

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

3:05 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 71 / SR 66

URGING THIS BODY TO INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH STRICT LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO KEEP, HARBOR, OR FEED CERTAIN ANIMALS IN A MANNER THAT RESULTS IN DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 71 / SR 66 urging this body to introduce and pass legislation to establish strict liability for individuals who keep, harbor, or feed certain animals in a manner that results in damage to property.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports this resolution and defers to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) regarding the provision to conduct a study rather than allowing HISC to consider options that could include actions and implementation of county specific solutions.

This resolution represents a step toward resolving a decades long, statewide problem. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

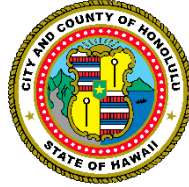
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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

SUBJECT: S.C.R. No. 71 - Urging This Body to Introduce and Pass Legislation to Establish Strict Liability for Individuals Who Keep, Harbor, or Feed Certain Animals in a Manner that Results in Damage to Property

S.R. No. 66 - Urging This Body to Introduce and Pass Legislation to Establish Strict Liability for Individuals Who Keep, Harbor, or Feed Certain Animals in a Manner that Results in Damage to Property

HEARING: Friday, March 27, 2026, 3:05 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) respectfully offers testimony in **support** of S.C.R. No. 71 and S.R. No. 66 for your committee's consideration. In addition to administering the City's feral chicken mitigation contracts that support humane capture and disposal services, CSD's Customer Care section serves as the primary point of contact for public complaints related to feral chickens. These complaints frequently involve excessive noise, sanitation issues, attraction of other pests, and impacts to public facilities and neighborhood quality of life.

For these reasons, the Department of Customer Services **supports** S.C.R. No. 71 and S.R. No. 66 and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

SR-66

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 2:08:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

The very broad language of SR66 would involve more enforcers than feasible. It appears that the drafters would eventually remove every life form they deem "invasive" This reso is a waste of time. <ahalo

SR-66

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 5:01:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE STRICT LIABILITY!

SR-66

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:05:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong opposition to SCR 71 by Senator Richards. The first resolved clause is vague, and on its face unenforceable. When you say, “pass legislation that results in establishing strict liability for individuals, who keep, harbor, or feed chickens, ungulates, or felids in a manner that results in the animals damaging the property of another individual”, let’s be clear. You are talking about chickens, horses, sheep, cows, and cats. When my neighbor’s pig, Lonnie, roots under my fence and knocks it over, my neighbor is already liable for the damage. That is already existing law. So if a pig, is moseying down the road who belongs to no one discernable and roots under my fence, we are supposed to look for any person who may have fed this pig at some point? This is patently absurd.

Have you considered whether damage to the property of another individual includes reduction in property values? I live in Hawaiian Paradise Park on Big Island. Rooster farms abound. If someone builds a rooster farm next to me, can I claim that they are keeping, harboring, or feeding chickens in a manner that damages my property?

I question the legal premise that Hawaii Invasive Species Council can declare feral chickens an invasive species because of harm to property. It would seem that as per the USDA’s [Executive Order 13112 \(Section 1. Definitions\)](#) an "invasive species" is a species that is:

- 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and,
- 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

The operative definition is “chicken”. If chickens are an invasive species, then what should be done about the entire poultry industry of Hawaii?

While I can appreciate that the legislature may be frustrated with idea that human beings may keep, harbor and feed animals and that some other people don’t like that, this is the nature of rural life. It is also a sign of a compassionate society.

Perhaps the Hawaii Invasive Species Council could better use its scarce resources fighting the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, the Little Fire Ant, the Albizia tree, and things that have a more profound effect on our local farmers.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749