



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, February 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

By  
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### SB 346 – RELATING TO FARM ANIMALS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify with comments on SB 346 relating to the raising of poultry for egg production. We support the intent of this bill and offer the following comments and suggested amendments.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) engages in research on poultry as well as provides Extension-based training to anyone interested in poultry and egg production.

At least 7 states have passed similar legislation. Of the four remaining poultry layer farms in Hawai'i, to which this bill would apply, there is already a movement to divert part of their flock to a cage-free environment.

We suggest the following changes:

1. It is not clear what authority is used to define the term “cage-free” as well as the designation of “confinement in a cruel manner”. We suggest that the authority for these criteria be presented and allow authorities familiar with the Hawaiian condition to evaluate their validity.
2. The bill does not distinguish between eggs produced in Hawai'i versus outside of Hawai'i. Is the intent to hold producers of eggs outside the state responsible for this bill? If so, that needs to be more clearly stated.
3. Given that the movement within the state is toward what the bill calls “cage-free”, making it against the law and subject to a fine seems premature. This bill does not go into effect for 4 years. It would be better to promote cage-free; and re-evaluate in 3 years the need for such a bill.
4. It is also not clear as to what constitutes an infraction subject to a fine so that subsequent infractions can be determined.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of SB 346 with comments and suggested amendments.