



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 524
RELATING TO ANIMALS**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNES
Hearing Date: 2/4/2021 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may 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 Testimony:** With the marked increased in the feral chicken population, the
5 Department appreciates the intent of HB 524 and offers comments. This bill prohibits feeding or
6 attempted feeding of feral chickens on public or private property. It requires the Department to
7 enforce the prohibition and authorizes county police departments to issue citations.

8 The bill suggests that when Department inspectors witness the feeding of feral chickens,
9 the Department shall, using its enforcement authority issue a Notice of Violation. It also
10 authorizes the county police departments to issue citations. In practice, having two agencies to
11 enforce the law is confusing. The Department respectfully suggests that only one agency be
12 responsible for enforcement and that the county police departments would be more expeditious
13 in responding and issuing citations.

14 In certain circumstances, enforcement is a necessary tool. However, the Department
15 believes that education and community outreach is more appropriate when dealing with behavior
16 and cultural norms.

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

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HB-524

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:18:31 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erick Wolf	Innolytics LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators of Hawaii,

We understand that the legislature plans to pass a feeding ban for feral chickens. While well-intentioned, we do not believe that a public feeding ban will have any tangible effect on the population of feral birds.

Feral chickens are peculiar to Hawaii and rarely occur in any significant numbers in other US states. Like other pest birds, chickens are able to breed rapidly and produce many offspring once established. In other areas of the USA, the population of feral chickens is kept in check by raptors and other ground predators. The best option for Hawaii to get the population under control is to **stop the breeding**, "birth control" for birds.

Innolytics is the manufacturer of OvoControl (0.5% nicarbazin). The active ingredient is very safe, non-toxic, and environmentally benign. Treated birds are not harmed but instead, lay unfertilized eggs. The existing population declines through a natural process of attrition.

We understand that in a previous round of testimony that there was concern that people would eat the treated chickens and eggs. While we do not recommend human consumption of treated or even untreated feral chickens, the active ingredient has been approved by FDA for chicken use as a coccidiostat for more than **60 years**. The compound is supported by a tolerance limit and does not pose a health or safety threat to the public. There is infinitely more public health risk to eating a feral chicken than consuming some residue of the active ingredient.

We are happy to support the registration of OvoControl for feral chicken use with the Department of Agriculture in Hawaii.

Erick Wolf, CEO, Innolytics, LLC

HB-524

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:52:51 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brianna pelekai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is a waste of time! "feral chickens" are not a problem in Hawaii. CHICKENS ARE A FOOD SOURCE. chickens are native animals. Hawaiians brought chickens with them when they settled in Hawaii. They are not a health hazard. The diseases that feral chickens have are from feral cats. CATS ARE AN INVASIVE SPECIES. Feral cats are the real problem. There is evidences to prove that feral cats kill off native animals. Feral CATS have diseases that causes harm to our Marine life. For example, they can carry toxoplasmosis that has been proven to cause Hawaiian monk seals to not be able to reproduce,sometimes it kills them. Feral cats can and will kill any animal- including chickens, native birds, and they will destroy crops by urinating on or near crops. theyre diseases can get into the crops/food and could even causes women to lose the ability to have children.

There are pages all over social media that is for people to get together and feed these feral cats. WE NEED A BILL THAT FINES PEOPLE FOR FEEDING FERAL CATS.

This bill (HB 524), makes me so mad because there is so much more GOOD that we can do here. Trying to fine the people of Hawaii for feeding chickens is a waste of time and money.

the life of "feral" chickens is hard. people harrass and harm these chickens for no reason. chickens are such great and amazing animals that can give you a source of fresh eggs and meat. if you are going to fine people for feeding chickens, fine people for feeding ALL FERAL ANIMALS.

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HB-524

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:30:04 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert A Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair and members of the Committee:

I live on St Louis Heights. The feral chicken population here (and elsewhere) has exploded! Well intending neighbors feed these birds, which makes them propagate and spread far and wide, as young roosters look for new terrain. It has really gotten bad. And it is made worse by people going to the Waahila Ridge State Recreation Area and feeding the feral chickens there.

Please pass this Bill! It may mean my neighborhood will return to normal and I can get some sleep!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Marks

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HB-524

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:43:15 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Pass it!

HB-524

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:59:06 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Titcomb	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am admittedly among those who rather enjoy the sight of chicks and the sound of roosters crowing – and this comes from one who has had them right outside my bedroom window for 5 years – I can sympathize with those who find feral chickens a nuisance. If there is evidence they pose an environmental or health threat, then perhaps such a measure would be necessary. But the bottom line is, do we really need to add another item on the duty roster of our public safety and health departments? They have far more pressing responsibilities. I see this as an enforcement nightmare.