

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2024  
2:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2046  
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT**

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2046 relating to feral chicken management. This bill requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects. It also appropriates funds. The Department offers comments.

This bill highlights the agriculture infrastructure needs to take on many of the requirements in this bill. Hawaii does not have a chicken processing facility. Currently all chickens raised in Hawaii and sold are processed under a USDA chicken processing exemption. To fully undertake this work, the Department requests \$10,000,000 in planning and design funds to create a processing facility where USDA pre and post antemortem inspection can occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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  
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DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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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  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Thursday, February 12, 2024  
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2046  
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT

House Bill 2046 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects and appropriates funds to the Department to implement feral chicken management. **The Department offers comments on this measure.**

Although feral chickens can be hosts to numerous avian diseases including avian influenza, the Department believes this threat is not a primary concern for conservation of native wildlife. The Department believes feral chickens cause more damage to food crops, human health and noise pollution and are better managed at the local county level. Furthermore, the measure includes the establishment of a program to encourage the beneficial use of feral chicken carcasses, including retail and nonprofit options for feeding the houseless and hungry. The Department supports the intent of this bill but feels the Department of Agriculture is the appropriate agency to determine the feasibility of these opportunities. Programs to control nuisance chickens would help with management of this species but the better nexus is the Department of Agriculture and the local counties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 10.2024

To: Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and members of the House Committee of Agriculture and Food Systems.

Subject: **Support of HB2046**

Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee,

Hawaii Food+ Policy is pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of HB2046, which addresses the crucial issue of feral chicken management in Hawaii. As an organization dedicated to forging a brighter future for our islands. We merge innovative education, technology, and cultural enrichment with policies promoting sustainable agriculture and equitable access to nutritious, locally sourced food. We believe that this policy is essential for promoting environmental sustainability, protecting public health, and supporting our local communities.

Feral chickens pose a significant threat to Hawaii's native habitats and ecosystems. Their unchecked proliferation can lead to habitat degradation, displacement of native species, and disruption of ecological balance. By collaborating with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and county agencies, HB2046 provides a comprehensive framework for managing feral chicken populations, mitigating their impacts, and preserving our precious natural resources for future generations.

Furthermore, feral chickens can serve as vectors for diseases that pose risks to both wildlife and human populations. Implementing mechanisms to minimize diseased feral chickens is paramount for safeguarding public health and safety, reducing the spread of potential pathogens, and preventing outbreaks of diseases that could have devastating consequences for our communities.

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

In addition to environmental and public health concerns, feral chickens can also cause significant damage to crops and agricultural infrastructure, threatening the livelihoods of local farmers and compromising food security. By collaborating with agricultural agencies and implementing strategies to minimize the negative impacts of feral chickens on farming operations, HB2046 supports our agricultural sector and ensures a more sustainable future for Hawaii's food production.

Moreover, the policy's provisions for encouraging the beneficial use of feral chicken carcasses, such as through retail and nonprofit options for feeding the houseless and hungry, align with our organization's commitment to addressing social justice issues. By addressing the issue of feral chickens while simultaneously combating food insecurity and poverty, HB2046 exemplifies the intersectionality of environmental and social justice concerns.

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy urges you to support HB2046 and prioritize the effective management of feral chicken populations in Hawaii. By doing so, we can protect our native habitats, safeguard public health and safety, support our agricultural sector, and uplift vulnerable communities. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this important policy.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this important matter.

Mahalo,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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February 12, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2046**  
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 2046**, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects.

Across the State, various feral species are creating havoc on agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to 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 that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock and poultry industries in jeopardy. 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 animals education program, to address this ever-growing problem.

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



**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Feb. 11, 2024

To: Chairs Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates  
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

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

RE: Comments on HB 2046: Relating to Feral Chickens  
Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, 2 p.m., Room 312 and Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on House Bill 2046, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects; and appropriates funds.

Hawaiian Humane is grateful to the sponsors of this measure for looking at this issue holistically rather than presupposing that lethal control is the only possible strategy to curb the feral chicken population.

Two strategies not mentioned in the bill that we would recommend are:

- Stronger enforcement against cockfighting operations to reduce a primary source of this population, as well as prevent animal cruelty and protect human beings from associated illegal activities.
- The adoption of an avian birth control program, which is more humane and less costly than lethal eradication. We urge the committee to ask the state Department of Agriculture to submit a Special Local Need (SLN) registration to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which would allow already existing avian birth control products to be used by qualified local companies to curb the chicken population.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.

**HB-2046**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:40:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO FERAL CHICKEN MANAGEMENT.

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and counties to collaborate on feral chicken management projects. Appropriates funds

**HB-2046**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:39:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Irene Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our retirement facility is adjacent to several graveyards where the feral chickens have wandered into. They crow early in the morning when residents are sleeping. The loud crowing has prevented some of our seniors from sleeping throughout the night and this has affected their health. We have made attempts to work with our neighbors to prevent the feral chickens from congregating in the graveyard but have not found a solution. As president of our Residents' Association, I am writing to express the need for our state and county departments to communicate and collaborate regarding this concern. I am sincerely concerned about the wellbeing of our seniors. This bill will be a step toward remedying an issue that needs everyone's attention as the feral chicken population continues to increase. Your support of HB2046 is vital!

**HB-2046**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:42:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Irene Zane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Gates, Vice Chairwoman Kahaloa, and Committee members,

Thank You for this opportunity to express my concern to you today. My name is Irene Zane, a resident of the Nuuanu community.

I would like to add my voice to others in **support** of HB2046 relating to feral chickens.

I deeply appreciate Representative Takenouchi listening to residents, like myself, and trying to help find solutions to managing the feral chicken population, especially in and around residential neighborhoods. I champion the idea of “all hands on deck” with the State DLNR, Agriculture Department, and counties **working together** to help develop humane and effective solutions to manage and implement actions to control the feral chicken population in especially residential neighborhoods. e.g. Nuuanu

My concer - When I close the windows at night and turn on the air conditioner, I no longer hear the midnight to 1:30 a.m. rooster(s) crowing. However, I can still hear a rooster(s) crowing nearby where I live, around 3:00 a.m. - 4:00 a.m. in the morning. Then, throughout the day, roosters can be heard crowing closer to where I live. I’ve searched the Internet to try and better understand the behavior of roosters and other community ideas for controlling rooster crowing. The Hawaiian Humane Society and other organizations were also contacted with no achievable solutions.

**Thank You again for your time and consideration of this problem.**

Respectfully,

Irene Zane