



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1439  
RELATING TO NUISANCES

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

Hearing Date: 2/5/2025 , 1:00PM      Room Number: 225

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 Position:** The Department **supports** the SB1439 measure.

5    **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD), Vector Control  
6    Branch (VCB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7    SB1439 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 322, Part 1, Removal, prevention (of  
8    nuisances) by adding "Abatement, Destruction" and "public or environmental" to clarify that  
9    the Department of Health has the legal authority and obligation to prevent and address  
10    nuisances that affect public health, environmental health, or both. The additional language  
11    updates the statute and aligns it with Departmental practices and purpose, ensuring that the  
12    Department has clear legal authority to act in the interest of public and environmental health  
13    for purposes such as invasive species control and biosecurity.

14    HRS, Chapter 322-1, pertains to the abatement of nuisances. HRS, Chapter 322-1, directs the  
15    Department to examine all nuisances, including foul or noxious odors, gases or vapors, water in  
16    which mosquito larvae exist, sources of filth, and all causes of sickness or disease, onshore and

1 in any vessel, which the Department determines are dangerous or injurious to health. Further,  
2 HRS, Chapter 322-1, authorizes the Department to cause the dangerous or injurious nuisance to  
3 be abated, destroyed, removed or prevented. However, as currently written, the language in  
4 HRS, Chapter 322-1 directs the Department to act when a nuisance is dangerous or injurious to  
5 “health,” which leaves ambiguity whether “health” does or does not broadly include  
6 “environmental health” or whether “health” refers solely to an individual’s health rather than  
7 public health.

8 The addition of “public or environmental” to HRS 322-1 simultaneously recognizes and  
9 authorizes the Department’s actions when nuisances directly threaten public health and/or  
10 environmental health. The proposed language adds clarity and readability to the statute.

11  
12 **Offered Amendments:** e.g., None

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:53:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please leave the chickens alone! The use of **Round Up and other toxic sprays should be discontinued**- these are known to cause Cancer. These products are well within the range of "things that threaten public and environmental health"! They should not be used around schools, public parks & public use buildings or anywhere really.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:23:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I oppose this bill. Leave our chickens alone. Go tackle the coconut rhinoceros beetle instead. If the boat stop coming, we will need our chickens. Eggs are gold right now. I know you know that. The boats could stop coming any day, that's a fact. We need to be sustainable and have additional food sources. You can miss me with that bird flu scam-demic. I oppose this bill because it is not in the best interest of the people of Hawai'i.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:36:29 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Grace Hall, and I am writing in opposition to SB1439. While I understand the importance of addressing environmental health concerns, I am deeply concerned about the vague language in this bill and how it could be used to justify the elimination of chickens on the islands. Such an action would worsen food security for many residents, especially those already struggling with poverty and the current chicken and egg shortage.

The bill grants broad authority to the Department of Health without clearly defining what constitutes a “nuisance” or specifying how enforcement will be carried out. This ambiguity leaves room for subjective interpretation and unintended consequences. Without clear guidelines, the bill could disproportionately affect low-income communities that rely on backyard chickens as a vital food source.

Hawai’i is already facing challenges in food security, and many residents depend on chickens for fresh eggs and meat. Removing these resources would force more reliance on costly imports, further burdening families who are already struggling to afford basic necessities. If this bill is intended to target noise or population control, I urge the committee to provide explicit language ensuring that it does not negatively impact food security or residents who responsibly raise chickens.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against SB1439 or amend it to provide clearer definitions and protections for local food sources.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Grace H.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:46:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari saiki Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a tax payer, I oppose this bill.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 1:35:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text



**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:41:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noel kauanui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want this bill to go through. It gives the Hawaii government too much say in what animals should be eradicated and when. Do not vote this bill in!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:44:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1439

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:46:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharee Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop being dumb and wasting more taxpayer dollars. Come up with bills that aren't stupid. There are more important things to do than this one. Do those instead.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:14:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:33:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill. Mahalo

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:39:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:39:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:14:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole LeClaire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose your repeated attempts to control The People and our choices. We are not your slaves or subjects. The People deserve Freedom. You work for US, it is not the other way around.



