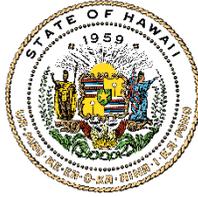


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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MANAGEMENT
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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
10:01 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1427, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

House Bill 1427, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes allocating funds to the Departments of Health and Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), caused by the H5N1 virus, is a highly contagious disease mainly affecting birds. In November 2024, Hawai'i recorded its first HPAI case in a backyard flock on O'ahu, making it the last state to detect the virus. A migratory bird likely introduced the disease, with the first wild bird case confirmed in a hybrid mallard duck on the North Shore of O'ahu. No additional detections in birds have been reported since these initial cases.

HPAI poses significant risks to poultry and dairy farmers, public health, and Hawai'i's native bird species—many already threatened or endangered. Large-scale die-offs of wild birds, as seen on the mainland, could have serious ecological consequences. The Department supports this measure to ensure necessary funding for monitoring and response efforts that will help mitigate the virus's impact on public health, agriculture, and native wildlife.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

HB-1427-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:30:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Testifying for Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY Appose HB1427!

Bird flu hoax!!!

This is an agenda by the globalist!

We see the next "Plandemic" being planned, as there already is a "Bird flu" summit scheduled for Oct in Las Vegas! We will not comply!!!

This is another attempt to take control of "we the people!"

There will be a huge backlash if you go this route! People are awake and aware of this agenda! Fool me once...Shame on you, Fool me twice...Shame on me!

HB-1427-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:42:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momoka Ioh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee on Health,

I am Momoka Ioh, a student from Kealakehe High School, writing to express my strong support for HB 1427, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawai'i. HB 1427 is critical to protecting public health, improving disease preparedness, and ensuring food security. With the increasing risks of avian influenza, our state must take action to prevent and combat the virus before it spreads further.

While avian influenza is known for its influence on birds, it can also cause harm to humans. A large outbreak could cause farms to shut down and impact the food supply. Avian influenza has only had major outbreaks in the mainland U.S., however, it has still impacted Hawaii's food supply: There were egg shortages across the Big Island, and the demand for local eggs rose, while also increasing the price of eggs overall. By providing necessary funding, Hawai'i will be able to mitigate the impact of avian influenza on poultry production in Hawai'i while also taking steps to protect public health and food security.

Please support HB 1427, as this bill will ensure Hawaii is prepared to combat avian influenza and protect both public health and economy, as well as maintaining food security within our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Momoka Ioh

HB-1427-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:32:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Azalea Thorp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1loJb0nIPNhPnAMgI2g7UL2hcHhb-Xjx-3VtRjlmaFo0/edit>

HB-1427-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:02:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE Bill HB1427

HB-1427-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:24:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1427, HD 1, SD 1 passage this session. It is a preventive strategy to prevent, monitor, and respond to the Avian Influenza virus presence in Hawai'i from getting worse. The funding to the Departments of Agriculture and Health is well worth the money.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1427, HD 1, SD 1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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 WAYS AND MEANS

APRIL 2, 2025
10:01 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 1427, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1427, HD1, SD1. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) supports the measure. The purpose of HB1427, HD1, SD1 is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Agriculture to prevent, monitor, and respond to avian influenza in Hawaii. The Department is collaborating with DOH on avian influenza and additional funds are needed to support ongoing activities. The Department requests that \$293,000 be appropriated to the Department for the purpose of this act including prevention, monitoring, and response to avian influenza. Two (2) of the largest categories of proposed use of funds by the Department are for public outreach through radio and TV and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for producers. Those amounts are estimated at \$100,000 and \$150,000 respectively. Enhanced media outreach improves public information and PPE for producers supports increased biosecurity measures on production sites necessary for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The remainder of \$43,000 is targeted for equipment, supplies, sample shipping, contracts, and other



related expenditures. The department defers to DOH for an appropriation that addresses their needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1427-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 1:02:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Willweber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Money is NOT needed to go towards bird flu issues. Bird flu is not deadly and difficult to transmit. It seems like the media and some sources are trying to make this into a bigger issue than it is. For what purposes? Who is to profit from this? CDC, who I don't like to quote often for the record, is not very concerned.

Vote no on this bill and use taxpayer money for better purposes, like better roads.

Mahalo, Dave