



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**LATE TESTIMONY**

TO: Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy and Committee Members

Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business, 2-8-11, 800am, Rm 312

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1621; Relating to Dogs**

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,  
P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, [igibson@hsus.org](mailto:igibson@hsus.org), 808-922-9910

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Dear Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 49,400 members and supporters in Hawaii, we thank the Committee for considering this important measure to protect both dogs and consumers. Our organization has been involved in efforts in sixteen states that have passed similar laws in the past 2 years to prevent cruel treatment and exploitation of dogs, where sadly, profit is all too often put above welfare.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the inhumane treatment of dogs by requiring large-scale dog breeding operations be licensed and provide each dog under their care with basic food and water, adequate shelter from the elements, necessary veterinary care, adequate space to turn around and stretch his or her limbs, access to space for critical exercise and adequate rest between breeding cycles. These most basic requirements are found in a number of state laws, but sorely lacking in Hawaii, in rightfully regulating such commercial operations.

**Animal Welfare Concerns:**

Dogs at puppy mills, also known as large scale commercial breeding operations, typically receive little to no medical care, often live in squalid conditions with no exercise, socialization or human interaction and are confined inside cramped wire cages for life. Breeding dogs must endure constant breeding cycles and are typically confined for years on end, without ever becoming part of a family. The breeding "stock" live their entire lives confined to small cages, devoid of human companionship. They are often victims of filth, inadequate shelter, overcrowding, and insufficient food and water. They are bred repeatedly and often receive little or no veterinary care.

Furthermore, many of these large-scale dog breeding operations continue to produce litter after litter of puppies, exacerbating the pet overpopulation crisis; contributing to increased euthanasia rates at local animal shelters and increasing animal care and control costs for taxpayers.

**Consumer Protection Concerns:**

Dogs from these large-scale breeders are often sold in pet stores, online, via newspaper ads and

in some cases directly to consumers with little to no regard for the dog's health, genetic history or future welfare. Puppies are often taken from their mothers for sale to pet stores at approximately 8 weeks of age, when they are highly susceptible to contagious diseases such as parvovirus and are very sensitive to behavioral stress. Poor breeding practices can also lead to serious genetic problems such as hip dysplasia—an often painful and crippling disorder.

In addition, many unknowing consumers also purchase dogs with “Registry Papers” thinking that this ensures the health or temperament of the dog they are purchasing. However, the American Kennel Club (AKC), by its own admission, has stated that AKC papers, “in no way indicate the quality or state of health of the dog.” No one should believe a dog is well-socialized, genetically sound, or healthy simply because he or she comes with registry papers. In several states, laws even mandate that consumers must be told that these registry papers do not guarantee health or even lineage. Unfortunately, consumers mistakenly believe that a high price for a dog means that the dog is healthy and well-socialized,

Again, we urge your support of HB 1621 and these most basic requirements to better protect dogs and consumers alike.

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**From:** Stephanie Ryan Oahu SPCA [stephanie@oahuspca.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 8:30 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - HB 1621

Dear Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy, and Committee Members,

Please **SUPPORT HB 1621** to regulate large scale dog breeders who often put profit over welfare.

Breeders are in the survival mode themselves and procreate dogs for their sustenance and monetary gains. In order to maximize profits, the breeders make routine checks on their "Inventory" to decide which live companion animals are suitable for market. Those that do not reach their standards are pulled from their litters and discarded. Companion animals (sold to become family members, 'ohana) are categorized and discarded if they do not reach the breeders' standards due to color of eyes, nose, hair or teeth. Can you imagine these discretionary measures in place in maternity wards in our state and in our county?

The average dog has the mental capacity of a five year old child. They feel the same physical and emotional pain as humans but lack the ability of speech. They are caged and bred for profit their entire lives to sustain the lifestyle and survival of their breeders. Some have never stepped on green grass or soil.

To prevent suffering, large-scale dog breeders should be licensed and comply with basic humane care, exercise, veterinary care and housing standards. Otherwise their business practices for profit remain unchecked and unregulated.

Please **SUPPORT HB 1621** and focus on the common practices of large scale dog breeders that put Their Profit over the Welfare of companion animals.

