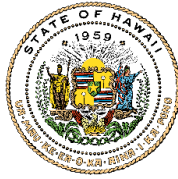


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 29, 2023  
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 110/HOUSE RESOLUTION 116  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF LAND  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CITY AND  
COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, TO COLLABORATE  
TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A FIVE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO  
MITIGATE AND CONTROL THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE POPULATION  
OF FERAL CHICKENS AND ROOSTERS.**

House Concurrent Resolution 110/House Resolution 116 recognize that feral chickens and roosters, and pigs have become a nuisance in suburban and urban areas, and their populations and impacts are increasing. It requests the Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the County of Hawaii to collaborate to establish and implement a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control feral chickens, roosters, and pigs. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department controls populations of feral chickens (including hens and roosters) and pigs on lands under its jurisdiction, with a heavy emphasis on fencing forested lands to prevent deforestation and the spread of invasive plant species and Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) from pigs and other hoofed animals. However, the Department does not have the capacity to implement nuisance chicken and pig control on private and county lands. The Department believes efforts to suppress feral chicken and pig populations in suburban and urban areas are best led by the respective counties. The Department notes that rats, cats and mongooses pose an even larger threat to native and endangered forest birds, seabirds, shorebirds, and migratory birds as they eat adult

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
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M. KALEO MANUEL  
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  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

birds, chicks, and eggs, and their range is from the shoreline all the way up into the upland forests. There are examples of entire native bird colonies in Hawai'i being killed by a single cat.

Cats also pose a particular threat to native species in Hawai'i as their feces carries a parasite that carries the disease toxoplasmosis - a leading cause of death in the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Toxoplasmosis quickly causes inflammation and organ failure in Hawaiian monk seals. When it rains, stormwater picks up toxoplasmosis from dissolved cat feces in yards, streets, sidewalks, drainage canals, and in nature and empties into the ocean waters surrounding the islands. Twenty percent (20%) of households in Hawai'i own cats, and half of those cat-owning households allow their cats outside, which means that their feces plus the feces of stray cats, is impacting the marine environment through rain runoff. Toxoplasmosis is in the water column and in Hawaiian monk seal prey (crab, shrimp, lobster, fish, squid, octopus). Toxoplasmosis has also been found to affect and harm Hawaiian spinner dolphins, and 'Alalā (Hawaiian crow) which prey on mice and smaller animals that have toxoplasmosis from eating cat feces or drinking affected water.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on these measures.

**HR-116**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:31:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong

**HR-116**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 5:11:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Your just Wasting our Tax Payer Moneys!!!!