

LATE

From: Janet Hyrne [janethyrne@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:35 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB488, Relating to Animal Cruelty

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Should any animal live its life tethered to a rope or chain? It's no wonder that when animals endure this type of treatment, they tend to develop more aggressive tendencies. I am in support of SB488, Relating to Animal Cruelty and ask for your support of this bill.

Certainly this bill could use some additional research in order to ensure it passes as intended...to protect dogs and other animals from cruelty and people from being injured by such animals. I support the bill's intent and ask that the legislature reconvene to further research how this bill can best represent our various communities.

Sincerely,
Janet Covington
(808) 291-5321
240 Kilea Place
Wahiawa, HI 96786

LATE

From: Club Mutt [clubmutt@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:42 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SUBJECT: SB488, SB1188 (Anti Dog Tethering)

Dear Senators:

I am writing in SUPPORT of which SB448 & SB1188, if passed, will prohibit much of the current inhumane practice of tethering/chaining dogs on the islands of Hawaii and make it an offense to cruelties to animals in the 2nd degree.

I am in support of the passing of these bills because I feel that chaining a dog is inhumane and can make them violent as well as have little or no social skills. I am a Dog Walker and I see chained dogs in Kailua. They are miserable, aggressive, and they suffer.

Thank you,

**Danielle Callahan
1258 Ulunahele St.
Kailua, HI 96734
808-351-3143**

LATE

From: Gillian Boss [gillian1@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:45 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: sb488 sb1188 hb730 sb30 hcr 60 hb1512 hb1281 hb 1518

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of the above, which if passed will prohibit much of the current inhumane practices.

Sincerely

Gillian Boss
1030 Aoloa Place
#304a
Kailua Hi 96734

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

LATE

SB 488
SB 1188

(ANTI DOG-TETHERING)

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

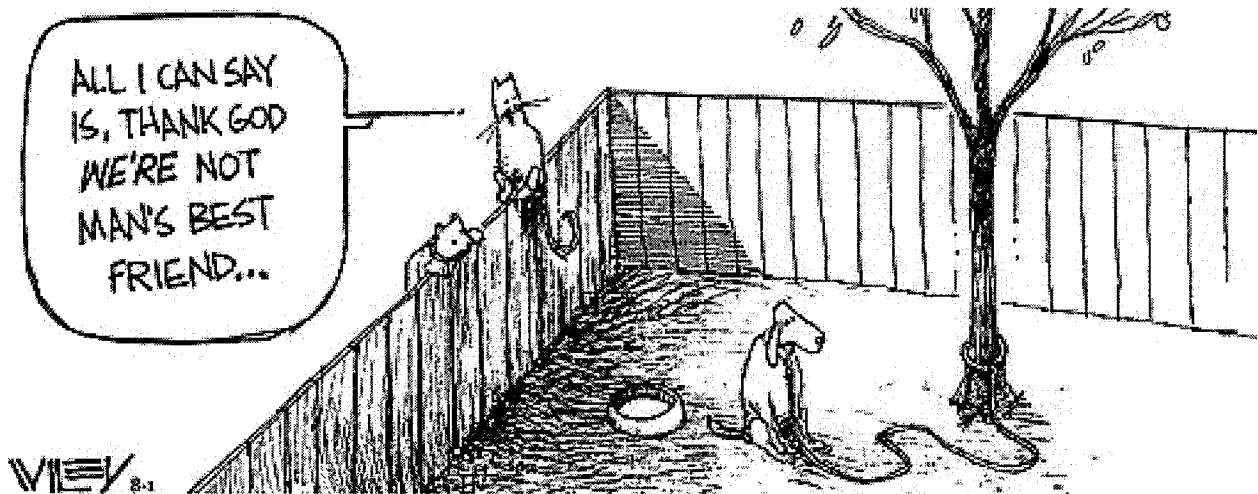
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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.**



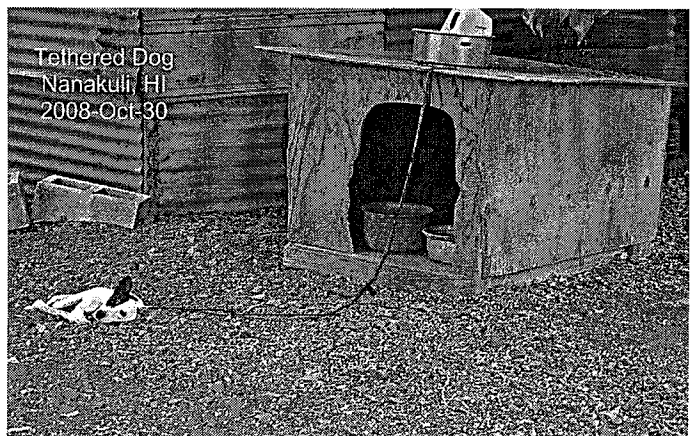
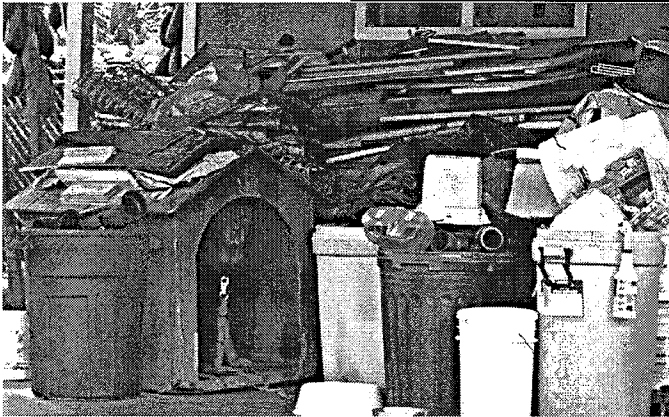
Why I support SB 488 & SB 1188:

- 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.**
- In some **allowable exceptions** like in the case of unfenced yards or for exercise, I ask that **amendments** be made to allow for a **TROLLEY/HARNESS** system where the dog can have more freedom of movement. This system is **inexpensive to set up (\$30) and can be purchased at most local hardware stores.** (<http://www.unchainyourdog.org/Trolley.htm>)
- 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.
- And finally, national statistics gathered by Dogs Deserve Better show that they are **2.5 times more likely to bite**. From 2003 to 2007, at least 115 children in the US were killed or seriously injured by chained dogs. In Hawaii, the past 2 weeks alone has seen 4 incidents involving dog bites.
- It becomes doubly tragic when the dogs are then fatally punished as they get turned over to the Humane Society and inevitably put down.

Anjie Pham
 1515 Nuuanu Avenue
 Honolulu, HI 96817

SOME ACTUAL FACES OF THE TETHERED DOGS IN HAWAII'



Senator Brain T. Taniguchi, Chair

LATE

In Support of SB 488

I was raised in Niu Valley where I still live. Several years ago I had an experience with tethered dogs when new neighbors moved in. Unfortunately, these neighbors were burglarized during their first week. At about the same time, a newsletter was sent from the Niu Valley Neighborhood Security Watch that contained information telling of a reformed burglar who admitted choosing which house to enter by whether or not they had a dog.

The next weekend our new neighbors arrived home from the Hawaiian Humane Society with two large adult dogs in tow. They first put the dogs in their spacious, fenced back yard, but the dogs escaped by climbing over the 4 foot fence. As a solution, the neighbors tied the dogs around a single tree in the back yard on two short ropes.

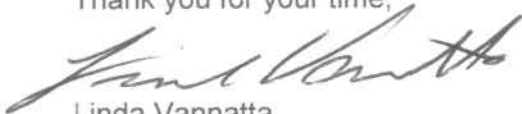
I assumed that this was a temporary situation, until the neighbors could better secure their back yard. However, days turned into weeks and weeks into months. The only change that was made, after being confronted by a Hawaiian Humane Society officer, was to move the dogs to separate trees. This stopped the tangling, but now the dogs had no interaction with each other and after a few days they were sleeping most of the time and appeared depressed.

After one year of tethering, one dog was found dead in the yard, still tied to his tree and the other dog was taken back to the Hawaiian Humane Society and replaced with a burglar alarm.

The year I witnessed those two suffering dogs was a difficult one. I felt totally helpless to improve the situation, and at one point, I even asked to take over their care.

I learned in my many conversations with these neighbors that they believed that dogs only needed food, water and shelter. They were unaware of the psychological needs of dogs such as socialization and exercise. Laws teach people right from wrong. It is time for Hawaii to stop the cruel practice of inhumane tethering.

Thank you for your time,



Linda Vannatta
5568 Haleola Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & GOVERNMENT
OPERATION

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street, Room 016

Dear Senators:

I am in support of SB488.

Dogs should not have to live at the end of a rope any more than you or I should. Tethering dogs full time is cruel because, like humans, they are social beings. Isolating a dog at the end of a rope deprives it of the basic need to interact with its "Pack." Dogs who do not get enough exercise or socialization are more frustrated and frustrated dogs are more aggressive.

There is overwhelming evidence that shows a chained dog is more likely to an unprovoked attack than an unchained dog would be. Therefore, to keep our neighborhoods safe, an anti tethering bill makes more sense, is more effective and more humane than a bill banning specific breeds such as pit bulls.

Cindy Newburg
5568 Haleola St
Honolulu, HI 96821