

**Office of the Public Defender  
State of Hawaii**

**Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender**

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawaii to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**



**LATE**

February 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

RE: S.B. 3146: Relating To Crimes

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

This measure would make the consumption of a cat or dog a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a two thousand dollar fine.

The Office of the Public Defender opposes S.B. 3146.

This measure amounts to racial and cultural discrimination. The human consumption of cats or dogs, while seemingly disgusting to the general public who are used to seeing these animals as house pets, are culturally acceptable to minority of our population. The consumption of beef by hindus and pork by jews are prohibited by their religion. They may have the same reaction to our consumption of beef or pork that some of us have about eating cats or dogs. Yet we would never think of passing legislation to prohibit the human consumption of pork or beef because it's consumption is accepted by the majority of our population. How far would a bill banning the human consumption of pork or beef go? Would the bill even be given a hearing?

I myself have had a chance to eat rabbit, deer, frogs, buffalo, dried lizards and sea turtle (before it became illegal), all very tasty food. I would never consider eating a cat or a dog. Does this mean no one else should eat cats or dogs?

Yes, we see cats and dogs as pets. The torturing, mutilation or poisoning of any "pet" animal is already prohibited and constitutes the offense of Cruelty to Animals in the First Degree, a class C felony. The slaughtering of any pet, not just a dog or cat is prohibited in this section. The men who took the dog from the Moanalua Golf Club are being prosecuted under this law.

We oppose S.B. 3146. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

testimony

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]  
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 9:20 PM  
To: testimony  
Subject: SB3146 --RELATING TO CRIMES

**LATE**

February 11, 2008

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Hearing Date: February 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: Regarding SB 3146 – Relating to Crimes

FROM: Kawehi Yim, The Hawaiian Humane Society

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,


As a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), the Hawaiian Humane Society supports legislation that strengthens Hawaii’s animal welfare laws to alleviate suffering and protects all animals.

Respectfully submitted,

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

[kyim@hawaiianhumane.org](mailto:kyim@hawaiianhumane.org)

[www.hawaiianhumane.org](http://www.hawaiianhumane.org)

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

><(((°>.....><(((°>