

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**

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

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 1:00 pm, Room Number: 225

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.

1 Avian influenza poses significant risks not only to our bird populations but also to the broader
2 agricultural and food industries that contribute to the livelihood of many residents. Hawaii is
3 particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious diseases due to its geographic isolation and
4 unique ecosystems. While current overall risk to humans is low, the potential for the virus to
5 mutate and cause more severe disease and/or more widespread human-to-human transmission
6 is a real and present threat.

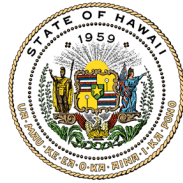
7 This Act will ensure that Hawaii has the resources necessary to quickly respond to any
8 outbreaks, animal or human, and minimize the potential for widespread transmission. The
9 Department has already taken a One Health Approach (the recognition that the areas of
10 human, animal and environmental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

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

25 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on 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 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 12, 2025
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

HOUSE BILL NO. 1427, HD1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

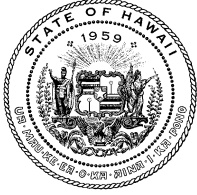
Chairs San Buenaventura and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Aquino and Richards, and
Members of the Committee:

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 to the Department 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.



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

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

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

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

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

March 7, 2025

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair,

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, 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: March 12, 2025 @ 1:00 pm

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.

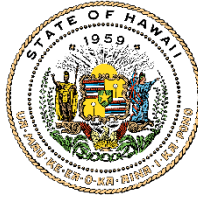
While we defer to the DOH and the DOA in terms of appropriation requests and to detailed response to this measure, it is critically important for this to pass and be funded to prevent the spread of avian influenza here and moreover, if not controlled, to reduce the risk of the development of potential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

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'
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. KAHANE
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 Senate Committees on
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

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

House Bill 1427, House Draft 1 proposes allocating funds to the Departments of Health and 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.**

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.

HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to H.B. No. 1427 (H.D. 1)

Submitted to the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment
March 08, 2025

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill No. 1427 (H.D. 1). This bill, dressed up as a safeguard against avian influenza, is a blank-check boondoggle that wastes taxpayer money, inflates government overreach, and delivers little for Hawaii's families or farmers. As a citizen rooted in limited government, fiscal discipline, and common-sense priorities, I present an objective case that should resonate with Democrats who value efficient spending, real results, and protecting our local economy. This bill fails the test—here's why.

1. Blank-Check Funding Invites Waste

The bill appropriates unspecified sums—" \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary" (Sections 2 and 3)—to the Departments of Health (DOH) and Agriculture (DOA) with no cost controls or clear deliverables. California's 2016 H5N1 response fund ballooned to \$25 million, with \$8 million squandered on redundant testing that found no actionable threats ([Sacramento Bee, "Bird Flu Funds Misspent, 2017"](#)). Democrats who guard against fiscal excess should reject this open-ended cash grab—Hawaii deserves accountability, not a free-for-all.

2. Low Risk Doesn't Justify High Spending

With only 67 human cases nationwide, mild symptoms, and no human-to-human spread as of January 2025 (Section 1), the CDC calls public risk "low." Yet this bill pumps money into a speculative panic. Michigan's 2022 avian flu monitoring program cost \$10 million but identified just two farm workers with mild cases, yielding no policy changes ([Detroit Free Press, "Bird Flu Spending Questioned, 2023"](#)). Democrats who prioritize data-driven decisions should see this as overkill—why drain our budget for a non-crisis?

3. Bureaucratic Overreach Burdens Farmers

Enhanced biosecurity and testing (Section 1) sound good, but they pile regulations on Hawaii's small farmers already stretched thin. In Oregon, a 2015 H5N2 crackdown mandated costly farm upgrades, driving 15% of small poultry operations out of business with no drop in bird flu cases ([Oregonian, "Small Farms Hit by Bird Flu Rules, 2016"](#)). Democrats who support rural communities should oppose choking our farmers with red tape—protect jobs, not bureaucracy.

4. Wastewater Testing Yields False Alarms

Expanding wastewater testing (Section 1) risks hype over substance. Florida's 2023 H5N1 wastewater surveillance triggered public panic after trace detections, but follow-ups found no active cases—costing \$3

million for nothing ([Miami Herald, "Wastewater Flop Fuels Bird Flu Fear, 2024"](#)). Democrats who value trust in government should reject measures that scare people without clear benefits—Hawaii needs facts, not fearmongering.

