

**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 JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 980**  
**RELATING TO ANIMALS**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 980. HB980 amends section 142-93.5 authorizing the killing of mongoose by adding feral chickens and clarifying the circumstances under which feral chickens may be killed under certain circumstances. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) makes the following comments.

The department recommends changing lines 15, 16, and 17 on page 2 From:

15 including but not limited to poisoning the feral  
16 chicken in a cage using \_\_\_\_\_, decapitation, and  
17 drowning.

To:

15. providing methods of extermination are consistent with the  
16. American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia  
17. of Animals;



Some methods listed are not consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines and are not recommended.

Furthermore, the Department recommends the criminal behaviors listed in lines 18 through 21 are better addressed in Chapter 711, HRS rather than Chapter 142.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

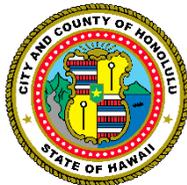
ADMINISTRATION

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

KIMBERLY HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O



February 19, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
and Hawaiian Affairs  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee  
on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 980 - Relating To Animals  
HEARING: Thursday, February 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), appreciates the opportunity to offer comments to H.B. No. 980, which would amend Section 142-93.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to permit the killing of feral chickens on private land with the permission of the landowner.

CSD currently administers contracts with a third-party vendor to mitigate and control nuisance issues created by feral chickens on both private property and on city property on O'ahu. The responsibility for responding to feral chicken nuisance issues varies with the location of the animals and property ownership. Private property owners are responsible for nuisances or violations created by feral chickens or poultry on their properties.

With respect to nuisance issues created by feral chickens on privately-owned property, CSD's vendor offers services such as on-site assessment, trap placement, monitoring, and humane disposal of feral chickens at the request of the property owner. The City and County of Honolulu, subject to the extent of available funding, subsidizes a portion of the cost to private property owners to trap and humanely dispose of feral chickens. Additional services include trap rentals and direct humane chicken disposal.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Total Price</b>	<b>Landowner's Cost</b>	<b>City &amp; County of Honolulu's Cost</b>
Full Service (one week)	\$475.00	\$375.00	\$100.00
Cage Rental (one week)	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
Feral Chicken Disposal	\$25.00 per chicken	\$10.00 per chicken	\$15.00 per chicken

All services provided pursuant to these contracts are required to comply with all applicable federal, state and city ordinances, guidelines and rules applicable to humane capturing and proper disposal.

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.

CSD supports efforts to mitigate and control the growing feral chicken population on O'ahu in a humane manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 980.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director Designate

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:55:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly oppose HB980. It would give people who hate animals carte blanche to kill "pests" indiscriminately. Please kill this bill. Mahalo

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:07:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council	Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Self-advocacy advisory council supports HB980.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 19, 2025

To: Chair Rep. David Tarnas  
Vice Chair Rep. Mahina Poepoe  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in opposition to HB 980: Relating to Animals  
Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, 2 p.m., Room 325 & Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our opposition to House Bill 980, which amends the law authorizing the killing of mongoose by clarifying the circumstances under which mongoose may be killed and authorizing feral chickens to be killed under certain circumstances.

Hawaiian Humane is the animal law enforcement contractor for the City and County of Honolulu and we know of no instances of property owners being prosecuted for lethal control of feral chickens on their property. Standard and acceptable pest control practices are already permissible under Hawaii law (711-1109) and at least one licensed pest control company on Oahu offers such services for feral chicken control (<https://www8.honolulu.gov/csd/feral-chickens/>).

This measure is unnecessary and cruel. While the language includes a prohibition on torture, it expressly allows cruel methods such as drowning. That begs the question of what would be considered torture. It also contradicts the bill's concern about biosecurity, which would be compromised by close contact with chickens. Allowing property owners to kill feral chickens by methods involving close contact with the animals could increase potential H1N1 threats.

A far more impactful response to avian flu would be to shut down cock fighting operations and the breeding of roosters on agricultural lands.

Please reject HB 980, which is cruel and lacks a clear purpose. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:30:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayla Marie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure. While feral chickens pose a threat to the environment i belive that killing chickens is inhumane treatment of animals.

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:05:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacoby Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong opposition to HB 980, which would authorize the killing of feral chickens on private property. This bill represents a cruel and unnecessary approach to managing Hawai'i's feral chicken population.

The methods of killing outlined in this bill are particularly disturbing, including poisoning, decapitation, and drowning. These methods are inhumane and could cause prolonged suffering. While the bill prohibits torture and starvation, the approved methods of killing could still result in significant distress to these animals.

While the bill cites concerns about H5N1 avian influenza, killing feral chickens is not an evidence-based solution to disease control. In fact, disturbing feral chicken populations could potentially spread disease further as surviving birds disperse to new areas. The CDC and World Health Organization recommend biosecurity measures and monitoring, not mass culling, as the primary approach to preventing avian influenza spread in wild bird populations.

The characterization of feral chickens primarily as "nuisances" ignores their cultural significance in Hawai'i. Moa (chickens) have been part of our island ecosystem since Polynesian settlement. While population management may be needed in some areas, this should be done through humane methods such as:

- Egg removal and replacement with dummy eggs
- Habitat modification
- Proper waste management to reduce food sources
- Installation of barriers in problem areas

Representative Takenouchi's support of this cruel legislation shows a concerning lack of compassion for animals and disregard for more humane, effective solutions. We need leaders who will pursue evidence-based, ethical approaches to wildlife management, not quick fixes that cause unnecessary suffering.

I strongly urge the committee to reject HB 980 and instead support development of humane, long-term strategies for managing feral chicken populations.

With grave concern,  
Jacob Young

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:39:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jill Yoshicedo, DVM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of addressing the feral chicken overpopulation issue.

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:31:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Animals are here with us, not for us. Please don't kill them.

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:18:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB980. This is a horrificably inhumane bill and has no place in civilized society.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

**HB-980**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:43:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill