
From: Judy Mick [ppchawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 10:01 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB 30-Tethering of dogs

Aloha and thank you for reading my testimony on an important issue which reflects both our State wanting to protect its citizens from potentially dangerous dogs and showing compassion for animals who are being abused.

We must eliminate having dangerous dogs in our community and an effective way is by passing SB30 so irresponsible owners of dogs will not be allowed to make these animals live chained. Statistics from knowledgeable animal groups around the world show that tethering creates an unnatural condition for a dog (they are social, pack animals despite domestication) and tend towards aggressive behavior when put in what amounts to solitary confinement. The excuse of "I can't afford a fence" should not be accepted. I have been a petsitter in Hawaii for almost 21 years and constantly call the Humane Society investigators when I see a dog living in these conditions. We need laws to back up the investigator who may agree it is a bad situation, but cannot act.

Secondly, now that we have a felony animal cruelty law in Hawaii we need to strengthen it with this no tether law. It has worked well in many Mainland states. A good source of information is HelpingAnimals.com.

If you feel after passing this legislation, identifying where these dogs are may be a problem, I offer my networking ability to organize dog advocates all over the state to report the addresses of these canines. I can be reached at ppchawaii@yahoo.com or at 254-3357. We can be successful in eliminating this problem in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time. Please vote in favor of SB30.
Aloha, Judith Mick, Kailua.