



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, HD1
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: Mar. 27, 2024

Room Number: 308

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:** The Department of Health (Department) supports SB2401, SD2, HD1,
5 which 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 As the Department has previously testified, the Department acknowledges the need for control of
9 feral chickens by the CCH and other county agencies and supports an educational campaign to
10 reduce the amount of feeding of feral animals statewide. Feral animals, whether chickens, cats,
11 or other animals can increase the feral populations which is not in the best interest of the animals
12 themselves, the environment, or in some cases, human health. Educating residents and visitors
13 about the adverse effects of feeding feral animals is crucial to the success of any feral animal
14 reduction program in Hawaii.

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

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

1 **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 FINANCE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024
3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL 2401, SD2 HD1
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 HD1. This bill appropriates funds to each county as a grant-in-aid for the implementation of feral chicken control programs. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for a feeding of feral chickens' education campaign. The Department expresses our **strong support** but prioritizes the budget items identified in the administration's 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. Expanding the program to each county as a grant-in-aid for feral chicken control programs allows the counties to put together programs that are most effective for their residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-2401-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:21:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i strongly opposes lethal chicken control. We support the use of birth control using already existing product available. It would certainly be cheaper than the outrageous pest control companies who would exterminate chickens without any compassion.

Mahalo



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: March 26, 2024

To: Chair Rep. Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa
and Members of the Committee on Finance

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

RE: Comments on SB 2401, SD2, HD1: Relating to Feral Chickens
Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 p.m., Room 308 and Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on Senate Bill 2401, SD2, HD1, which appropriates funds to each county as a grant-in-aid for the implementation of feral chicken control programs, appropriates funds to the Department of Health for a feeding of feral animals education campaign, and takes effect 7/1/3000.

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 were excited to learn that the state Department of Agriculture plans 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 to curb the chicken population. We would encourage using the funding provided by this measure to implement humane population management strategies.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2401, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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, HD1, 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.



"Advancing the Commercial Real Estate Industry through Education, Networking and Advocacy"

Committees: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Date: March 27, 2024
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: Conference Room 308 and Via Remote Access
RE: SB 2401, SD2, HD1, Relating to Feral Chickens

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of Senate Bill 2401, SD2, HD1, relating to feral chickens. This bill appropriates funds to each county to implement a feral chicken control program and funds to the Department of Health to provide an educational campaign on the feeding of feral animals.

Feral chickens pose a nuisance and health risk to tenants and their customers in Hawaii's commercial buildings. Commercial property owners and managers also contend with tenants' noise and safety concerns. This bill provides an important step towards addressing this persistent problem.

BOMA Hawai'i is a non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing the commercial real estate industry through education, networking and advocacy. Please consider BOMA a resource for policy makers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Jamie Barboza
BOMA Hawai'i Government Affairs Committee Chair

SB-2401-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 6:48:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill SB2401 SD2HD1. Feral Chickens/Roosters are a huge nuisance on all islands, but on Oahu especially in Ewa, but can be found right in town. They crow at all times, noisy if chased away, and multiply by the dozens with some nest holding a dozen eggs. Their nests are found everywhere behind front doors, alongside trees and they damage the lawns of any open grass spaces. On Kauai, illegal cock fighting roosters cages were destroyed and released into communities during the hurricanes and found hens that have also been released. Retaliation by some are feared in our own communities.

This bill should also be extended to feral cats. People continually feed these cats several times a day, where they're skill at hunting is lost, which could have been useful in decreasing the rat and bird populations. They spread diseases and flees to other animals that pass by, especially dogs on leashes that are taken care of by their owners. Their feces, even in litter boxes need to be carefully disposed of and could be the cause of the deaths of many sea animals close to shore. Cats are being neutered or spayed and brought back to their original spaces and certain groups defy the laws of the state or the neighborhood will intentionally and continually feed them because of the lack of laws and probably the lack of staff of the Hawaii Humane Society. The push for animal rights is stronger than the push for people's rights! Even experimental animals at the University of Hawaii was stopped in the 1970s due to supposedly well intentioned organizations. So who do they need to test on???

Please support SB2401.SD2.HD1.