

April 6, 2021

Testimony Regarding Rooster Noise Problem from Waimanalo Village

We would like to start by thanking the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and particularly Chris Woodard, for their attention to this on-going noise problem. There are just a few points we would like to make, in addition to our letter to the HHFDC Board of Directors dated March 8th.

1. As long term residents of Waimanalo Banyan Tree, both having lived here for more than 20 years, we can attest to the fact that large-scale rooster farming was not practiced historically by residents of Waimanalo Village, or at least not in a manner that disturbed the surrounding community. This problem began in 2012 with apparent changes in residents and possibly management practices by Waimanalo Village Residents Corporation.
2. While the “buffer zone” for the overall development is large, it is only about 20-25ft in the area directly behind our homes, where dozens of roosters are kept in cages. It does nothing to reduce the impact of this rooster noise upon our neighborhood.
3. We are pleased that the WVRC appears to be taking action regarding the resident at 41-1432 Haunaukoi, however, the problem is caused by the leadership and management of WVRC allowing residents to keep large numbers of fighting chickens, many in close proximity to our homes, despite the fact that they know it has a severe negative impact upon us. Recent past residents of this address similarly kept large numbers of roosters, and there is every reason to expect WVRC to continue to place residents with roosters in this, and other nearby homes, and in cages lining the sides of Haunaukoi St.
4. Not only did the zoning exemption, supported by WVRC and the HHFDC, allow residents of the Village to keep livestock and poultry without any limits on numbers, it also took away our rights provided under the Honolulu City and County Animal Nuisance Ordinance, without the knowledge of residents of Waimanalo Banyan Tree. While the problem may not have been anticipated, this action was grossly unfair to us. How does the right of Waimanalo Village residents to keep fighting chickens take precedence over our right to sleep peaceably in our own homes?
5. Finally, we are aware that other residents of Waimanalo Banyan Tree are bothered by the noise. However, we are also aware that there is likely a strong financial interest of Village residents to keep these roosters, for fighting or breeding and selling them. For this reason, we do have very real concerns about possible retaliatory actions against us. We hope the HHFDC leadership understands that this concern makes us hesitant to take the lead in organizing community support in opposition to this noise problem.

Once again, we very much appreciate the assistance of the HHFDC in resolving this persistent problem.

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