Thank you,



Stephanie Ryan  
Oahu SPCA  
Co-Founder and President  
808-349-3475  
[stephanie@oahuspca.org](mailto:stephanie@oahuspca.org)  
Save a life. Spay and neuter all your pets!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 10:42 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** vyoshi76@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB1621 on 2/8/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/8/2011 8:00:00 AM HB1621

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Val Yoshikane  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone:  
E-mail: [vyoshi76@hotmail.com](mailto:vyoshi76@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

I support that dog breeders need to be licensed, as someone needs to monitor the health, safety and well being of our furry friends. I purchased a dog from a breeder on the big island, the dog was very quiet and shy thought it was from the flight over, but the next day, the dog was still quiet. I called the Human society to check on the breeder, who said he has no offenses. The next day, they called and said to return the dog because another dog of his, sold 2 weeks prior died of Parvo virus. Further investigation found that his quansit hut breeding facility has cinder as the ground, which is porous and is impossible to keep clean and sterile from the spread of Parvo. These breeders need to be held accountable.

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**From:** Natalie Lukashevsky [natalie.alani@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 11:11 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY- Support HB 1621 RELATING TO DOGS

On behalf of all the dogs and puppies imprisoned in puppy mills, please put an end to this heart break. These dogs and puppies cannot speak for their rights and their cries are unheard except by those inflicting their pain. They need us to speak out for them and save them from being victims of this life whose fate is torture and ultimately death. Spending their entire life in an overcrowded cage, not having the chance to run and feel the sun, breeding endlessly in disgusting, inhumane conditions; this should be totally unacceptable to us in our society. Animal cruelty is against the law in all states but currently there are only individual state laws in the United States banning puppy mills.

Please hear my plea and the plea of so many others who speak on behalf of these dogs and puppies who cannot speak for themselves and ban puppy mills in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you,  
Natalie Lukashevsky

1821 Keeaumoku St. #202  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
497-6808

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**From:** g2@hokua.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 1:36 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Please support HB 1621

Dear Hon. Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy, and Committee Members,

Please support HB 1621, to regulate large scale dog breeders who often put profit over the welfare of these animals. I speak from painful personal experience. It is very sad that there has to even be such a bill, going into such detail as to how these helpless creatures should be afforded the most basic needs, but when there is money to be made, most breeders are not concerned about the welfare of the animals. Therefore, I am asking those of you who are in a position to regulate such inhumane behavior, to PLEASE exercise your ability to do so. If those who oppose this law are already treating their dogs humanely, then they should not have a problem with it and should not have a problem with unscheduled inspections. When you listen to their oppositions, please listen to the heart of their message. Profit is a great motivator for great arguments.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

Aloha,  
Ginny Tiu

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**From:** Wayne Maeda [shakacat@ukulele.com] on behalf of wayne [iw@ukulele.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 2:38 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Support for House Bill 1621

Dear Sirs,  
Please pass House Bill 1621 to regulate large scale dog breeding operations and to insure humane operations.

mahalo,  
Ilene Wong  
P O Box 61704  
Honolulu HI 96839  
941-9754



## LATE TESTIMONY

*improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.*

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Testimony by: Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

**Offering Comments on HB 1621 – Relating to Dogs**  
The House Committee Economic Revitalization and Business  
Tuesday, February 8, 2011 - Room 312, 8:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and members of the committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, President of Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP), a local nonprofit organized to help people care for their pets. I am also the former Director of Community Relations for the Hawaiian Humane Society and the founder and former president of the Oahu SPCA. PDP offers comments on HB 1621 relating to dogs.

While we believe Hawaii sorely needs breeder licensing and registration requirements, we would like lawmakers to digest what we believe are strengths and weaknesses of this bill. Although HB 1621 is a step in the right direction, it's clear that we need a deeper dialogue about policies that will truly contribute to a more compassionate and humane society. **Acknowledging that a sunrise review by the auditor is required before any licensing or registration mandate can be implemented**, we take this opportunity to simply educate lawmakers and the public about the sad state of man's best friend.

A dog breeding license is required in most states if two or more dogs are being bred for the sole purpose of making a profit from their offspring. The proliferation of puppy mills results in excess breeding and inhumane conditions for the animals. Hawaii has no licensing requirement – for breeders or sellers of dogs and puppies. PDP believes that the strongest "Puppy Mill" bill will:

- address the abuse and neglect of breeding dogs and their offspring regardless of scale
- hold breeders (at any scale) accountable to a standard level of care through appropriate regulatory oversight
- reduce the perpetuation of puppy mills and the inbreeding of dogs with genetic defects
- address the dealers who may not necessarily be the breeders (in Hawaii and out of state)

In the long run – we would like to see a reduction in the unnecessary euthanasia of dogs due to pet overpopulation. This applies to all breeds – purebred or poi. Not everyone should be able to obtain a license to breed or sell dogs. Certain requirements need to be satisfied. HB 1621 does a few things related to the humane conditions in which dogs are bred and that is important. But it comes up significantly short in so many other areas.



