



Animal Industry Division  
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture  
99-941 Halawa Valley Street  
Aiea, HI 96701



808-483-7100



[HDOAIC@hawaii.gov](mailto:HDOAIC@hawaii.gov)



[hdoa.hawaii.gov](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov)

## AVIAN INFLUENZA FAQs

### WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Avian influenza is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild birds. It's a major threat to the poultry industry, animal health, trade, and the economy worldwide. Caused by influenza type A viruses, the disease varies in severity depending on the strain and species affected. Transmission to humans is rare.

### HOW DID AVIAN INFLUENZA GET TO HAWAI'I?

The most likely route is by migratory birds that mingled with other wild birds. The virus is mainly spread by direct, bird-to-bird contact.

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN BIRDS?

Avian species will differ in their susceptibility to the virus. The virus spreads easily among wild, migratory aquatic birds, with waterfowl and shorebirds considered natural hosts (reservoirs). Certain virus strains also can infect domesticated birds, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, pet birds (rarely), humans (rarely), and a variety of other mammals, both wild and domestic.

Signs in poultry:

- Extreme depression
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle
- Decreased egg production
- Sudden unexplained death.

### HOW CAN I REPORT SICK OR DEAD BIRDS?

1. Death of individual birds: Owners of backyard poultry flocks should NOT report individual bird deaths the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Consultation with a local veterinarian is recommended.
2. Sudden onset of multiple deaths in commercial poultry or backyard poultry operations should be reported to:  
Animal Industry Division  
Phone: 808-483-7100 during normal business hours, or  
808-837-8092 outside of business hours  
email: [HDOAIC@hawaii.gov](mailto:HDOAIC@hawaii.gov)

**Pet Birds** (parrots, parakeets, canaries, etc.):

Contact your local veterinarian for both individual and multiple bird deaths.

### Seabirds or native bird species:

Contact the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR):  
Phone: 808-587-0166 or email: [dlnr@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlnr@hawaii.gov)

## **I FOUND A DEAD BIRD HOW DO I DISPOSE OF IT?**

Dead birds should not be handled with bare hands. Maintain a physical barrier.

- To collect or remove dead birds from the environment:
  - Wear protective equipment (e.g. gloves)
  - Pick up the bird with doubled plastic bags that have been turned inside out.
  - Then, invert and seal the doubled plastic bag with the bird inside.

To dispose of the bird:

- Place the bag in household garbage. This varies by county, please visit county disposal pages for information:
  - O'ahu : <https://www8.honolulu.gov/env/ref/contact-dead-animal/>
  - Maui County: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/771/Refuse-Preparation-Collection-Instruction>
  - Kaua'i County: <https://www.kauai.gov/Government/Departments-Agencies/Public-Works/Solid-Waste>
  - Hawai'i County: <https://www.hawaiiwastewaste.org/info/contact-us/>
- As an alternative, bury the dead bird (without being bagged) by handling the bird with a shovel.

Other resources:

- Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/lcd/avian-influenza-information/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza>
  - Biosecurity recommendations for farms: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hpaifactsheet\\_wildlife-biosecurity.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hpaifactsheet_wildlife-biosecurity.pdf)
  - Protect Your Poultry from Avian Influenza: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bro-protect-poultry-from-ai.pdf>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <https://www.fws.gov/avian-influenza>
- Department of Land and Natural Resources: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2024/11/26/nr24-159/>
- Hawai'i Department of Health: [https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease\\_listing/avian-influenza/](https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/avian-influenza/)

\*\*\*\*\*

HDOA is committed to maintaining an environment free from discrimination, retaliation, or harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or any other class as protected under federal or state law, with respect to any program or activity. More information is available at HDOA's website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/non-discrimination-notice/#english>