

HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

LATE

February 5, 2008

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2895
COMMITTEE: Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2008
TIME: 2:45 p.m.

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaiian Humane Society fully supports SB 2895, which revises the current felony animal cruelty law to include horses.

The passage of the felony animal cruelty law in 2007 was a milestone for Hawaii. By joining the ranks of 42 other states to enact harsher penalties for animal cruelty, we have sent a clear message to all perpetrators that these atrocities will not be tolerated.

In 2001, two horses were tragically killed in an intentionally set fire in Waimanalo. The cruel and horrific fate faced by these animals stunned and angered the community and sparked such outrage that many were calling for harsher penalties for those involved in this horrendous act. With very little information to go on and weak laws in place, the individuals responsible for these deaths were never found or charged.

The addition of horses to the felony animal cruelty law reflects the belief that companion animals come in all shapes and sizes. And regardless of their breed, these animals hold a very special place in our hearts, our families and our community. For over 110 years, the Hawaiian Humane Society has been working to improve the welfare of animals here in Hawaii. Ultimately, we believe that all animals should be afforded the protection of harsher penalties under the felony animal cruelty law. We support the passage of Senate Bill 2895 and ask that this committee do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director

LATE TESTIMONY

SB 2895: Relating to Offenses Against Public Order; Animals; and Pets
Position: IN FAVOR.

Mahalo for introducing this bill to our state, Senator Hee.

It's high time we recognize that horses belong under our protection of the law and should be covered by felony animal cruelty provisions just like our pets are.

No mere draft animals and beasts of burden horses are. For every *Lassie* there was a *Black Beauty*, and for every *Old Yeller* there was a *Flicka*. Although dogs are man's best friends, could man have built civilizations and survived without the help and sacrifice of horses? Most likely not.

Please pass SB 2895. Thank you.

Anjie Pham
Honolulu, Hawaii