PDP references Wisconsin's Act 90 which provides model language for a Hawaii law to regulate dog breeding and sales. The Act was passed in 2009 and will take effect June 1, 2011. The intent of that law is to protect the welfare of dogs and to protect consumers who purchase or adopt dogs. It appropriately goes above and beyond large scale breeders.

We prefer customizing a Hawaii law that will go even further by mandating spay and neuter for puppies prior to sale - unless the purchaser intends to breed (which would require licensing) or show their dog. Microchip identification would also be required. Both of these mandates would reduce pet overpopulation, aid in the return of stray or lost dogs to their owners, and reduce the unnecessary euthanasia of so many of our pets. We are already euthanizing 70 percent of animals on Oahu – a rate that is sadly average with the rest of the nation. Only 30 percent of all lost or stray dogs find their way home. Pure breed or poi – it makes no difference.

### **Why We Like Wisconsin's Law**

The Wisconsin law is considerably broader than HB 1621 but it really addresses many of our long term challenges that contribute to pet overpopulation. It affects:

- Dog breeders who sell dogs either to other distributors or directly to consumers if they *sell at least 25 dogs a year and those dogs come from at least 3 litters*
- Out-of-state dog dealers who bring 25 or more dogs a year into Hawaii for sale
- Pet stores and other retailers that *sell at least 25 dogs a year*
- Non-profit animal shelters that *shelter at least 25 dogs a year*
- Animal control facilities that contract with a city, village, town or county

No one should be above the law and that includes nonprofit animal shelters. Risk of an unannounced inspection will ensure that adherence with quality of care standards. With respect to licensing and registration:

- Anyone operating an affected business/facility must be licensed by the Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs with enforcement by the State Dept. of Agriculture.
- Facilities must be inspected prior to initial licensing and at least once every two years thereafter. This includes pet stores.

With respect to selling and/or transferring dogs:

- Dogs must be at least 10 weeks old
- Dogs must be examined by a veterinarian
- Dogs must come with vaccination records and the veterinarian's statement that they do not have any infectious and contagious diseases
- Dogs must be spayed/neutered, and microchipped prior to sale

Annual license costs would vary depending on the scale – from small to large scale breeders:

- For sellers:
  - \$100 for selling less than 25 dogs a year
  - \$250 for selling 25-49 dogs a year
  - \$500 for selling 50-99 dogs a year
  - \$750 for selling 100-249 dogs a year
  - \$1,000 for selling 250 or more dogs a year
  - For shelters and animal control facilities, \$125

Failure to obtain a license is a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or nine months in jail. Violations of other provisions can be up to \$1,000 for the first offense and \$200-\$2,000 for other offenses within 5 years.

PDP understands that HB 1621 is just a first attempt to address unscrupulous large scale breeders in Hawaii, but it really leaves out the majority of dog breeding activity including puppy sales by pet stores. If we're committed to making a meaningful impact on how society treats its pets, we need to go a few steps further than just addressing large scale breeders.

Mahalo for your caring and compassion for Hawaii's pets and their people.

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**From:** Natalie Pawluk [npawluk@bgch.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 8:06 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Support HB 1621 RELATING TO DOGS

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 1621 to regulate Large Scale Breeding Operations. Since the general public often does not know the history of the puppy that they welcome into their homes, it is up to state government to be aware of the breeding environment to ensure that animals are treated humanely. By regulating breeding operations, Hawaii can be sure that we do not become over-populated with pets that do not have homes. I have frequented the Hawaiian Humane Society, and their dog population is always overwhelming. Regulating breeding operations would help new pet owners to explore other options before purchasing a pet. Furthermore, it would help to prevent illness and inhumane treatment to dogs that are used to breed for profit, as well as their puppies. It is time that we stop viewing animals solely for the interest of their human owners and begin to take the interest of the animal's welfare into consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Natalie Pawluk Moore, MSCP

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**From:** suzanne [suzannealoha@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 7:09 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Please SUPPORT HB 1621

Dear Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy, and Committee Members:

Please **SUPPORT HB 1621** to regulate large scale dog breeders who often put profit over welfare. To prevent suffering, large-scale dog breeders must be licensed and comply with humane care, exercise, veterinary care and housing standards.

Respectfully,  
Suzanne Nakano