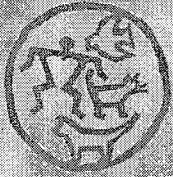


SB2877



HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

2700 Waiʻaleʻale Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
Telephone: 946-2187
Fax: 955-6034
www.hawaiianhumane.org

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*The Hawaiian Humane
Society is dedicated to
promoting the human-
animal bond and
the humane treatment of
all animals.*

February 4, 2010

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: Testimony on SB 2877

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Government Operations:

On behalf of our more than 26,000 supporters in Hawaii, the Hawaiian
Humane Society greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB
2877 Relating to Offenses Against Public Order.

We strongly support the passage of SB 2877, which would expand the
definition of tethering and establish key requirements by which a person
would be held accountable for cruelty to animals if found in violation; e.g.
length and weight of the tether, and prohibiting the tethering of dogs under
six months old.

In response to various bills submitted to last year's legislature on pet
confinement and tethering, the Hawaiian Humane Society, Maui Humane
Society, Kauai Humane Society and the Hawaii Island Humane Society
requested more time to discuss this complex issue and build consensus in
our community. A task force was convened with key stakeholders in the
animal welfare, veterinary and advocacy community and over the course
of six meetings the language of SB 2877 was developed to address our
core concerns. This bill represents that collaborative effort, which aims to
effectively address this important issue of pet tethering.

The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly supports SB 2877 and we urge
you to pass this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our strong support for this bill.

Pamela Burns
President & CEO



Maui Humane Society

P.O. Box 1047
Pu'uonene, Hawai'i 96784
PH 808.877.3680 • FH 808.877.5033
www.mauihumanesociety.org

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Jocelyn Bouchard, CAWA

February 4, 2010

Re: SB2877

Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations Chair Taniguchi
and Vice-Chair Takamine

Aloha;

Our agency strongly supports the passage of SB2877 and its House
companion bill HB 2724.

In response to various bills submitted to last year's legislature on pet
confinement and tethering, the Hawaiian Humane Society, Maui Humane
Society, Kauai Humane Society and the Hawaii Island Humane Society
requested more time to discuss this complex issue and build consensus in
our community. A task force was convened with key stakeholders in the
animal welfare, veterinary and advocacy community and over the course of
six meetings, the language in HB 2724 and SB 2877 was developed to
address our core concerns. These bills are a representation of a
collaborative effort that aims to effectively address this important issue.

The bill expands the definition of tethering and establishes key statutes by
which a person will be held accountable for cruelty to animals if found in
violation. This bill also improves public safety. Studies show that dogs who
are tethered for long periods of time are 3 times more likely to bite and of
those, 5 times more likely to bite children. We also know that dogs are
social animals that require interaction, affection and exercise. This bill
would allow tethering only under certain circumstances which don't
jeopardize the safety/wellbeing of the dog or community.

Mahalo for your time in hearing these bills. I can be reached for further
comment and/or information at (808)877-3680 ext 36 or
jbouchard@mauihumanesociety.org

Sincerely;

Jocelyn Bouchard, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer
Maui Humane Society

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010
9:35 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL
SENATE BILL 2877 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

ALOHA CHAIRPERSON TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIRPERSON TAKAMINE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

MY NAME IS JENNIFER CHIWA. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SENATE BILL 2877, RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER. THIS BILL WOULD IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY AS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT DOGS WHO ARE TETHERED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BITE. FURTHERMORE, THIS BILL WOULD ALLOW TETHERING ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH DO NOT JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY OF THE DOG OR THE COMMUNITY. THERE IS RECOGNITION IN THIS BILL THAT UNNECESSARY TETHERING IS INHUMANE AND, THEREBY, IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE WELL BEING OF BOTH THE DOG AND THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 2877. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

JENNIFER CHIWA

From: Rosemary Karlsson [rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 9:08 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: dog tethering & caging, SB 2877

I live on the east side of the Big Island where many, many dogs are chained out 7x24x365. Some are kept in kennels 7x24x365 with no interaction with other dogs or humans, other than someone throwing food in their cage once a day. The bill would improve the situation of dogs here, however, please keep in mind that chained, unneutered, male dogs are **3 times as likely** as any other dog to kill or injure a child or adult. Many jurisdictions on the mainland are outlawing chaining out, it is now considered to be abuse. We really need to outlaw chaining altogether, but at least this bill is a step in the right direction. It is the owner, not the dog, that causes dogs to become aggressive and dangerous.

I have 10 years experience in dog rescue, and have done basic, advanced, and search and rescue (finding people after earthquakes, etc.) training with dogs.

Rosemary Karlsson
Keaau, HI

From: MMMMahalo2000@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 10:26 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Support for SB2877 2/5/10 935a room 016

Aloha Chair and JGO committee,

Please support bill SB 2877 in your hearing on 2/5/10, with consideration to modifying minimum length of tether beyond the stated 10 '. Give consideration that if secured end of tether is at an elevated height, this reduces how far the dog can move on the ground.

Mahalo,

Mike Moran Kihei, HI

mmmmahalo2000@aol.com

From: jacqueline just [jacquelinejust@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:20 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB2800 SB2877 in consideration Feb. 5 9:35am

- Dear Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations and Members of the Committee
- Meeting tomorrow at 9:35am Feb. 5, 2010
- I support the following in order to protect Hawaii pets from neglect and cruelty:
- I ask that you....
- Please support the passage of HB 2724/SB 2877, which would expand the definition of tethering - otherwise known as chaining - and establish key requirements by which a person would be held accountable for cruelty to animals if found in violation, such as length and weight of the tether or chain and prohibiting the tethering/chaining of dogs under six months old.
- This important bill would improve the quality of life of Hawaii's pets and also address public safety concerns. Dogs are social pack animals who thrive with interaction and play; studies show that dogs who are tethered/chained for long periods of time are much more likely to bite. This bill would allow tethering only under certain circumstances which don't jeopardize the safety of the dog or community.
- To ensure its intent, we respectfully request that language be added to HB 2724 that is currently in SB 2877 regarding property lines. In SB 2877 (1d), there is important language that makes it illegal to use a tether or chain that allows the dog to reach within five feet of the property line. Research shows that tethering is both an animal welfare and public safety issue. This provision is particularly related to public safety and the language regarding the property line is critical. However, this language is omitted from the House version of the bill entirely. We request that the language from SB 2877 (1d) therefore be included in HB 2724.
- It is unfortunate that we must spend this time and energy on securing what should be proper treatment of animals. Unfortunately, as seen in the news, not all people are loving and kind to animals due to derangement, antisocial behavior, criminal and cruel tendencies or just plain stupidity.
- Mahalo in support the above and making the world a better place!
- Jacqueline Just
- Geriatric Clinic Coordinator