5. Education Funds Won't Reach the Public

The bill's vague push for "education" (Section 1) is a feel-good line with no teeth. Texas spent \$2 million on H5N1 public outreach in 2022, but a survey showed only 12% of residents recalled the campaign, with no change in behavior ([Texas Tribune, "Bird Flu Education Falls Flat, 2023"](#)). Democrats who demand tangible outcomes should see this as throwing money into the wind—our people deserve real solutions, not pamphlets.

6. Diverts Resources from Proven Needs

Funneling cash to DOH and DOA for a low-risk virus (Sections 2-3) siphons funds from urgent priorities like healthcare access or disaster prep. Minnesota's 2015 bird flu response drained \$15 million from public health reserves, delaying clinic upgrades while cases stayed minimal ([Star Tribune, "Bird Flu Costs Cut Health Funds, 2016"](#)). Democrats who champion working families should insist on spending that lifts Hawaii up—not drags it down.

Call to Action

Honorable Senators, H.B. 1427 (H.D. 1) is a bad bet. It wastes our money, burdens our farmers, and chases a phantom threat—lessons California, Oregon, and Florida learned the hard way. Democrats and Republicans alike should want a Hawaii where taxes serve real needs, farms thrive, and families trust the facts. Vote NO to stop this bill dead in its tracks. We can handle bird flu smarter—without this bloated mess.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Crossland
Hawaii Patriot Republicans

To: HHS/AEN Committees

From: Margaret Mejia, on behalf of ***Hawai'i Christian Coalition***

Re: OPPOSE HB1427, Relating to Avian Influenza

3/10/25

Aloha,

My name is Margaret Mejia, and I am testifying on behalf of Hawai'i Christian Coalition. We Strongly OPPOSE HB1427 for the following reasons:

1. Although this bill does not mention vaccines, we can follow the money to discover that the end of passing of this bill may result in our taxpayer dollars going towards Avian (Bird) Flu Vaccines since some people believe that vaccines are a **preventive** measure or a **response** to Avian Influenza. The 5 companies that are currently developing Avian Flu Vaccines (Bird Flu Vaccines), all contain mRNA in their vaccines. mRNA is known to cause changes in people's DNA, according to Dr. Robert Malone, M.D., M.S. Biochemist/Biologist who created mRNA technology. We are against any taxpayer dollars going towards Bird Flu Vaccines.
2. *Hawai'i Christian Coalition* has 35,000 members and represents approx. 130,000 people on all Islands. Most of these members do NOT support vaccines, especially vaccines that are mandated. Others who do vaccinate, support the people's choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate. This bill may result in vaccines and so we strongly OPPOSE this bill.

3. According to the DOH website, the bird flu in Hawai'i "remains low risk."
4. Currently, there is a policy where if **one** bird/chicken contracts Avian influenza, the entire population is destroyed. Hundreds and thousands (even millions, on Mainland Farms) of Healthy chickens are killed along with the one or more birds/chickens who have bird flu. The current "Egg shortage" is a result of this faulty policy.
5. Birds/chickens are culled by the horrific practice of foam depopulation.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mejia



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |

Honolulu, HI 96813

P: 808-533-1292 | e:

info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Chair*

Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*

Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*

Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*

Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*

Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*

Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 12, 2025

TIME: 1pm

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.



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

March 12, 2025

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

TESTIMONY ON HB 1427, HD1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Conference Room 225 & 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 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.



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

March 10, 2025

Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1427 HD1, Relating to Avian Influenza

Dear Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

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



LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

HB1427 HD1

RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

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



March 11, 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), by Chair Gregg Takayama in House Health Committee report and by Chair Kirstin Kahaloe in the House Agriculture & Food systems Committee report.

I strongly oppose HB1427 relating to the Avian Influenza for the following reasons:

- Funds being questionably appropriated to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture in order to respond to this influenza.
- Some agricultural disease-spreading practices, toxic load in chickens and other migratory birds, along with disturbing poultry culling policies should be revisited.
- 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 in the dissemination of public health information.
- History and research disclose the collaboration of government, state departments, the pharmaceutical industry and other certain agricultural industries that immensely benefit financially and profit greatly from the frightened frenzy created.
- Pharmaceutical drugs, such as the historical Tamiflu, other anti-viral drugs or genetically engineered toxic and ineffective vaccines may already be 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 the natural immunity of animals and humans. State Departments, Industries and Legislation should encourage proper nutrition and healthy agricultural, environmental practices and lifestyles, while limiting toxic chemicals and vaccines. This would better serve the people of Hawaii.

