

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:03 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB1188 -- RELATING TO ANIMALS.
Attachments: att62e6c.jpg



HAWAIIAN
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
February 13, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: SB1188 -- Relating to animals.
POSITION: SUPPORT THE INTENT WITH CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION.

Similar to SB488, The Hawaiian, Kauai and Maui Humane Societies strongly support the intent of SB1188 which prohibits tethering dogs and the addition of cats. Ideally, we would like to have all companion animals off chains for both the animal's welfare and public safety. However, passing a ban on tethering of companion animals right now, may result in unintended consequences with owners not being able to afford fencing they would "be forced" to surrender their pets to the local humane societies or contain their pets in alternate inhumane holding pens, not suitable for dogs or cats.

The Hawaiian Humane Society would like to see the immediate prohibition on the use of chain, choke and pinch collars as a means of tethering an unattended animal -- we feel that this is definitely something that can readily increase the welfare of animals and can easily be implemented by pet owners.

We also strongly recommend that the legislature convene a task force to further define and discuss this issue so that language can be drafted that meets the needs of the community as a whole. Included in this discussion we recommend:

- Developing an educational outreach program to educate the community on the consequences of "tethering" or "chaining" an animal 24/7 as a means of increasing the public's awareness of this problem ; and
- Including this issue in a statewide survey to identify what the concerns are on each island;

While this is statewide legislation, the Hawaii humane societies feel that the enforcement of the law should be addressed on a county by county basis because of their unique differences. We urge the Judiciary Committee to strongly consider these recommendations during their deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kawehi Yim
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When it comes to giving, go local. On Oahu, Hawaiian Humane Society is the only animal welfare organization that shelters, rescues, adopts and welcomes all animals — all day and every day. 100% of your gift stays in the islands for the benefit of Hawaii's animals and people.

www.hawaiianhumane.org

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

SB 488
SB 1188
(ANTI DOG-TETHERING)

Friday, February 13, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Rm. 016

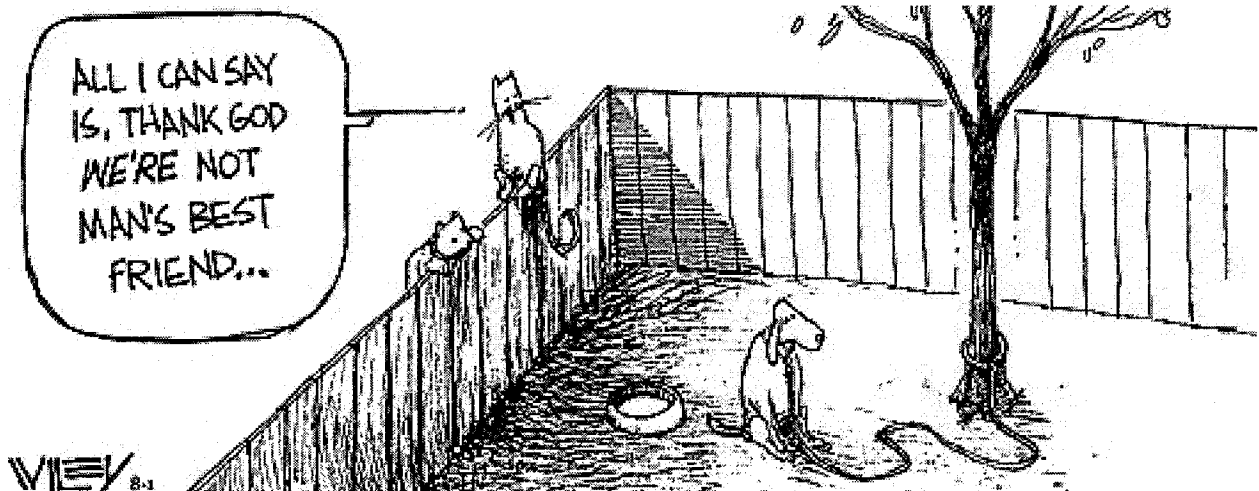
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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Sen. Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair

Dear Senators:

I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of **SB 488 & SB 1188** which will make it illegal and a criminal act to leave dogs permanently tethered or chained as the loopholes in our laws currently allow. I feel **this is one of the most important issues on animal cruelty that we can do to protect our pets because it addresses a situation that is happening right here, right now, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to thousands of dogs across our islands.**



Why I support SB 488 & SB 1188:

- Dogs are loyal, sociable creatures. It is **inhumane** to keep them permanently chained/tethered to a stationary object away from the main family as some kind of lawn ornament or cheap burglar system.
- It is especially **inexcusable** when the dogs, both large *and* small, are indiscriminately **tethered to one spot despite being *inside* a fenced yard** like I often see around the island.
- As they move around, their chains tend to get entwined around the pole they are tied to and become shorter and shorter until eventually, the dogs are **forced to eat, sleep, and defecate all in the same spot of just 1-2 feet.**
- When left permanently tethered outside, they are also usually **deemed as easily replaceable, dispensable objects** by their owners and are thus often **neglected and denied basic comfort, medical care, and socialization.**
- Nine out of ten, the dogs showed **clear signs of terrible wear & physical degradation from being exposed to the elements at all time** yet the owners are not fined/charged in any way for such obvious neglect and abuse.

