



Re: Senate Bill 2195 – Support the bill

Good Afternoon, Senators Gabbard, Nishihara, Keohokalole, Baker and Misalucha and Members of the Committee on Health and Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Claire Tamamoto and I am speaking on behalf of the ‘Aiea Community Association. Our community association is known for their patience and perseverance. The issue of feral chickens first started appearing on our agenda and minutes in September, 2019. At that time, it was reported that the City and County’s Department of Consumer Affairs was informed of our growing concern for the feral chicken population in the area around Aiea’s new state library in July of 2019. In October 2019, it was reported that 70 feral chickens were caught by the county’s contracted exterminator. This contract is no long funded. We have discussed possible area solutions ranging from having a contest with prizes for catching the most chickens by individuals or organizations, buying chicken trap cages, setting up home traps and researching possible solutions on social media only to have our efforts thwarted by the Humane Society no longer accepting trapped chickens at their site.

In the years that ensued, our feral chicken population has only grown and along with it, the community’s concern for negative effects of having undomesticated animals in the neighborhood and around the children. **The Aiea Community Association strongly supports Senate Bill 2195.** This bill seeks to establish a five-year pilot program within the Department of Health to eradicate feral fowl beginning in the Pearl City and ‘Aiea areas on O’ahu. We fully understand that our neighborhood is not unique in this problem but we feel this bill allows for a humane effort to establish successful and permanent solutions to address this issue that can be replicated island wide. The 5-year pilot program allows the Department of Health to develop and address the health issues that arise from this feral population. These animals congregate around water sources that could lead to pollution in the water that navigates throughout our neighborhoods and enters into our ocean/harbor. In addition, these fowl gather in populated areas because some in our neighborhood feed them. An educational campaign should go hand in hand with any physical eradication efforts, creating an awareness for the health and safety issues of feeding any feral animal population.

Some of the effects of our feral chicken population are the noise of uncontrolled and untimely crowing, chickens aggressively approaching our young children and aging kupunas, fueling the cockfighting roster population, dead carcasses rotting in the neighborhood and the vehicular near misses of cars swearing or killing chicken who want to “see what’s on the other side of the road”. Do you remember the pigeon problem the zoo had years ago? It grew out of kindness and the “cuteness” of feeding them. We support a humane way of dealing with our fowl uncontrolled overpopulation. Let’s not wait until we have no alternatives to deal with this problem and **support SB 2195** to develop solution to this issue.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

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“Building A Sense of Community”

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