Do NOT pass HB1427 out of your Senate Health & Human Services and Agricultural & Environment Committees.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 7:47:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB-1427

House Bill 1427, proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture for avian influenza prevention, monitoring, and response in Hawai'i. While the intent of this bill may seem noble on the surface, we must carefully consider its implications:

I believe in limited government spending. This bill proposes an open-ended appropriation without specifying the exact amount or demonstrating a clear return on investment for taxpayers.

By expanding the powers of the DOH and DOA, we risk creating more bureaucracy and potentially infringing on the rights of local farmers and businesses.

Instead of relying solely on government intervention, we should encourage private industry to develop innovative solutions for preventing and responding to avian influenza.

The USDA has already provided \$502 million for highly pathogenic avian influenza response nationwide. We should fully utilize these existing resources before allocating additional state funds, or expand state government programs. We should emphasize educating farmers and the public about biosecurity measures they can implement themselves.

While I acknowledge the potential threat of avian influenza, I believe we must approach this issue with fiscal restraint and a commitment to limited government intervention. I urge the committee to reconsider this bill and explore more conservative approaches to addressing this concern. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on HB-1427.

LATE

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 1:29:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrie Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE Fearmongering, Money-SCAM HB1427:

DOH website states that the Bird Flu risk to general public in HI Remains LOW!

The USDA testing for Bird Flu is UNreliable, creating False positives, resulting in Millions

of Healthy chickens being slaughtered--decreasing our food supply & increasing egg prices---
past 4 years egg prices skyrocketed 237%

Mass Culling/Killing of chickens is Ineffective in stopping spread of Bird Flu--Epidemiologists
say gain "flock immunity" thru Natural Immunity is More effective and

better for humans as well. Also, paying farmers to kill their chickens only incentivizes them to
continue this Unethical, Cruelty to animals practice!!

NATURAL IMMUNITY More Effective in STOPPING any flu spread & prevent outbreaks

than any of the proposed experimental Bird Flu vaccines, which would contaminate the

chickens & eggs, and could result in millions of vaccine-injured chickens and humans!!!

VOTE NO on HB1427!!!

FOCUS on Healthy agricultural practices to **PROTECT** our animals & food supply, and

NATURAL IMMUNITY, NOT Ineffective Mass Killing or Mass Vaccination!!!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:55:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 6:48:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 8:07:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Avian flu is a rapidly emerging and critical health hazard for humans and animals. Hawaii cannot afford to be caught unprepared, like what happened during COVID.

I urge this Committee to take ALL NECESSARY STEPS to enhance our collective resiliency.
SUPPORT THIS BILL!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:03:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1427. The risk in Hawaii is very low and it is not necessary for the drastic measures proposed. This will do more harm than good. Please vote no!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:41:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1427! DOH website says "The current risk to the general public (re: bird flu) in Hawaii remains low. If one chicken gets bird flu, they kill ALL the chickens on the farm or in the yard.. This is NOT right!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:29:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on HB1427. PLEASE don't spend our tax dollars on this unnecessary funding.

Mahalo

Aloha,

I am Hi'ilei Bunghanoy-Aiu, a Native Hawaiian student at Kealakehe High School and avian conservation enthusiast. I am writing in confident support of passing HB1427. HB1427 deals with the allocation of funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i. The proposed budget consists of \$3,300,000 to \$4,700,000, all of which will go into monitoring and prevention efforts for an outbreak in other animals and humans. Hawai'i is often referred to as the "Extinction (or Endangered Species) Capital of the World" in articles by several organizations: Vox, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the American Bird Conservancy just to name a few. The public is overwhelmingly aware of the potential harm many species face, any effort being made to curb that risk is crucial and should not be dismissed. The passing of HB1427 will aid in not only promoting avian conservation, but protecting our affected wildlife.

The avian influenza has the potential to affect more than just our bird population. The virus H5N1, which causes avian influenza, has evolved to reach mammals as well. In a study conducted by UC Davis and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in Argentina, it was found that avian influenza had the ability to infect marine mammals. In the study, four seal brain samples were collected, all of which tested positive for H5N1 (Rimondi, 2024). This confirms that the virus has the capability to adapt and risk more than just native birds and poultry. The added layer of potential harm to our ecosystems can be hindered by close monitoring and active work to stop the spread, as planned by HB1427.

