

SB 1222 RELATING TO THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF PET ANIMALS.

3/17/09

2:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Animal CARE Foundation opposes the so-called "hoarder" bill as written.

We oppose it for multiple reasons.

This law is currently sunsetted for July 1, 2011. Passing this bill would remove the sunset provision. The current bill has been repeatedly threatened to be used by HPD, Health Dept., HHS, and regular citizens against animal rescues, animal foster houses, and others - just as I had said it would be when this law was originally passed. The number of prosecutions and convictions is unknown, but it has had a chilling effect on lawful activities of very good people who's only crime is caring about animals. This bill says it takes effect January 1, 2010.

Allowing animals to be confiscated by so-called "humane" societies, like the one here on O`ahu is not doing the animals any favors. The Hawaiian Humane Society is perhaps the biggest animal abuser in the state, violating the state anti cruelty law many times daily. Whether it's baking live animals next to, or in, their incinerator, baking them in their trucks, injecting them with painful caustic drugs in their body cavities, giving them insufficient amounts of anesthesia in surgery, or leaving injured and sick animals untreated causing them a slow, painful, agonizing death, or dragging injured pregnant dogs across pavement, to name a few items, it is hard to see where one is helping them by removing them from one abusive situation and putting them in a far more abusive one.

Reducing the number of animals required to be a "hoarder" to the number ten chills our ability to adopt out animals who need good homes. It has done so on more than a few occasions already. Additionally, ACF has always maintained that using a number is arbitrary and capricious. The people should be judged on the care and condition of the animals and the surrounding circumstances. We believe that the old cruelty law imported from England by way of Massachusetts in 1800's is perfectly good if it was actually used because it speaks to actual conditions and actual harms.

Expanding the law to include public outdoor locations may cause feral cat caretakers who practice trap, neuter, return to be harassed like the rescues and fosterers are now.

In conclusion, someone needs to save the animals from the wonderful and good hearted people trying to save them. Until humane societies, prosecutors, and police, properly enforce animal laws - which they have not done for the most part since the early 1800's, and society's attitudes toward animals change, animals will never be properly protected.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Frank De Giacomo, V.P.
Animal CARE Foundation

From: animal_care_foundation@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 1:23 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: SB 1222 Testimony

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