

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2401 SD2
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS**

REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Hearing Date: Mar. 13, 2024

Room Number: 325

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 Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports SB2401 SD2, which
5 appropriates funds for the Counties of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii, and the City and County of
6 Honolulu (CCH) to implement feral chicken control programs and the Department to implement
7 a feeding feral animal education campaign.

8 The Department acknowledges the need for control of feral chickens by the CCH and other
9 county agencies and supports an educational campaign to reduce the amount of feeding of feral
10 animals statewide. Feral animals, whether chickens, cats, or other animals can increase the feral
11 populations which is not in the best interest of the animals themselves, the environment, or in
12 some cases, human health. Educating residents and visitors about the adverse effects of feeding
13 feral animals is crucial to the success of any feral animal reduction program in Hawaii.

14 In crafting an educational campaign, the Department will collaborate with other government and
15 private agencies or organizations with similar interests and priorities.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17 **Offered Amendments:** None

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
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 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024
8:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL 2401, SD2
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2401, SD2. This bill allocates funds to the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii and Department of health for feral chicken control program and the feeding of feral animals education program. The Department expresses our **strong support** but prioritizes the budget items identified in the administrations executive budget and legislative package.

This past fall, the department convened the working group to discover best practices with the City and County of Honolulu's feral chicken program, further conversations statewide led to a similar request for the County of Hawaii and County of Maui which the legislature included in SB2401, SD2.

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
DEREK MAYESHIRO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

SUBJECT: S.B. 2401 S.D. 2 - Relating to Feral Chickens
HEARING: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu offers its support to S.B.2401 S.D. 2. The Department of Customer Services (CSD) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) entered into a five year master agreement with Terminix International Co., LP, d.b.a. Sandwich Isle Pest Solutions (Sandwich Isle) for feral chicken management services on private property. Under this contract, private landowners on O'ahu may retain Sandwich Isle directly for feral chicken control services, including cage rentals and disposal services. The costs for these services are partially paid by the City and County of Honolulu while the remainder is paid by the property owner/manager.

The table below outlines the price allocations.

Service	Total Price	Landowner's Cost	City's Cost
Full Service (one week)	\$475.00	\$375.00	\$100.00
Cage Rental (one week)	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
Feral Chicken Disposal (per chicken)	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$15.00

Testimony for S.B. 2401 S.D. 2
March 12, 2024
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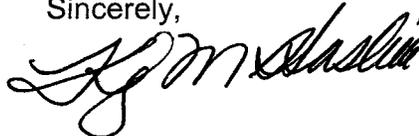
The Contract is funded for the current year with \$50,000.00 from the City & County of Honolulu's general fund. Sandwich Isle commenced services on September 5, 2023, and as of January 15, 2024, the following number of property owners/managers have utilized Sandwich Isle's services resulting in 111 feral chickens euthanized:

Full Services:	21 customers
Cage Rental:	28 customers
Disposal:	18 customers

With additional funding from the State, CSD could amend the contract to include a portion of the expenses to be paid with State funds thereby lowering the cost for private landowners.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer support to S.B.2401 S.D. 2.

Sincerely,



Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 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 SB 2401, SD2: Relating to Feral Chickens
Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 8:30 a.m., Room 325 and Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on Senate Bill 2401, SD2, which appropriates moneys to each county as a grant-in-aid for the implementation of feral chicken control programs; appropriates moneys to the Department of Health for a feeding of feral animals education campaign; and declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling.

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. Education is a key component. We also advocate for 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.

Regarding the birds that are already on the landscape, we advocate for 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.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 13, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2401, SD2
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
8:30 AM

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 SB 2401, SD2, which appropriates moneys to each county as a grant-in-aid for the implementation of feral chicken control programs and makes an appropriation to the Department of Health for a feeding of feral animals education campaign.

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 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 must be controlled.

These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is jeopardized 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 animals education program to address this ever-growing problem.

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

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:50:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to appropriating moneys to each county as a grant-in-aid for the implementation of feral chicken control programs. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Health for a feeding of feral animals education campaign

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:57:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert A Marks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and members - dozens of feral chickens live in a state park by my home. People come feed them and they proliferate throughout the neighborhood. Please help! People need to be educated about what a serious pest these animals are!

Robert Marks