Passing HB147 takes a proactive stance in protecting our native avian ecosystems, and our broader ecosystem by that extent. The allocated funds will be put into good use, providing the necessary tools to actively conserve Hawai'i's wildlife. Safeguarding the unique diversity we

have is a cause that should continuously be recognized not only by the environmental and health community, but in our legislation. I firmly urge you to recognize the significance of HB1427 and any future bills that advocate for conservation efforts.

References

Rimondi, A., Vanstreels, R. E., Olivera, V., Donini, A., Lauriente, M. M., & Uhart, M. M. (2024). Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Viruses from Multispecies Outbreak, Argentina, August 2023. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 30(4).
<https://doi.org/10.3201/eid3004.231725>

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:36:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:08:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DOH website says, "The current risk to the general public(re: bird flu) in Hawai'i remains low."

I oppose this bill and ask you to do the same because this bill will do more harm than good.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:28:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. Opposed.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:18:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gain of function is what created this! See Georgia investigation

No more sham flu vaccines

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:02:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Hough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ths bill dumps our hard earned taxpaers dollars into a brd flu panic, increasing government waste! Bird Flu is a low risk sham, siphoning funds for unnecessary monitoring, stop the madness!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:56:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ANOTHER FEAR MONGERING PANIC DRIVEN HOAX TO GRIFT THE TAXPAYERS -
WE THE PEOPLE OPPOSE THIS BILL -

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:47:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Kuwaye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:34:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1427, H.D. 1 – “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA”

Submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature

Date: March 10, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB 1427, H.D. 1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawaii. While I acknowledge the importance of safeguarding public health and agriculture, I urge the Committee to reject this measure due to its questionable necessity, fiscal imprudence, duplication of existing efforts, and lack of specificity. For these reasons, I strongly oppose HB 1427.

First, the bill’s justification for new appropriations is undermined by the low risk posed by avian influenza to Hawaii’s human population. As the bill itself notes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the current risk to the public “low,” with only 67 confirmed human cases nationwide as of January 20, 2025—nearly all among farm workers—and no evidence of human-to-human transmission. In Hawaii, the virus has been detected in a single backyard flock and through wastewater testing which is highly suspect in its authenticity and accuracy, also there is no indication of an imminent crisis warranting significant new expenditures. The state should not rush to allocate scarce resources to something that remains speculative rather than demonstrably urgent.

Second, the fiscal implications of HB 1427 are troubling, particularly given Hawaii’s competing budgetary demands. The bill appropriates unspecified sums from general revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026, leaving the amount open-ended (“\$ or so much thereof as may be necessary”). This lack of clarity invites potential waste and fails to provide taxpayers with a transparent accounting of costs. At a time when Hawaii faces pressing needs—such as affordable housing, disaster recovery, and economic resilience—diverting funds to an expansive avian influenza program risks misallocating resources away from more immediate priorities that benefit all residents.

Third, existing state and federal mechanisms already address the monitoring and prevention of avian influenza. The Department of Agriculture and Department of Health, in coordination with federal agencies like the CDC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), have established protocols for biosecurity, testing, and outbreak response. HB 1427 does not articulate how its proposed funding would enhance these efforts beyond what is already in place, raising concerns about redundancy. Rather than creating a new layer of bureaucracy, the state should leverage existing programs and seek federal support—given that avian influenza is a national and global issue—before committing additional state funds.

Finally, the bill's vague language and delayed effective date of July 1, 3000, suggest a lack of urgency and poor drafting. The unspecified funding amounts and broad directives ("to prevent, monitor, and respond") provide little accountability or assurance that the funds will be used effectively. Moreover, the distant effective date—likely a typographical error—undermines the bill's credibility and leaves its practical implementation in question. Legislation of this nature demands precision and immediacy, neither of which HB 1427 delivers.

In conclusion, HB 1427 represents an unnecessary and poorly justified expenditure of state resources on a low-risk issue already managed by existing systems. I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose this measure and instead focus on targeted, cost-effective solutions that address Hawaii's most pressing challenges. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Lawrence Ramirez Kailua Kona
lardg@yahoo.com

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:17:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is another waste of taxpayer funds. We don't need further bloating of government waste. It's a ridiculous sham. Just stop!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:06:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1427.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:26:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no. There is not a valid reason to spend money on this at this time.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:20:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:08:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I oppose HB1427 as this bill uses tax dollars and puts them into a bird flu panic. It is wasteful.
Please stop this madness!

Mahalo,Chelle Galarza

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:59:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1427.

