



**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 House Committee on Judiciary**

March 20, 2008, 2:25 p.m.

RE: S.B. 3146, S.D. 1: Relating To Crimes

Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

This measure would make the consumption of a cat, dog or a horse 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, S.D. 1.

This measure amounts to racial and cultural discrimination. The human consumption of cats, dogs and horses, 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 its 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, cat or horse 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, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

000104

JUDtestimony

From: Cathy Goeggel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 7:16 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: testimony for SB3146, SD1

Please deliver for hearing of House Judiciary Committee in Room 325 at 2:25 pm on Thursday, March 20, 2008
Mahalo!

Representative Waters and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Animal Rights Hawai'i supports SB3146 SD1, to make the killing of dogs, cats and horses for human consumption illegal. We suggest adding language to make the consumption of cats, dogs and horses a felony.

The sad fate of Caddy, a beloved companion dog, who was stolen and slaughtered as food before Christmas, 2007, is reason enough to legislate an end to the killing of pets for food. In the past, Animal Rights Hawai'i has intervened to remove dogs destined for food from certain death; we have worked with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service inspectors to investigate complaints of dog slaughter; sadly, USDA does not regulate the trade in dog or cat flesh; USDA does not recognize companion animal flesh for human consumption, although they have received many reports of cases of slaughter. This allows a large puka in federal law, and in state law. The cruel killing continues and will continue unless you, the Legislature takes a stand against this cruelty.

This is not a racist proposal. Although there are many cultures that consider dogs and cats as comestibles, we feel that the long history of animal protection in America, beginning with the Massachusetts Bay Colony 400 years ago, should inform lawmaking in the United States. Please vote favorably on this bill, with amendments.

With aloha,
Cathy Goeggel
Director, Research and Investigations
Animal Rights Hawai'i
PO Box 10845
Honolulu, HI 96816
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selkie@hawaii.rr.com

C00105

JUDtestimony

From: Joel Fischer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 11:44 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: AR-HI@waste.org
Subject: SB3146; JUD; 3/20; 2:25PM; Rm 325

Importance: High

Attachments: Card for Joel Fischer [REDACTED]



jfisher.vcf (343 B)

SB3146, SD1, Relating to Crimes
JUD; Chair, Rep Waters

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL WITH AMENDMENT.

I am very grateful to Senator Hee for introducing this bill and to Rep Waters for hearing it.

Every single legislator knows why this bill is important. Recent events involving the kidnapping of a beloved pet dog and then eating him have shocked the community. There have been many other reports over the years of the killing and eating of pets. This awful practice must stop!

In many ways, this bill is a bill about empathy for everyone in Hawai'i nei who truly loves an animal as part of their family. We must protect all pet animals and their families and work to ensure that pets are kept solely as pets, not as a source of food!

REQUESTED AMENDMENT: I ask that you consider changing the wording of this bill to make the eating of pets a FELONY rather than a misdemeanor. The act of eating an intelligent, sensitive pet animal is so horrendous that the community must be put on notice that this practice will not be tolerated!

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha, joel

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

Professor
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

C00106

JUDtestimony

From: Wayne Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 5:47 PM
To: JUDtestimony

I am writing to support 3146. Dogs give much pleasure, loyalty and companionship to the families of Hawaii and certainly should not be consumed. Dr. Wayne Johnson

--seiku

000107

by reply e-mail and destroy the original message and all copies.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 3:16 PM
To: Rep. Thomas Waters
Cc: Sen. Gordon Trimble; Rep. Tom Brower; governor@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: SB3146

I request that you reject SB 3146 for the following reasons:

1. Like many other Americans, I ate dogs, cats, horses, lizards and snakes during WWII, and my mother was happy she could put meat on the table for her six children to eat! Like millions of Europeans, I prefer the lean, rich taste of horsemeat to the fat and gristle of beef, and like BILLIONS of Asian, Polynesians, and Native Americans, dog is certainly preferable to pork!
2. Grocery stores and supermarkets have replaced the need for families to keep dogs and cats for food when funds are short. As a result, dogs and cats are now pest species almost wholly responsible for many of our natural resources being listed as Endangered Species.
As representative of Lanikai ~ Waimanalo, you should be acutely aware of the volunteers needed to prevent stray and unleashed dogs from attacking an Hawaiian monk seal during its molt, and because the DLNR supports The Hawaiian Humane Society's "Trap and Release" program for feral cats, one Hawaiian Monk Seal has already tested positive for toxoplasmosis, which means that much of our marine line is already contaminated by feral cat runoff.
3. I trust you read the Kokua line complaint about the exploding population of dogs running loose in our parks and beaches where people are laying half-naked on the ground, that the Hawaiian Humane Society complains they do not have enough money to protect people from animals, and HPD's complaint that, "We are not dog catchers" and will not cite owners of unleashed dogs or animals found at sites where animals are prohibited by law.
4. I trust you also read the pro-dog Honolulu Star-Bulletin of 18.III.08, wherein one woman thanks people for helping her Dalmation hit by a car whilst running loose, another woman complained about the loose packs of dogs on Kailua and Lanikai beaches, and another woman is attacked by 4 bulldogs in her own backyard.
5. According to National Geographic, it took less than two weeks for the best trained family dogs to revert to wild animals in New Orleans. It took about two seconds for a neighbor's dog to attack my 22-month old sister from behind as she was sitting on the lawn playing with her doll; if she hadn't turned her head at the last second, that dog would have killed her instead of tearing off her cheek. Like the Lihue woman's case, the dog which attacked my sister had no prior record of biting any one.
6. Kaiser Permanente, and every reputable medical professional, encourages people to keep animals out of their homes. Over 20% of homeowner insurance claims and over 1/3 of medical insurance claims are pet related (allergies, parasites, fungal infections, as well as bites, scratches, etc.).*
7. Based on the growing threat to public health and safety, it would behoove the legislature to concern itself with how best to protect public health and safety - as well as our endangered species - instead of wasting precious resources on bigotry, i.e., telling mothers what meat they can put on the table to feed their children!
8. The Legislature should be reminded that not one single "animal lover" reprimanded the moron who left his dog tied to a pole whilst he played a round of golf.
9. Since leash, litter, and "animals prohibited" laws are neither obeyed nor enforced, it is clearly to the public good if those "irresponsible" pet owners live with the fear that their pets may end up on the dinner table rather than at the Hawaiian Humane Society!
10. Finally, legislators should also be reminded that the pet industry may have millions of dollars allocated to make political campaign contributions, as did the tobacco industry in years gone by, but their oath is not to enrich themselves, but to make Hawai'i a better place for our grandchildren to live!

000108

Rico Leffanta [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Honolulu, HI 96813

6* A substantial increase in medical costs, particularly for the elderly, is a direct result of the Legislature authorizing schizophrenic poodles and filthy and untrained mutts to be declared a "Service Animal", all of which now spread dander and disease in our homes, restaurants, and grocery stores.

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C00109

JUDtestimony

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 9:29 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: puua@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: re: Testimony for SB3146 (re:Dogs and Cats)

To: JUD; Honorable Chair Walters,

Please pass SB3146.

More than half of the USA and Hawaii are pet owners. We are a country of pet loving people, and we do not have a reputation as pet eating people. We recognize that dogs and cats and animals in general are sentient beings. They have feelings like you and me, it was in their eyes and in was in their cries, no different from you and me. We share the world with animals, and as Paul McCartney, former Beatle and animal advocate said, "We ought to be better neighbors."

The recent heart breaking news about CADDY, shook Hawaii. We must speak out for these defenseless beings, that cannot speak or fend for themselves. We must understand them when they cry in pain, and we must do something about it. People love their pets deeply, whether its a pig, horse, cat, dog, fish, or bird. These animals in turn give to human beings unconditional love and there are many documented cases of pets having rescued their owners from danger. They do nothing to deserve cruelty from humans.

As humans, we should be caretakers to this world. Please draw strength from your compassion for the animals, and enforce protection for them. Make it a better world for all.

Jane Shiraki
Honolulu

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000110