

Eloise Kuniyoshi

From: Jennifer Clark [jlc@akc.org]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 5:15 AM
To: Rep. Robert Herkes
Cc: Phil Guidry
Subject: American Kennel Club Opposes HCR 221 and HR 190
Attachments: HCR 221 and HR 190- Letter to HI CPC Committee.doc

LATE TESTIMONY

Chairman Herkes:

Attached is a letter from the American Kennel Club expressing our opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 221 and House Resolution 190. We respectfully ask that you consider our concerns and not allow these resolutions to pass out of your committee.

The American Kennel Club and constituent dog owners in Hawaii welcome the opportunity to work with the Hawaii Legislature to develop effective legislation that addresses these issues without punishing responsible dog breeders who take their responsibilities seriously.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to all members of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Jennifer Clark
Government Relations Administrator
American Kennel Club
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27617
Phone: (919) 816-3720
Fax: (919) 816-4275
E-mail: jlc@akc.org



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

LATE TESTIMONY

Monday, March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert N. Herkes
Chairman, House Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Hawaii House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 320
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: The American Kennel Club Opposes House Concurrent Resolution 221 and House Resolution 190

Dear Chairman Herkes:

The American Kennel Club writes on behalf of responsible dog owners and breeders in Hawaii to express our strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 221 and House Resolution 190.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) supports reasonable laws and regulations intended to protect the pet buying public in obtaining a sound dog of the breed represented, as well as ensure proper care and treatment of dogs. We have numerous concerns, however, about the provisions contained in these resolutions and urge you to reject these resolutions in favor of reasonable and effective legislation that will protect both the purchasers and responsible dog breeders, as well as allow for public comment and input on specific regulations.

The AKC was established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. We now represent over 4,600 dog clubs nationally, including 47 clubs in the state of Hawaii, which are comprised of thousands of Hawaii voters and taxpayers from many of the islands. Our mission includes working to protect the rights of all dog owners and promoting responsible dog ownership.

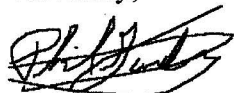
HCR 221 and HR 190 begin with legislative findings regarding breeders. These findings are very broad statements and imply that breeders who breed for a specific size or appearance may subject their dogs to "uncomfortable and tragic lives because their bodily and brain functions are inhibited." The American Kennel Club finds such generalizations offensive to the numerous responsible purebred dog breeders who provide excellent care for their animals. Responsible breeders will breed dogs with desired characteristics, abilities, and instincts. The offspring of their breeding programs, therefore, are predictable in appearance, temperament, and instinct.

Local responsible breeders should be viewed as assets to their communities. These breeders make serious commitments to their animals by raising healthy, well-cared-for dogs and by working to ensure that puppies are placed with responsible owners. These breeders are in a unique position to support new pet owners and exemplify responsible dog ownership. The resolutions being considered by your committee direct implementation of regulations similar to those found in House Bill 1842. Many of these regulations are problematic and ineffective and offer little to no protection or recourse for a seller who may be victimized by false accusations or irresponsible dog buyers who do not take proper care of their new dog.

Finally, the resolutions urge the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Board of Veterinary Examiners, and Hawaii Humane Society to also develop "breeding and pet care standards." The AKC is concerned that these standards are not defined and do not provide the opportunity for public input and comment.

We respectfully urge the Hawaii House Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to reject House Concurrent Resolution 221 and House Resolution 190, and instead work on enforceable laws that will protect the pet-buying public and not restrict the rights of responsible breeders in your state. The AKC and our dog clubs in Hawaii welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop effective, responsible legislation.

Sincerely,



Phil Guidry
Legislative Analyst

JLC

Cc: Members of the Hawaii House Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

LATE TESTIMONY



Statement of
TAM ANDERSON
President
Chihuahua Club of Hawaii
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Monday, March 30, 2009
2:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325
in consideration of
HCR 221, HR 190
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS AND THE HAWAIIAN
HUMANE SOCIETY TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PET
PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR DOGS AND CATS.

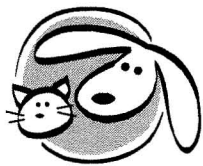
Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the House Committees on
Consumer Protection and Commerce.

The Chihuahua Club of Hawaii supports the intent of these resolutions to provide more protection and remedies for consumers against unscrupulous breeders and pet dealers, and also to protect the welfare of dogs and cats from cruelty and exploitation. Further, we note that these resolutions request that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Hawaiian Humane Society are requested to implement, within the extent of their authority, a comprehensive pet protection program for dogs and cats along the lines of House Bill No. 1842 (2009).

However, we are very concerned that these resolutions might lead to the imposition of unreasonable and unenforceable regulations on the majority of pet breeders who are doing no harm to the pet buying public, without any further public and community input from any interested parties. We would strongly recommend that a group composed of various community representatives, including representatives from

kennel and breed clubs within the State, pet dealers, the DCCA, Hawaiian Humane Society, and community representatives be convened to gather information and resolve these concerns and issues, prior to the imposition of any regulations based on HB 1842, HCR 221, and HR 190.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

helping animals find their forever homes.

LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Monday, March 30, 2009 - 2:15 p.m., Room 325**

In Support of HCR 221 and HR 190

**by Alicia Maluafiti, President
Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Aloha Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee,

The Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is in support of HCR 221 and HR 190 and offers some opportunities to strengthen the resolution.

This resolution is too narrow in focus and should more broadly encompass establishing standards that protect all pets, not just those bred for sale. The pet protection standards identified in the resolution and found also in HB 1842 are a step in the right direction towards ensuring the humane treatment of all animals.

More specifically - "breeding and pet care standards, including fire protection, sanitation, water and adequate nutrition, adequate living space, socialization, exercise, and prompt veterinary care" should be statutory requirements that better enable the animal control contractor to enforce Hawaii's weak animal cruelty laws. The definition of "necessary sustenance" is so vague and useless that a woman in Kakaako has successfully hoarded 15 to 30 cats, rabbits, and birds, which are kept in inhumane and deplorable conditions. Despite visits by the animal control investigators, this woman has confined these animals for years, and although investigators have said that they "appear" healthy, it's clear that the muscles of the cats have atrophied due permanent immobility.

So while it is nice to consider placing restrictions on the breeders, we really need to be looking at a more holistic approach to animal welfare - of which breeding is only one of the contributing factors to the problem. Like any other profession - there are good breeders and bad breeders. But at a minimum, breeders should be licensed with restrictions placed on the number of litters born. Licensing enables the proper authority to regulate the industry, especially when animal welfare is a concern. And HCR 221/HR 190 appropriately identifies the challenges of inbreeding animals.

Hawaii also has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the nation. Breeding contributes to the overpopulation of pets so we should be looking at mandated spay/neuter for all animals that are not being used for breeding, especially animals sold by breeders and pet stores. Most animal welfare organizations do NOT allow pets to be adopted UNTIL they are sterilized. There is no reason why this standard should not be enforced by those that profit from puppies and kittens.

Ghandi said, "the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." This resolution can do more. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

wakai1-Karen

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 12:13 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Subject: FW: HCR 221

LATE TESTIMONY

Importance: High

Kawehi Yim, Community Relations Director
HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

HCR 221 -- REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS AND THE HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PET PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR DOGS AND CATS

POSITION: Support the intent of this resolution.

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
March 30, 2009
2:15 p.m.

Dear Representative Herkes and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the intent of this resolution to establish a comprehensive pet protection program in conjunction with the Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs.

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports policies that help to strengthen animal welfare in Hawaii. In addition, we also ask that participation in this program be extended to the other Hawaii humane societies, i.e. Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island, so that there is a comprehensive review of all proposed policies and guidelines at the State level. We also ask that consideration be given to the enforcement of any proposed policy since this may be outside of the current authority afforded to the humane societies through their contracts with the respective counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waiialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: 808.356.2212

E-Mail: kyim@hawaiianhumane.org