**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:30:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Gillard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 1:15:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Jakahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All life is precious and I oopose giving the state this right.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:14:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill while heartedly, I am Hawaiian and these animals are part of the ecosystem and my ancestors knew that. If eradicated the aina will suffer even more

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:42:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

This Bill is Fraud Waste and Residents Abuse,, Now you guys want to invade peoples lives and property? You have nothing better to do than dream up ridiculous bills like this..People's animals, even chickens are their strength to keep them going,,Oahu residents only relief from your weekly lifestyle reductions and increases for every daily necessity from Auto Registration to Flood Insurance rising Cable TV , Cell Service, Land Tax, House Rent, people are ready to give up from all of the stress you are giving them. Some jump off the overpass, some jump off their condo, one example the Father murdered his whole family then committed suicide...All above were from money issues generated from your unfair , family destroying bills. I, don't support this Bill. Every proposed Bill from this Hawaii Legislature, needs to be posted on an easily accessible public Facebook or IG . Most residents don't attempt any testimonies, too complicated for them, to check emails every single day then send in testimonies 24 hours prior to closing . Start this, and watch the negative responses, possibly ending in lawsuits and court dates,, People will not support this,,

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:36:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It gives too much power, once again, to a government agency. There are better solutions to handle feral animals and other laws already in place to handle the rest.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:35:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I oppose this bill. We do not want the DOH deciding what is a nuisance. This would open us up to them coming in and trying to irradiate our chickens and pigs. Which are both food sources. This is more government overstepping their bounds. We are capable of handling our own affairs and don't need government interference.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:21:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill since it can give the state the ability to eradicate essential livestock too easily.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:07:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Needs to very clearly define what is meant by "nuisance" and by "prevent". The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness, and the righteous thing to do is promote food security while optimizing human health, which this bill doesn't do.



**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:39:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

If something were to ever affect goods from coming in, this bill would eliminate our ability to live off the land and self sustain. Don't forget we live on an island. And a lot of us wouldn't flee to escape disaster. Leave the resources alone and listen to the people that use the land properly.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:19:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1439; current laws and regulations are sufficient.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:52:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STOP THE EVIL!! GOD sees all and knows all...you will reap what you sow!!!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:40:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Brian Wallace, and I am writing in opposition to SB1439. While I understand the importance of addressing environmental health concerns, I am deeply concerned that this bill could be used as a means to eliminate chickens on the islands, exacerbating food security issues for many residents—especially those already facing poverty.

Hawai'i is currently experiencing a chicken and egg shortage, making access to affordable, locally sourced protein increasingly difficult. For many families, especially in rural and low-income communities, chickens provide a sustainable source of food. Eliminating them would not only remove a critical food source but also increase reliance on expensive imported goods, further straining those who are already struggling to afford basic necessities.

If this bill is intended to target noise or population control, I urge the committee to consider more balanced solutions that do not compromise food security. Hawai'i must prioritize self-sufficiency and sustainability, and any legislation affecting food sources should be approached with extreme caution.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against SB1439 or amend it to ensure it does not negatively impact residents who rely on chickens for food.

Mahalo,

Brian Wallace

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:05:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill needs to be killed immediately.

Alice Abellanida

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:54:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:09:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JASON KORNEGAY	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:56:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rio Del Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this as a US citizen. No on this proposal.



**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:09:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Feleciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I strongly oppose being able to eliminate a potential food source and label it because of "nuisance" we live on an island that relies of majority of its food supply to be shipped in. Why isn't food security being thought of here! Look at what's happening with a nation wide egg shortage!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 7:26:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Misunas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 4:39:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1439.

I myself along with the rest of the populace would like transparency from the government. Why is this proposed bill along with others displaying it being introduced by Kouchi at the request of another party? Using the alibi that climate change is affected is highly questionable/doubtable. If that were the case then there should be an explanation with factual data to validate this. Otherwise it's just baseless allegations.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 4:10:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I APPOSE this BILL!

Stop messing with the animals! IMO this will ultimately end up depleting our food source just like what's happening in Calif or other states. I Do not trust the DOH to make these kinds of decisions and should never have this authority!

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:17:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB 1439. We should eradicate drugs and child trafficking. Don't understand you guys passed a bill to let go thousands of mosquitos to bite us and want to get rid of animals that eat pest. Know wonder hawaii is ranked as one of the dumbest!!!!

**LATE**

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:23:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Barientos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose granting the Department of Health unchecked authority over what it considers a ‘nuisance.’ While it is necessary to address threats to ecosystems, the environment, and public health, this should only be done when no other options exist. The department must be held accountable for its decisions, ensuring transparency to the public, fairness, and respect for individual rights. For example, stray cats, which are often left unchecked, contribute to environmental harm by killing over 2 billion birds annually and spreading harmful parasites like *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes toxoplasmosis. This parasite, commonly transmitted through cat feces, can lead to severe health issues in humans, including flu-like symptoms, vision problems, and even brain damage in vulnerable individuals such as pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems. Despite this, chickens—an animal that provides significant value to the environment—are frequently targeted as nuisances. Chickens serve as a sustainable food source, their waste can be used as natural fertilizer, and they contribute far more positively to ecosystems than stray cats. Policies must be based on science, logic, and fairness rather than arbitrary classifications of what constitutes a nuisance.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:29:24 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 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, stop trying to control our food sources.

**SB-1439**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:26:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose