



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1389  
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date, Time: **02/07/2025, 08:45 A.M.** Room Number: **329**

- 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 offers **support** for HB1389.
  
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD), Vector Control
- 6 Branch (VCB), provides the following comments on behalf of the Department.
  
- 7 The Department of Health (Department) supports HB1389, which appropriates funds to expand
- 8 the City and County of Honolulu (CCH) and the Department for feral chicken control and a
- 9 feeding feral animal education campaign, respectively. The Department strongly supports the
- 10 efforts of the state, city, and counties to control the increases in the populations of feral
- 11 chickens and, more broadly, feral animals.
  
- 12 Feral animals threaten local ecosystems and can transmit diseases affecting both humans and
- 13 native species. Feeding feral animals, including chickens, cats, or other species, leads to
- 14 increased feral populations, which is detrimental to the welfare of the animals, the
- 15 environment, and sometimes even human health. It is crucial to provide financial support to

1 expand county feral animal control programs to mitigate the negative impacts associated with  
2 feral animals.

3 Educating residents and visitors about the harmful effects of feeding feral animals is vital to the  
4 success of any feral animal reduction program in Hawaii. If the Department receives funding for  
5 a campaign to inform the public about the risks of feeding feral animals, the Department will  
6 collaborate with other government and private agencies or organizations that share similar  
7 interests and priorities.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

9

10

11 **Offered Amendments:**

12 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 HAWAI'I  
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  
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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  
HEALTH

Friday, February 7, 2025  
8:45 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1389  
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS

House Bill 1389 proposes appropriating funding to the City and County of Honolulu to expand the feral chicken program and establish a statewide education campaign to provide the public with information on feeding feral animals. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Feral animals threaten public health, safety, and conservation and have reached population levels that are a public nuisance. They displace native flora and fauna across the state and disrupt ecosystems through their foraging and predation activities. They create sanitary hazards due to waste in public areas that spread pathogens and bacteria. In addition, they spread diseases and destroy property. Controlling feral animals is essential, and educating residents about the impact these animals have is a helpful tool. The Department strongly supports this effort.

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 HEALTH**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2025**  
**8:45 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 329**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1389**

**RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS**

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1389. HB1389 appropriates funds to the City and County of Honolulu for the expansion of the feral chicken program and the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health for a statewide education campaign for the feeding of feral animals. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) has comments.

Appropriating funds to the City and County of Honolulu to assist in expanding the County's feral chicken control program is needed. The City and County of Honolulu has the experience and program in place for the control of feral animals. In addition, assisting other counties feral chicken control programs is beneficial if funds allow. The Department also feels that funds could be used by the counties for targeted education campaigns in each county instead of the Vector Control Branch.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

ADMINISTRATION  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



KIMBERLY HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Health,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 1389 - Relating To Feral Animals  
HEARING: Friday, February 7, 2025, 8:45 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support** of H.B. No. 1389, which would appropriate funds for the expansion of the City and County of Honolulu's feral chicken program and establish a statewide education campaign to provide the public with information on the feeding of feral animals.

Feral animals, particularly chickens, have increasingly become a public nuisance, impacting residential communities, businesses, and agricultural operations across the state. The rapid growth of feral animal populations presents concerns related to noise, sanitation, public health, and environmental sustainability. As noted in prior legislative findings, a collaborative and well-funded approach is necessary to effectively address these challenges.

H.B. No. 1389 provides a practical solution by expanding existing programs that have demonstrated success in mitigating feral chicken populations through structured management efforts. Additionally, a statewide education campaign will help inform residents about the impact of feeding feral animals and promote responsible practices to prevent further population surges.

Testimony for H.B. No. 1389  
February 6, 2025  
Page 2

With sufficient and consistent funding and coordination, this initiative will contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more livable environment for all communities in Hawai'i. We respectfully urge the Legislature to support H.B. No. 1389 and appropriate the necessary resources to ensure the continued effectiveness of these efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 1389.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director Designate



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

February 7, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1389**  
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference  
8:45 AM

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Ley Loy, 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 1389**, which appropriates funds to the City and County of Honolulu for the expansion of the feral chicken program and the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health for a statewide education campaign for the feeding of feral animals.

Across the State, various feral species are creating havoc on agriculture and the ecosystems in which they exist. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring living vegetation as they spread.

The feral chicken and rooster populations in Hawai'i have skyrocketed and have become an ever-increasing problem. Aside from roosters crowing in the hours before dawn, the feral chickens damage crops, spread weeds, threaten native plants, and are a road hazard. The noise, health issues, and environmental damage from feral chickens have become major concerns and need to be controlled.

These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could jeopardize our domestic livestock and poultry industries. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Feral chickens and roosters can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's

cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising. The State and Counties need to develop a long-term management plan that includes a feeding of feral animal education program to address this ever-growing problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

**HB-1389**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:33:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose 1389 HB RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I oppose this bill. While I agree Hawaii does have alot of feral chickens, this bill has no defined amount of funding applied to actions as well does not define the level of culling and how these birds would be trapped and exterminated. If it just said it would go after roosters only and a defined amount of funding I might be more inclined to support this bill. This bill needs more clarity and definition.

Additionally this bill along with other bills going after chickens concerns me that there will be an effort to cull all chickens in Hawaii. Believe it or not wild chickens also provide eggs. I personally have wild chickens in my back yard that I throw scraps to and I collect their eggs. With the crazy stuff going on with eggs and chicken culling this bill seems sketchy and agenda driven.

thank you,

Dawn P.

Honolulu, HI 96813

**HB-1389**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:25:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

**HB-1389**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:33:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE