

Speaker Registration/~~Testimony~~

All fields marked "(*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.
Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Perle Besserman
Phone (*) 8085374347
Email (*) psbesser@gmail.com
Meeting Date (*) 2015-05-12
Council/PH Committee (*) ExecutiveMatters
Agenda Item (*) Bill 13, CD1
Your position on the matter (*) Support
Representing (*) Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) Yes

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Written Testimony

Given the chicken-related illnesses circulating in China and on the Mainland (resulting in the culling of 23 million chickens in Minnesota, Iowa, and Indiana alone) we can no longer shrug off the feral chicken problem currently plaguing Hawaii. In connection with my oral testimony, I will be circulating two recent articles from the Star-Advertiser and New York Times as evidence of the seriousness of the situation we are experiencing here in Honolulu and throughout the islands. I am sure you will agree that the influx of feral chickens in my Nuuanu neighborhood and throughout the entire city (including Manoa, Diamond Head, Waikiki, Downtown, and Kailua, to name only a few areas where feral chickens are proliferating daily) is no laughing matter but a serious health hazard. Recent global pandemics of diseases like SARS, H5N1 Bird Flu, and H1N1 Swine Flu provide a chilling reminder that new and untreatable viruses like the lethal H7N9 bird flu currently spreading throughout China and predicted to infect people worldwide, is a good reason to deal with our feral chicken problem seriously, before it makes us sick.

Testimony Attachment

20150509172855_Feral Chicken Problem-Honolulu.docx

Carol Fukunaga, Council Member
Honolulu City Council, District 6
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813-3065

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March 17, 2015

Att: Chris Delaunay
Subject: Feral Chicken Infestation

Dear Honolulu City Council Member Fukunaga,

Thank you for your follow-up letter of February 19th regarding your senior aid Chris Delaunay's investigation of the out-of-control feral chicken incursion throughout our Nuuanu district and, increasingly, the city of Honolulu. After Chris and I met and toured the area along the Nuuanu Stream, we discovered that the source of the problem lies primarily within two specific properties: the first, near or adjacent to the Nuuanu Stream and Pali Highway, belongs to the Department of Land and Natural Resources; the second was traced to the owners of the property at 355 Auwaiolimu Street. Representing your office, Chris contacted and advised both parties of their responsibility to hire a licensed pest control agent to rid the area of the feral chickens. At the same time, I brought the problem to the attention of the Craigsides condo board and am still waiting for a reply. After a follow-up phone conversation with Chris, I learned that neither the Department of Land and Natural Resources nor the property owners at 355 Auwaiolimu Street have done anything to control the feral chicken problem as advised.

Except for a few residents at Craigsides Tower II (38 South Judd Street) where I live, most of my neighbors shrugged off the problem, saying it was just "part of living in Hawai'i." The recent Star-Advertiser article I'm including here belies that notion. After reading it, I am sure you'll agree that the influx of feral chickens on our property and throughout Nuuanu and the entire city (including Manoa, Diamond Head, Waikiki, Downtown, and Kailua, to name only a few areas where feral chickens are proliferating daily) is no laughing matter but a serious health hazard. Recent global pandemics of diseases like SARS, H5N1 Bird Flu, and H1N1 Swine Flu provide a chilling reminder that new and untreatable viruses like the lethal H7N9 bird flu currently spreading throughout China and predicted to infect people worldwide, is a good reason to deal with our feral chicken problem seriously, before it makes us sick.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Perle Besserman, Ph.D.
38 South Judd Street-Apt. 26A
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 537-4347

cc: Dean Fujii- President, Craigsides Condo Board
Bernie Briones, Craigsides Property Manager- Hawaiiiana
Email Letter to Star-Advertiser; Keioki Kerr- KGMB News
Kirk Caldwell, Mayor, Honolulu

Councilmember Carol Fukunaga
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813-3065

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26 April 2015

Dear Councilmember Fukunaga,

Thank you so much for your informative letter of 9 April 2015 re: the feral chicken problem. I have forwarded your suggestion to the president of our Craigsides condo board at 38 South Judd Street, Dean Fujii, and hope that the board will follow up on temporarily rectifying the increasingly intolerable proliferation of loud and aggressive feral roosters on and around Nuuanu Stream. Your notice of the council proposal to add \$80,000 to Bill 13 (Executive Operating Budget) to help deal with the crowing rooster and feral chickens control problem is most welcome. A timeline for its passing and implementation would be helpful in managing the daily influx of chickens until the city and county take full control of the problem.

Your swift and informative handling of this problem is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Perle Besserman

Cc: Dean Fujii, President- Condo Board- 38 South Judd Street
Honolulu 96817