with other state health departments and multiple federal health agencies that utilize public health veterinarians such as the US Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Agriculture, Army Veterinary Corps, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Please SUPPORT HB 1427 HD1 and support Hawaii's preparation and response to avian influenza within the state. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo".

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

HB1427 HD1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1427 HD1** which appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawaii.

Avian influenza has the potential to have far reaching impacts – not just to birds, but to livestock as well as human health. Appropriating funds for DOH and DOA to increase the resources to prevent and respond to any further outbreaks of H5N1 extremely important. It is also critical that producers receive timely outreach on biosecurity measures and updates on surveillance testing so that we can focus our efforts and enhance measures to protect our community's access to local food.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:04:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Carol Kwan Consulting LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1417 HD1.

Carol Kwan

February 10, 2025

To: Hawaii House AGR Agriculture & Food Systems Committee
From: Cheryl Toyofuku
Re: Strong Opposition to HB1427 Relating to Avian Influenza
AGR Hearing on Wed, February 12, 2025 at 9:30am in room 325

In Opposition to Report Title & Description: DOH; DOA; Avian Influenza, Appropriation (\$): Appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i.

Noted: A proposed budget of approximately \$3,300,000 to \$4,700,000 recommended by Department of Health (Testimony for HB1427 in House Health Committee) and by Chair Gregg Takayama in House Health Committee report.

I strongly oppose HB1427 relating to the Avian Influenza with funds being questionably appropriated to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture in order to respond to this influenza. Whether it is the Avian Bird Flu, Swine Flu, Monkey Pox or other viral outbreak being trumpeted by government, state departments, some industrial complexes and media, these hyped and alarming fears are perpetuated onto the public.

History and research disclose the collaboration of government, state departments, certain industries and drug companies that immensely benefit financially and profit greatly from the frightened frenzy created. Legislative bills are fast-tracked to appropriate funds to respond. Pharmaceutical drugs, such as the historical Tamiflu, other anti-viral drugs or genetically engineered toxic and ineffective vaccines are already in stock or quickly developed. Allocation of funds to develop questionable solutions to these feared planned epidemics have in the past followed vaccine agendas from CDC Center for Disease Control, WHO World Health Organization or WEF World Economic Forum. These 3 letter agencies and others are coming into serious scrutiny and questioning.

Instead, the appropriation of these funds should be allocated to healthier programs to improve our natural immunity. State Departments, Industries and Legislation should encourage proper nutrition and healthy agricultural practices and lifestyles, while limiting toxic chemicals and vaccines. This would better serve the people of Hawaii.

Do NOT pass HB1427 out of your Agricultural & Food System Committee.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 4:15:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I present this testimony **in support of HB1427 HD1** which appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawaii.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:10:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1427

Instead of appropriating funds for Avian flu, do this:

Please establish an agency that teaches the public on how to stay healthy and create a strong immune system, instead of only working on healthcare (sickness care!) AFTER the fact.

For example, during Covid, did our government do ANYTHING to teach the public about robust immune systems and illness prevention? No, they did not. The only thing they did was telling us to stay indoors, whereas sunshine increases our health, closed the gyms but left liquor stores open, told us to isolate, whereas we feel better when we are amongst family and friends, etc.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:48:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:48:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:21:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I do support being ready for potential diseases this bill is hefty in price which concerns me. On the mainland farmers destroyed entire flocks not because they were sick but because the farmer would get a pay out for every chicken they killed. This has contributed to our egg shortage. While the bird flue may impact birds and other animals did we not learn anything from Covid. You cannot beat a virus. It would be better to allow disease to run it's course through a population and establish herd immunity. I fear the hefty price of this bill will equal mass animal distruction and the resources to over react.

Thank you,

Dawn P.

Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:33:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Haine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill:

We saw so much fraud and waste when purchasing mRNA vaccines during COVID. Millions of \$\$\$ were lost as vaccines expired. People still have a very bad taste in mouth from mandates of that experimental mRNA jab that didn't prevent infection or stop transmission. Plus the manufacturers are not held liable for injuries caused. We need to boost the immune systems of both humans AND chickens by other means. Let's start by making our soils, foods, and living conditions healthy again.