

JUDtestimony

From: Cathy Goeggel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 7:35 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: testimony on SB2895, SD1

Please deliver testimony for hearing at 2:25 PM in Room 325 on Thursday, March 20, 2008
Mahalo!

Chair Waters and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Animal Rights Hawai'i supports the passage of SB2895, SD1. Last year we received a tip that horses were routinely being slaughtered and sold as food at a north shore ranch. We contacted the USDA FSIS, who investigated and found that, indeed, horses were being slaughtered at Gunstock Ranch. However USDA does not recognize horsemeat as a comestible, there was little that could be done.

We ask that you provide protection for horses, who have been an integral part in the development of the US and in Hawai'i's history.

Mahalo,

Cathy Goeggel
Director, Research and Investigations
Animal Rights Hawai'i
PO Box 10845
Honolulu, HI 96816
tel: 808.721.4211
fax: 866.508.2997
www.animalrightshawaii.com
selkie@hawaii.rr.com

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JUDtestimony

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 12:39 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony - SB2895 SD1

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2895
COMMITTEE: Committee on Judiciary
DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2008
TIME: 2:25 p.m.

FROM: Hawaiian Humane Society
Kawehi Yim, Community Relations Director

Representative Tommy Waters, Chair
Representative Blake K. Oshiro, Vice Chair

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaiian Humane Society fully supports SB 2895 SD1, which revises the current felony animal cruelty law to include equine animals.

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 equine animals 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 SD1 and ask that this committee do the same.

Kawehi Yim


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3/19/2008

Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808.356.2212
Cell: 808.358.1960
Fax: 808.955.6034

kyim@hawaiianhumane.org

www.hawaiianhumane.org

 *Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail*

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JUDtestimony

From: Dr. Becky Rhoades [drbecky@kauaihumane.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 6:12 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB 2895, SD1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Tommy Waters, Chair
Rep. Blake K. Oshiro, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2008, 2:25 PM
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Re: SB 2895, SD1 Relating To Offenses Against Public Order

Dear Chairman Waters and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Kauai Humane Society and its 5000 supporters, we strongly encourage the passage of SB 2895, SD1, which creates felony-level (class C) offenses for aggravated cruelty to equine animals.

This bill is so very important to me personally. My beloved, Mulligan who I raised from a foal, was tragically killed in a barn fire in 2001 at Maunawilli Farm. I suffered horribly with the news of the fire and his death. But even worse, the fire inspectors informed me a few days later, that their investigation found the fire was intentionally set. To this day, I don't know who killed Mulligan and his good friend, Gentleman Joe even after offering thousands of dollars in reward monies. This cruel arsonist is still out there and possibly continuing to set fires.

In our work protecting animals it is also about protecting families. The link between animal abuse and human violence is a given. If someone can be cruel to a helpless animal, they may begin a cycle of violence which can escalate towards humans. I found it very disturbing that the penalty for burning down the barn was greater than the penalty for killing Mulligan. This just isn't right. He was very much family to me and to many in the community who knew him.

Please pass this very important legislation to add protection for horses and other equines in the event of heinous acts of cruelty directed towards them.

Sincerely,

Rebecca H. Rhoades, D.V.M.
Executive Director
Kauai Humane Society

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3/19/2008



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

March 19, 2008

TO: Chairman Waters and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Inga Gibson, The Humane Society of the United States
Thursday, March 20, 2008

RE: Support of SB 2895; Adding equine animals as protected under the law pertaining to offenses relating to cruelty to animals.

On behalf of our more than 46,000 members in Hawaii, The Humane Society of the United States respectfully requests your support of SB 2895; adding equine animals as protected under the law pertaining to offenses relating to cruelty to animals.

We greatly appreciate your efforts last year on strengthening the animal cruelty code. Unfortunately, horses were not included in the definition of "pet animal" and are therefore excluded from application of this law. Horses are intelligent and sentient animals which depend upon humans for care and stewardship. Horses, like other "pet animals", can be victims of intentional cruelty and deserve equal protection under the law. We again urge your support of SB 2895.

Sincerely,

Inga Gibson, State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
igibson@hsus.org
206-328-8100

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JUDtestimony

From: Joel Fischer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 11:40 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: SB2895; JUD; 3/20; 2:25PM; Rm 325

Importance: High

Attachments: Card for Joel Fischer [REDACTED]



jfisher.vcf (343 B)

SB2895, SD1, Relating to Offenses Against Public Order JUD; Chair, Rep Waters

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the introduction of this bill to overcome the oversight in last year's bill to make it a crime to abuse pets. It would be hard for any human with a conscience to argue that horses should be no more subject to abuse than our beloved dogs and cats. Therefore (although I personally am afraid of horses!), I hope you will pass this bill.

This is a bill of conscience, and I tell you from my heart how much I appreciate your passing this bill.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work Henke Hall Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

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JUDtestimony

From: Wayne Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 5:44 PM
To: JUDtestimony

To the Committee,

I am writing to Support 2895 so that the justice given other animals will also apply to horses. Horses have given much service to the country in war and peace, transporting soldiers and indispensable to farmers. They are do a full measure of protection. Dr. Wayne Johnson

--seiku

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