

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

033

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 14**

, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1427  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 1427, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; State Health Planning and Development Agency; Villa Rose/Waialua Eggs; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Kapapala Ranch; Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC; and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from four individuals.

Your Committee finds that avian influenza, or bird flu, poses a significant threat to Hawaii's agriculture, public health, and unique ecosystems. The recent detection of H5N1 in backyard poultry and wastewater across the State underscores the urgent need for enhanced monitoring and biosecurity measures. While the current risk to humans is considered low, the virus has infected

2025-1838 HB1427 HD1 HSCR HMSO

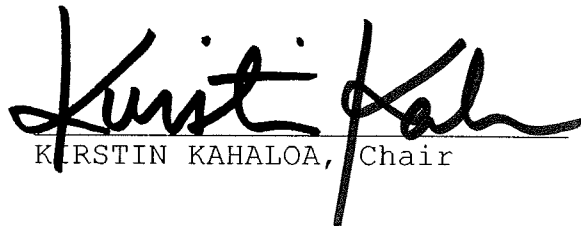


farm workers in other states, and its potential to mutate and spread more easily remains a serious concern. This measure addresses these risks by appropriating funds to the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture to strengthen surveillance, response efforts, and public education on avian influenza. By investing in proactive monitoring, biosecurity protocols, and public awareness, this measure helps safeguard local farms, protect food production, and minimize the potential for widespread transmission.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$293,000 for the Department of Agriculture and between \$3,300,000 and \$4,700,000, depending on the availability of federal funds, for the Department of Health.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1427, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture & Food  
Systems,

  
KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



HSCR 633

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 1427, HDI</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HLT, AGR, FIN</b>	Date: <b>2/12/25</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	X			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	X			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	X			
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	X			
6. WARD, Gene				X
<b>TOTAL (6)</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>1</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee                Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office                Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				