Bird flu can be handled by the people who raise chickens there are a aa the solutions culling nit needed

This bill dumps taxpayer dollars into a bird flu panic, bloating government waste. It's a low-risk sham, siphoning funds for unnecessary monitoring-

—stop the madness!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:53:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stacy diaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Stacy Diaz oppose this bill.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:40:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB1427,

Paul Giles

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:18:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I strongly oppose HB1427 relating to avian influenza. This bill proposes an unnecessary and wasteful allocation of taxpayer funds for a low-risk issue.

The proposed budget of \$3.3 to \$4.7 million for avian influenza monitoring and response is excessive and unjustified. While proponents claim this will protect public health and the agricultural economy, the actual risk to humans remains low. This appears to be an overreaction to a manageable situation.

Furthermore, Hawaii only recorded its first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza in November 2024, with no additional detections reported since the initial cases. This hardly justifies such a significant financial investment.

The bill's supporters argue for "robust monitoring and surveillance measures," but this seems like bureaucratic overreach and expansion of government control under the guise of public safety. We should not allow fear-mongering to drive policy decisions and waste valuable resources.

Instead of allocating millions to this low-risk issue, these funds could be better used to address more pressing concerns facing Hawaii's residents. This bill appears to be an attempt to capitalize on public health fears rather than a necessary measure to protect our state.

I urge you to reject HB1427 and put an end to this unnecessary expansion of government spending and control. Let's focus on real issues that affect our daily lives rather than succumbing to unfounded panic.

**Sincerely,
Deborah Umiamaka**

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:27:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:24:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:10:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You folks are ridiculous. Strongly oppose

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:09:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronelle Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, it does not benefit the people of Hawai'i.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:56:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in opposition to this bill, mahalo

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:32:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE. This is just another flu and another excuse to divert taxpayer funds to useless purposes when they are desperately needed elsewhere. Please take care of Hawaii's legitimate (and mounting) needs!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:26:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, bird flu, really? Stop with this complete rubbish.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:09:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. A better way to combat "bird flu" would be reversing the ridiculous laws making it illegal for bird & fowl farmers to obtain medications without a vet.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:16:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1427.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:47:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:33:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill that seeks to destroy ALL for one sick. This is AGAIN a misappropriation of the people's monies.

GOD KNOWS AND SEES ALL!! He can take perfect care of His creation. He DOES NOT NEED STATE/GOVT HELP!!

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:13:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

Thank you.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:28:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the so called 'bird flu' is being shown to be a sham and i do not want my tax dollars wasted on some made up crisis that really doesn't exist.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:31:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony In Opposition to H.B. No. 1427, H.D. 1****

Aloha e Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

I am Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian and resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years, nurturing a deep connection to this ‘āina and its delicate ecosystems. It is from this vantage point—steeped in both cultural heritage and a pragmatic concern for our community’s well-being—that I submit this testimony in resolute opposition to House Bill 1427 (HB1427). While the bill ostensibly seeks to address the spread of avian influenza through appropriations to the Departments of Health and Agriculture, its precipitous approach, lack of specificity, and potential to disenfranchise local stakeholders render it an ill-conceived measure antithetical to the balanced stewardship our islands demand.

The Premise: A Disproportionate Response

HB1427 predicates its appropriations on the emergence of H5N1 avian influenza in Hawaii, citing its detection in a backyard flock on O‘ahu and subsequent wastewater findings. Yet, the legislature’s own findings concede that human risk remains low, with only 67 confirmed cases nationwide as of January 20, 2025—nearly all mild and confined to farm workers—and no evidence of human-to-human transmission. This scant threat hardly justifies the allocation of unspecified general revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026, a move that risks diverting resources from more pressing public health and agricultural priorities. As a Native Hawaiian, I am acutely aware of the need to protect our food systems and native bird populations, but this bill’s alarmist posture exaggerates a manageable issue into a crisis requiring undue fiscal intervention.

A Lack of Precision Undermines Efficacy

The bill’s vagueness is its most egregious flaw. It appropriates indeterminate sums—“\$ or so much thereof as may be necessary”—to the Departments of Health and Agriculture for the nebulous purposes of “preventing, monitoring, and responding” to avian influenza. This absence of delineated funding amounts or concrete strategies invites inefficiency and potential misuse of taxpayer resources. Will these funds bolster biosecurity for small farmers, enhance testing capacity, or merely inflate bureaucratic overhead? Without specificity, HB1427 fails to assure constituents like me—longtime residents who rely on transparent governance—that our state’s

fiscal health will not be squandered on an amorphous initiative. Such imprecision is antithetical to the principled management of public trust.

Disenfranchisement of Local Communities

As a kama‘āina of Kahalu‘u, I am troubled by the bill’s implicit disregard for the voices of those most affected: backyard poultry keepers, small farmers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners who depend on fowl for cultural and subsistence purposes. The legislature notes the virus’s initial detection in a backyard flock, yet HB1427 offers no provisions for community engagement, education tailored to rural residents, or support for those whose livelihoods may be disrupted by enhanced biosecurity measures. This top-down approach risks alienating the very people it purports to protect, echoing historical patterns of external imposition that have long disenfranchised Native Hawaiian communities. A bill truly committed to our welfare would prioritize consultation and empowerment over unilateral state action.

Ecological and Cultural Risks

Beyond its procedural deficiencies, HB1427 raises ecological and cultural concerns that cannot be ignored. Hawaii’s native bird species—already imperiled by habitat loss and invasive predators—could face unintended consequences from broad, poorly defined interventions. Aggressive monitoring or culling efforts, if funded under this bill, might disproportionately harm endemic populations like the ‘amakihi or ‘apapane, further eroding our natural heritage. For Native Hawaiians, these birds are not mere wildlife; they are kin, woven into our mo‘olelo and practices. The bill’s silence on mitigating such risks betrays a myopic focus on a single pathogen at the expense of holistic ecological balance—a balance I have witnessed diminish over my 45 years on this island.

A Call for Prudence Over Panic

Opposition to HB1427 does not equate to denial of avian influenza’s potential threat. Rather, it reflects a demand for prudence over panic, specificity over vagueness, and inclusion over exclusion. Existing frameworks—such as the Department of Agriculture’s biosecurity programs and the Department of Health’s disease surveillance systems—can address this issue without the need for a hastily crafted appropriation bill. Should the virus’s transmissibility or severity escalate, targeted legislation with clear parameters could then be justified. For now, HB1427 represents an overreach that strains our state’s resources and sidelines its people.

Conclusion

After 45 years in Kahalu‘u, I have seen O‘ahu weather countless challenges with resilience and wisdom. HB1427, in its current form, lacks both. I urge this committee to reject this measure and instead pursue a deliberative, community-informed approach to avian influenza—one that honors the sovereignty of our land and its people over reactionary policy. Let us not sacrifice fiscal discipline or cultural integrity on the altar of an overstated risk.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:07:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:53:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to this bill. Save tax payers monies to something more important. Appropriation of funds towards Avian flu worries of anykind is a complete waste. Use it to help the CWS Dept. Children are dying. There needs to be the urgency to save children's lives right now who are dying. Immediate Social workers hiring now.

Louella Vidinha

Hawaii resident

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:33:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1427. The NWO really wants us to starve by killing all the chickens. They will make that excuse so then they can vax us with the avian flu shot. They want to kill us with 2 birds with 1 stone. No pun intended.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:57:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This is absolutely unnecessary and our money should be spent on other things.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:47:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1427

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:11:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support HB1427. This is a waste of our hard earned tax dollars. We have much more important issues to take care of. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:46:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

Unless there are clear signs that this disease is a major threat we should not proceed with this. These types of measures tend to end up with lots of money wasted.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:51:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Earwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose ALL the bills of this nature which are obviously manufactured crises put forth by the agendas of the radical left wing meant to frighten and terrorize the good people of this state and create chaos for the current administration in Washington, DC. We the People are sick of it. Please stop.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:52:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1427 HD1

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:54:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently Oppose this bill HB1427.

Why do tax payers here on the islands need to have thier money being used for something that has yet to show a real threat? Bird Flu announced months ago on the islands has not really surmounted to anything and yet there needs to be all this monitoring and oversight at the cost to the average person who wants a better Hawaii. People struggle to make it here and when our tax dollars and goverment has been lacking with results for the betterment of our state this seems like a lesser need.

Also, how exactly is this meant to be mitigated, what steps and what does the money need to be used for? A solid plan first would be better justifiable to use of our money. Like always there should be more transparency and less push for things at the expense of others.

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:55:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maly Gella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

LATE

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 1:22:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill

LATE

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:05:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Mcveigh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose hb1427.

-Sierra Mcveigh

LATE

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 11:27:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote No!

Funding a fake bird flu panic. Let the farmers handle any disease with tried and true methods.. They know how to operate without government control. Too many regulations already. JUST STOP. It wastes taxpayer funds.

LATE

HB-1427-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:50:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose