

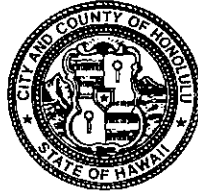
SB 1126

RELATING TO ANIMALS.

Requires zoos in the State to house elephants in an area that is sufficient to live and roam. Takes effect 1/1/2014.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

HONOLULU ZOO
151 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Phone (808) 971-7174, Fax (808) 971-7173



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

SIDNEY A. QUINTAL
ACTING DIRECTOR

MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO
ZOO DIRECTOR

February 7, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations
and Military Affairs
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

**RE: Testimony of Manuel A. Mollinedo, Director of the Honolulu Zoo on
S.B. 1126, Requiring Zoos in the State of Hawaii to House Elephants in an
Area that is Sufficient to Live and Roam**

Senate Bill 1126 would impact the Honolulu Zoo elephant program negatively by placing unreasonable space standards limiting the number of elephants housed at this zoo. The legislation, as written, would require the zoo to remove one of its elephants leaving one solitary animal at the Honolulu Zoo.

The City and County of Honolulu has committed over \$11.5 million for the construction of a new habitat to replace the current exhibit, built in 1949. The new "Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Exhibit," presently under construction will consist of a new yard that will be over 1.4 acres and contains two 55,000 gallon pools and 46 shade trees. This new space will allow the zoos' professional keeper staff to exercise the elephants, so that these pachyderms can maintain good cardiovascular and foot health. This exhibit will also contain a 7,260 square foot holding area with a state of the art elephant restraining device for their safe medical and health examinations.

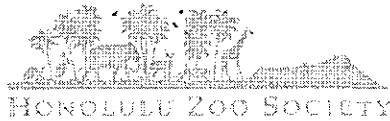
Even though the area that currently houses our two elephants is small by current standards, our elephants are well cared for, healthy and socially well adjusted. One must also note that although elephants in the wild may walk many miles, they do not do so purely out of choice or to maintain physical fitness; they do this for survival purposes. Access to food and water are the motivating factors for the extensive foraging that elephants exhibit in the wild.

In captivity, where the need to forage for survival is removed, their tendency is to exhibit more sedentary behavior and congregate around food and water sources. These more sedentary, "grouping" behaviors are also observed in wild herds during rainy periods when grasses, browse and water are readily available, and the need to forage over miles is removed.

The Honolulu Zoo and its support agency, the Honolulu Zoological Society, are presently involved in a three year, multi-institutional study for the purpose of gathering information required to determine the best practices in zoo elephant management. The study, "Using Science to Understand Elephant Welfare," is supported by an \$816,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and will involve the entire population of 289 elephants housed in Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) institutions. Benchmarks produced by the study, which is overseen by this zoo, could potentially affect accreditation standards for all AZA elephant holding facilities and bring about advances in elephant care and facility design.

For the reasons mentioned, I oppose this legislation as written, but would be in support of this Bill if the definition of "suitable space" is amended as follows: "For purposes of this section, "suitable space" means an enclosed living area that meets the outdoor space standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) as written in the revised AZA Standards of Elephant Management and Care Section 1.4.1.2."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DATE: February 8, 2011

TO: Senator Will Espero, Committee Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Committee Vice Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senator Pohai Ryan
Senator Sam Slom

FROM: The Honolulu Zoo Society
Represented by Suzanne Kariya-Ramos, Executive Director

RE: SB 1126 Hearing on Tuesday, 2/8/11 @ 3:15 pm

The Honolulu Zoo Society, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit support organization to the Honolulu Zoo, **OPPOSES SB 1126** for the following reasons:

SB 1126 currently requires “an enclosed living area of not less than one acre for each elephant” housed in a zoo in the State of Hawaii. Although well-intentioned, this recommendation is at odds with the “Association of Zoos and Aquariums Standards for Elephant Management and Care”. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is the leading authority on setting standards of animal care and best practices for zoos and aquariums. Their recommendations are updated as needed. Although not yet formally adopted, the December 2010 AZA recommendations propose to *increase* the current standard to 5400 sq. ft. per elephant in an enclosure. This recommendation from a recognized authority is far different than the space requirement noted in SB 1126.

While attempting to improve the care of elephants in Hawaii, this bill would have a direct and negative impact on Hawaii’s only two elephants. Mari and Vaigai have lived together at the Honolulu Zoo for nearly twenty years. They were given as gifts to the children of Hawaii from the government of India and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. They are Ambassadors of good will, and serve to increase awareness, education and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts. Mari and Vaigai are well-adjusted, healthy, and strongly attached to each other and their keeper staff at the Zoo. If this legislation is passed, only one of these two elephants could remain at the Honolulu Zoo, even in the new 1.4 acre exhibit currently being built. Breaking up this highly social and close-knit ohana would be devastating to all concerned.

The intent of SB 1126 is to provide “suitable space for each elephant to live and roam”, and “to walk and exercise”. It is the definition of “suitable space” that is problematic, and the assumption that if elephants are given more space, they will use that space on their own accord and walk more. This is not accurate. Even in the wild with relatively “unlimited” space, when abundant resources are available, elephants rarely walk for miles without cause; they gather around easily accessible food and water sources. It is when survival dictates that they must go in search of food and water that they more often travel long distances. In AZA-accredited facilities like the Honolulu Zoo, food and water are readily available, so active exercise and enrichment programs must be utilized to counteract the elephants’ natural tendency to be more sedentary. Just as with humans, good nutrition and exercise help elephants to maintain good health and well-being.

IN CLOSING, as it is currently written, the Honolulu Zoo Society OPPOSES SB 1126. If the “suitable space” definition is amended to uphold current and future AZA space recommendations, the Honolulu Zoo Society would no longer oppose SB 1126. Mahalo.



**Testimony of
Kristin L. Vehrs, Executive Director
Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)**

**Respectfully Submitted to the
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
February 8, 2011**

Thank you for inviting the testimony of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA expresses its strong support for the Honolulu Zoo, especially in light of some clear misconceptions about the Zoo's elephant care program. First and foremost, AZA can assure you that the Honolulu Zoo meets the highest standards of animal welfare, including specific standards for elephant care and management.

Accreditation Standards

AZA is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization serving as the independent organization with accreditation oversight of the Honolulu Zoo, and more than 200 other zoological institutions in the United States and six other countries . In this role, we enforce mandatory standards for animal care and welfare; professional staff training; safety for visitors, staff and animals; conservation science and educational programs; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; and visitor services.

AZA accreditation standards for elephants are science-based and always rising. More than just setting minimum space requirements, these standards encompass the entire set of factors that allow our members to meet both the physical and psychological needs of elephants, including exhibit complexity, behavioral enrichment, social structure, veterinary care, thermoregulation, and nutrition. The Honolulu Zoo is meeting these standards and is continuously improving its elephant program, including construction of a new, state-of-the-art habitat that will not only exceed current standards, but also be capable of meeting future standards of care for elephants.

AZA Standards are working, and elephants in zoos are thriving. Specifically, the scientific evidence clearly shows that elephants in AZA-accredited zoos are long-lived and in overall good health.

A recently published survey of the North American zoo elephant population found that on a 10-point scale, with 10 indicating the highest level of overall health, the average score for 284 elephants participating in the survey was 8.74. In addition, the average life expectancy for female Asian elephants in these zoological facilities in North America is 44.8 years. The science shows that elephants in AZA-accredited zoos are as long-lived as elephants in the wild, which is one important measure of the excellent care they receive.

AZA Opposes S.B. 1126

S.B. 1126 sets an arbitrary space requirement, without considering the myriad factors required to provide for the needs of elephants. SB 1126 will not improve elephant care or welfare, and we oppose its passage. There is no scientific evidence that elephants require or will use a greater amount of space than is already being provided and that will be provided under the Honolulu Zoo's current plans. In fact, the practical effect, and possibly the intent, of this proposed legislation will be to remove elephants from the Zoo entirely.

Intent is important, because similar measures in other parts of the country have been supported by animal rights groups with no-hands on expertise in elephant care, no education mission, and a clear anti-zoo agenda. These groups want to deny children and families in Hawaii the opportunity to see and experience wild animals. These groups do not engage in meaningful education, wildlife conservation or animal care programs. Moreover, they have mounted attacks on the Honolulu Zoo and other facilities across the country based on the intentional use of partial, outdated and incorrect information. We believe their intent is to remove elephants from zoos as part of

their outside-the-mainstream agenda to attack zoos across the country. We urge you and your fellow Senators to resist being swayed by these tactics.

Honolulu Zoo Elephant Care Program

To be AZA accredited, zoos must undergo thorough investigation to insure they have and will continue to meet ever-rising Accreditation Standards. Because of this AZA oversight role, we are in a unique position to testify that the Honolulu Zoo conducts an exemplary elephant care program. The Program is run by professionally-trained animal experts who adhere to mandatory standards of care.

Through its accreditation, the Honolulu Zoo is part of the AZA Elephant Taxon Advisory Group/Species Survival Plan Program, which provides an extensive support system. With almost 300 well-cared-for elephants, more than 3,880 years of collective elephant management experience, and an extensive network of scientific advisors covering the disciplines of nutrition, veterinary medicine, pathology, behavior, reproduction, population management, education, and research, this cooperative Program makes the leading experts in the advancement of the health, welfare and conservation of elephants available to the Honolulu Zoo.

Science Education

The Honolulu Zoo is one of only 76 zoos in AZA with elephants, giving the State of Hawaii a unique opportunity to conserve and connect with these magnificent creatures. Elephants are integral to the conservation education programs at the Zoo, and many children in Hawaii would have no firsthand exposure to elephants and other wild animals without the living classroom that the Honolulu Zoo provides. A recent National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded study found that visiting accredited zoos and aquariums prompts people to feel a stronger connection to animals and to reconsider their role in conservation. The NSF also found that zoo and aquarium education programs are highly effective at teaching people about science and the environment. In

addition, the National Research Council concluded that zoos were particularly effective at providing science education to underserved populations. Therefore, the Zoo and its elephants play an important part in educating the children of Hawaii by supporting the Hawaii State Standards for Science and other school-based education goals.

Elephant Conservation

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature identifies Asian elephants as an endangered species. An estimated 30,000 Asian elephants remain scattered in fragmented habitats across the countries of Asia. One of the best things that the City of Honolulu can do to save elephants is something it is already doing - building a new elephant exhibit and continuing to care for and display elephants.

By visiting elephants in this new habitat here in Honolulu, and in AZA-accredited zoos across America, people will help make possible the field conservation, research, habitat restoration, reduction of human-elephant conflicts and community initiatives necessary to protect wild populations. AZA-accredited zoos provide the majority of funding for the International Elephant Foundation, supporting elephant conservation projects worldwide.

Moreover, millions of people, especially children, will begin a lifelong journey of wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship that will start right here in the Honolulu Zoo.

Supporting Jobs and the Economy

The construction of its new elephant habitat not only demonstrates the commitment of the Honolulu Zoo to great care for elephants and the education of the State's children, but also demonstrates the important contribution that the Zoo makes to the local economy. According to a national economic impact analysis conducted for the AZA by

nationally-recognized economist Dr. Stephen Fuller, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums generated the following impacts for the State of Hawaii:

- \$64 million in economic activity (contribution to national GDP);
- \$22 million in personal earnings (salaries and wages, which is taxable income for municipalities and the State of Hawaii); and
- 1,080 jobs.

At times of economic recession, infrastructure investment is critical for local economies. The Honolulu Zoo elephant exhibit project is putting a portion of the local construction workforce to work, supporting downstream spending as those wages support local businesses.

Honolulu joins the ranks of other major cities, including Cleveland, Dallas, San Diego, Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, Birmingham, Denver and Washington that are investing in state-of-the-art elephant habitats, with similar positive impacts on job creation and a shared commitment to the future of elephants.

Conclusion

As the organization with accreditation oversight of the Honolulu Zoo, AZA stands ready to serve as a resource for the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs on this specific matter or on any matter related to the performance of the Honolulu Zoo.

As experts in the impact that zoos have on American life, we ask you to remember that support for the Honolulu Zoo pays off twice – in immediate job creation, and in environmental education for the children and families of Hawaii. For these reasons, and because it is pursuing the highest standards of elephant care and welfare, we urge you to support the Honolulu Zoo and to oppose passage of this proposed legislation.



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

February 7, 2011

To: Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Re: SB1126 – Relating to Animals

Hearing: February 8, 2011, 3:15 p.m.; Conference Room 224

Position: Support

In Defense of Animals (IDA), an international animal protection organization based in San Rafael, California, supports SB1126, as written, which would require that any zoo provide “a humane living space” for elephants, including a minimum of one acre of space per elephant.

Scientific research over the last 40 years has greatly advanced our knowledge of elephants, and we now understand much more about these complex animals than ever before. Elephants are among the world’s most intelligent and social animals, and they naturally live in an extensive social network that can include hundreds of elephants. At the core of this network is the family, in which females remain with their mothers for life. Adult males live in loose social groups and not in solitude, as is often erroneously reported.

Free-ranging elephants are on the move for 20 hours a day, exploring their environment, foraging, socializing, caring for young, and searching for mates, distant friends and relations. Though elephants have natural home ranges measured in hundreds of square miles, zoos often hold elephants in areas of a few acres or less.

A study in the journal *Science* found that elephants in zoos are dying far younger than those in relatively protected wild populations. Intensive confinement is causing serious physical and psychological problems, including painful foot disease and arthritis that cripple elephants and lead to premature death, infertility, high infant mortality and stillbirth rates, and repetitive rocking and swaying, signs of psychological distress.

While IDA believes that an elephant requires far more than one acre of space in order to thrive and not just survive, it is supporting SB1126 as a step in the right direction.

It would be unacceptable to adopt as law the minimum space standard set for elephants by the zoo industry trade group, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as it is utterly insufficient for elephants. The current AZA Standards for Elephant Management and Care (Adopted 21 March 2001, Updated 5 May 2003) recommend an outdoor minimum of 1800 square feet— about the size of a three-car garage – for one elephant and 900 square feet for each additional elephant; indoors, elephants can be held in a space as small as 20x20 square feet. This AZA standard sets the bar so low that it is very easy for zoos to claim to exceed them, while still not providing adequate space for elephants. Even if the minimum space standard were tripled, it would give an elephant less than one-eighth of an acre of space.

On behalf of our supporters in Hawaii and worldwide, IDA urges the committee to adopt SB1126 as written.

Catherine Doyle
Elephant Campaign Director
In Defense of Animals
323-301-5730
Catherine@idausa.org



THE ELEPHANT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
1513 Cambridge Street, Houston TX 77030

February 7, 2011

To the Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee:

The Elephant Managers Association (EMA) respectfully submits this comment in opposition to the proposed "A Bill for an Act Relating to Animals" SB 1126, regarding housing requirements for any zoo in the state including elephants in its collection. The EMA is an international nonprofit organization of professional elephant handlers, administrators, veterinarians, researchers, and elephant enthusiasts. For that reason we want to ensure that the Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee have accurate information regarding the subject of elephant care and management.

The Association is dedicated to the welfare of the world's elephants through improved communication, husbandry, research, education and conservation. The EMA is proud of its constructive efforts with state and federal regulatory agencies on matters relating to elephant care and management. Our members, who are elephant managers in a variety of institutions, including zoos, circuses and animal parks, adhere to a code of professional ethics. The EMA and its members are committed to providing elephant care at the highest professional level.

The EMA recognizes the value in and supports the responsible public display of elephants (and other animals) as a vitally important means of increasing public awareness of, and ultimately concern for these animals, in the care of humans, and significantly, in the wild. Indeed, such education and resulting conservation-related efforts are necessary to ensure the future survival of elephants in the wild where the critical issues of habitat degradation and destruction, along with human-elephant conflict and poaching for ivory, threaten the continued existence of wild elephant populations. Furthermore, animal exhibition is often the reason that people are interested in, and retain the conservation message that those of us working with these magnificent animals are committed to promoting.

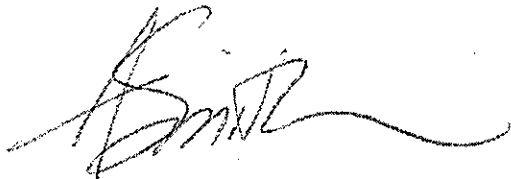
With respect to the proposed SB 1126, the Committee needs to be aware of the facts regarding captive elephant management:

- There are existing, and widely accepted, professional industry standards such as the EMA Guidelines for Elephant Care and Management and the EMA supported Elephant Husbandry Manual, as well as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Elephant Standards and Guidelines;
- Furthermore there are existing federal regulations under the Animal Welfare Act which are overseen by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture;

The EMA feels that the proposed SB 1126 is not necessary and will not contribute to the welfare of elephants or to the conservation of the species.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be glad to have a representative from our organization come speak to you about captive elephant management issues. Please contact us if you require additional information on this or other important matters of concern to the elephant care community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Smith
President

EMA Board of Directors:
Mike McClure, Baltimore, MD
Joanne Smith, Perris, CA
Harry Peachey, Columbus, OH
Trudy Williams, Polk City, FL
Daryl Hoffman, Houston, TX - Executive Director

From: tvdv@mymts.net [mailto:tvdv@mymts.net] **On Behalf Of** Todd Van Elslander
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:35 AM
To: Todd Van Elslander
Subject: Oppose SB 1126

February 5, 2011

Dear Senator:

As a concerned citizen, annual visitor and a member of the Honolulu Zoo Society, I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 1126** as it is currently written -- requiring at least one acre of land per each elephant in captivity in the State of Hawaii. My concerns are:

1. There is no scientific reason, and no data supporting the definition of "suitable space" equating to one acre per elephant. To enact legislation without evidence is ill-advised.
2. Only one of Hawaii's two elephants could stay at the Honolulu Zoo as the exhibit space will total 1.4 acres. This would break the well-established "family" bond that exists between these two elephants, an important and well-documented aspect of elephant welfare referred to briefly in SB 1126. It would also force "solitary confinement" on an animal that is known to live in close family groups, both in captivity and in the wild.
3. While elephants in the wild may travel many miles, they do so for survival; in search of food and water, a point not elucidated in SB 1126. In a captive environment, this search is not necessary. Even in the wild when abundant food and water supplies are available, elephants do not travel long distances; they congregate around easily accessed food and water sources. To counteract this tendency in captivity, zoos and sanctuaries (including the Honolulu Zoo), employ active exercise and enrichment programs to maintain good health and well being.
4. In the specific case of Hawaii's two elephants, Mari and Vaigai, they are healthy, well-adjusted, and show no evidence of negative behaviors sometimes seen in captive animals. Although this legislation may be well-intended, the impact of separation would be far more detrimental to them both.
5. Mari and Vaigai were gifted to the children of Hawaii from the government of India (former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), and serve as Ambassadors to increase awareness, education, and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts.
6. The City of Honolulu has invested over \$11.5 million on the new "Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Exhibit" currently under construction at the Honolulu Zoo. The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. If the Senate had this concern, it should have been raised before the commitment of public funds was made.

FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1126 AS LONG AS "SUITABLE SPACE" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS "ONE ACRE PER ELEPHANT".

Thank you for your civil service.

Sincerely,



Todd Van Elslander
51 Hindley Avenue
Winnipeg, Maanitoba
Canada R2M 1P5

Delcianna Winders, Esq.
Director
Captive Animal Law Enforcement
202-309-4697
DelciannaW@peta.org

February 7, 2011

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (PGMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: Hearing SB 1126, February 8, 2011, 3:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Will Espero, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

PETA is an international nonprofit organization with more than 2 million members and supporters dedicated to the protection of animals. We are writing to express our support for SB 1126 as an important step in the right direction for elephants kept in zoos.

Space is extremely important for elephants, as these species are known to walk up to thirty to fifty miles daily. Inadequate space is implicated in the development of arthritis—a leading reason for euthanasia of captive elephants in the U.S.¹

As Ros Clubb and Georgia Mason explain in their comprehensive Review of the Welfare of Zoo Elephants in Europe: “A lack of exercise has been cited as one of the major causal factors in the development of arthritis. Restricted movement due to inadequate space and/or chaining has been implicated in the development of arthritis in elephants, as regular exercise increases flexibility to wrists, knees and their joints.”²

This reason alone is sufficient to require more space for captive elephants. In addition, there are numerous other benefits—both mental and physical—observed when elephants are afforded access to more space. Although the space increase this bill would provide is far from the very large natural ranges wild elephants have, it will nevertheless make an important difference for captive elephants in Hawaii.

Very truly yours,



Delcianna Winders

¹ Fowler, M. (2001). Introduction. The Elephant's Foot. Csuti, B., Sargent, E. L. & Bechert, U.S. Iowa State University Press, Ames: 5-6.

² Ros Clubb & Georgia Mason, Review of the Welfare of Zoo Elephants in Europe 186 (citing Oosterhuis, J.E., Roocroft, A. & Gage, L.J. (1997). Elephant footcare workshop. AAZV Annual Conference, Houston, Texas; West, G. (2001). Occurrence and treatment of nail/foot abscesses, nail cracks, and sole abscesses in captive elephants. The Elephants Foot. Csuti, B., Sargent E. L. & Bechert, U.S. (Eds.). Iowa State University Press, Ames: 93-97.

From: Debra Bringman [mailto:DebraB@financefactors.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:54 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: I'm in agreement with SB1126

SB 1126

Testimony

Status

RELATING TO ANIMALS.

Requires zoos in the State to house elephants in an area that is sufficient to live and roam. Takes effect 1/1/2014.

However, I'm not sure if our current zoo has enough space to do this.
Debra Bringman

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From: Catherine Doyle [mailto:catherine@idausa.org]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 8:53 AM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: ELEPHANT BILL SB1126

Dear Senator Espero,

It was a pleasure to speak with you. I appreciate your interest in helping elephants and improving their welfare in captivity.

I really want to see your bill make a difference for captive elephants and be one that I can wholeheartedly support. So I have a suggestion that I hope you will consider: Rather than reducing the acreage per elephant cited in your bill, I believe it would be better to make one-acre per elephant a requirement for any *newly built* facility. In a sense, this "grandfathers" in the zoo and its current renovation. As you said that your concern was for any new ventures in Hawaii that may desire to include elephants, I think this would be a far better concession than establishing a very low amount of square footage, such as the 7,000 or 8,000 square feet per elephant that you mentioned.

There is a precedent for a minimum space requirement for elephants in captivity. In 2004, the City of San Francisco passed an ordinance that requires a minimum of 15 acres for elephants, though it does not designate the number of elephants that could be held in that amount of space.

When I contacted your office in support of SB1126, it was based on the one-acre per elephant language. Unfortunately, we would be unable to support a bill that calls for the AZA minimum (you can find the current elephant standards at <http://www.elephanttag.org/Professional/AZA%20Standards.pdf>) or square footage that represents as little as a fifth of an acre. This is because elephants are suffering and dying prematurely in zoos due to inadequate conditions -- especially lack of space for healthful movement -- that cause arthritis and chronic foot infections that eventually render the elephant unable to bear her own weight and ends in death.

IDA believes that it is our obligation to provide the highest quality of life possible for the elephants in our care. Right now, that standard is being set by the nation's two elephant sanctuaries (the reunification of the two elephants that so touched you took place at one of these) which give elephants hundreds to thousands of acres of natural habitat, the choice of social companions (something not possible in the restricted confines of a zoo) and a life far close to what nature intended for these animals. However, we also recognize that not every elephant can be so lucky as to be sent to a sanctuary, therefore, it is critical that significant improvements are made in the conditions that zoos are providing for elephants.

I believe that by retaining the one-acre requirement in your bill, but as applied to any newly built facility, you can better protect elephants and ensure more humane conditions.

I'd appreciate hearing your thoughts on this.

Sincerely,
Catherine Doyle
Elephant Campaign Director
In Defense of Animals
323-301-5730

February 4, 2011

Dear Senator Espero:

As a concerned citizen and your constituent, I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 1126** as it is currently written - requiring at least one acre of land per each elephant in captivity in the State of Hawaii. My concerns are:

1. There is no scientific reason, and no data supporting the definition of "suitable space" equating to one acre per elephant. To enact legislation without evidence is ill-advised.
2. Only one of Hawaii's two elephants could stay at the Honolulu Zoo as the exhibit space will total 1.4 acres. This would break the well-established "family" bond that exists between these two elephants, an important and well-documented aspect of elephant welfare referred to briefly in SB 1126. It would also force "solitary confinement" on an animal that is known to live in close family groups, both in captivity and in the wild.
3. While elephants in the wild may travel many miles, they do so for survival; in search of food and water, a point not elucidated in SB 1126. In a captive environment, this search is not necessary. Even in the wild when abundant food and water supplies are available, elephants do not travel long distances; they congregate around easily accessed food and water sources. To counteract this tendency in captivity, zoos and sanctuaries (including the Honolulu Zoo), employ active exercise and enrichment programs to maintain good health and well being.
4. In the specific case of Hawaii's two elephants, Mari and Vaigai, they are healthy, well-adjusted, and show no evidence of negative behaviors sometimes seen in captive animals. Although this legislation may be well-intended, the impact of separation would be far more detrimental to them both.
5. Mari and Vaigai were gifted to the children of Hawaii from the government of India (former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), and serve as Ambassadors to increase awareness, education, and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts.
6. The City of Honolulu has invested over \$11.5 million on the new "Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Exhibit" currently under construction at the Honolulu Zoo. The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. If the Senate had this concern, it should have been raised before the commitment of public funds was made.

FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1126 AS LONG AS "SUITABLE SPACE" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS "ONE ACRE PER ELEPHANT".

Thank you for your civil service.

Sincerely,

Dean & Jodi Oakley
91-1134 Pa'apa'ana St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 888-0340

From: darrell hee [mailto:hazmathee@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 9:19 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 1126 Mari & Vaigai

February 5, 2011

Dear Senator:

As a concerned citizen and your constituent, I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 1126** as it is currently written -- requiring at least one acre of land per each elephant in captivity in the State of Hawaii. My concerns are:

1. There is no scientific reason, and no data supporting the definition of "suitable space" equating to one acre per elephant. To enact legislation without evidence is ill-advised.
2. Only one of Hawaii's two elephants could stay at the Honolulu Zoo as the exhibit space will total 1.4 acres. This would break the well-established "family" bond that exists between these two elephants, an important and well-documented aspect of elephant welfare referred to briefly in SB 1126. It would also force "solitary confinement" on an animal that is known to live in close family groups, both in captivity and in the wild.
3. While elephants in the wild may travel many miles, they do so for survival; in search of food and water, a point not elucidated in SB 1126. In a captive environment, this search is not necessary. Even in the wild when abundant food and water supplies are available, elephants do not travel long distances; they congregate around easily accessed food and water sources. To counteract this tendency in captivity, zoos and sanctuaries (including the Honolulu Zoo), employ active exercise and enrichment programs to maintain good health and well being.
4. In the specific case of Hawaii's two elephants, Mari and Vaigai, they are healthy, well-adjusted, and show no evidence of negative behaviors sometimes seen in captive animals. Although this legislation may be well-intended, the impact of separation would be far more detrimental to them both.
5. Mari and Vaigai were gifted to the children of Hawaii from the government of India (former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), and serve as Ambassadors to increase awareness, education, and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts.
6. The City of Honolulu has invested over \$11.5 million on the new "Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Exhibit" currently under construction at the Honolulu Zoo. The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. If the Senate had this concern, it should have been raised before the commitment of public funds was made.

FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1126 AS LONG AS "SUITABLE SPACE" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS "ONE ACRE PER ELEPHANT".

Thank you for your civil service.

Sincerely,

Darrell D. Hee 91-1171 Kupipi Place Ewa Beach, HI. 96706

From: Tai's Email [mailto:taiover@bp-hss.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 10:03 AM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: *****SPAM***** Elephants in Hawaii

Dear Senator Espero,

As a concerned citizen and your constituent, I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 1126** as it is currently written - requiring at least one acre of land per each elephant in captivity in the State of Hawaii. My concerns are:

1. There is no scientific reason, and no data supporting the definition of "suitable space" equating to one acre per elephant. To enact legislation without evidence is ill-advised.
2. Only one of Hawaii's two elephants could stay at the Honolulu Zoo as the exhibit space will total 1.4 acres. This would break the well-established "family" bond that exists between these two elephants, an important and well-documented aspect of elephant welfare referred to briefly in SB 1126. It would also force "solitary confinement" on an animal that is known to live in close family groups, both in captivity and in the wild.
3. While elephants in the wild may travel many miles, they do so for survival; in search of food and water, a point not elucidated in SB 1126. In a captive environment, this search is not necessary. Even in the wild when abundant food and water supplies are available, elephants do not travel long distances; they congregate around easily accessed food and water sources. To counteract this tendency in captivity, zoos and sanctuaries (including the Honolulu Zoo), employ active exercise and enrichment programs to maintain good health and well being.
4. In the specific case of Hawaii's two elephants, Mari and Vaigai, they are healthy, well-adjusted, and show no evidence of negative behaviors sometimes seen in captive animals. Although this legislation may be well-intended, the impact of separation would be far more detrimental to them both.
5. Mari and Vaigai were gifted to the children of Hawaii from the government of India (former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), and serve as Ambassadors to increase awareness, education, and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts.
6. The City of Honolulu has invested over \$11.5 million on the new "Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Exhibit" currently under construction at the Honolulu Zoo. The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. If the Senate had this concern, it should have been raised before the commitment of public funds was made.

FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1126 AS LONG AS "SUITABLE SPACE" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS "ONE ACRE PER ELEPHANT".

Thank you for your civil service.

Sincerely,

Tai & Raymie Over
91-1021 F Aeolia Street
Ewa Beach, Hi 96706

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:56 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: tperreira@honolulu.gov
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tyris perreira
Organization: Individual
Address: 1728 colburn st. HI
Phone: 808 2555920
E-mail: tperreira@honolulu.gov
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

The elephants at the Honolulu Zoo are gifts to the children of Hawaii from the Indian government. They are very well taken care of and loved. The elephants would be displaced if they were to leave their handlers who they have been with for many years. This bill is not the correct resolution for the Honolulu Zoo's elephants; please reconsider.....

From: Robert Porec

To: PGM Committee - State Senate

RE: SB1126

The requirement of one acre per elephant is arbitrary. Elephants have to travel miles to forage for food in the wild, not because they want to but because they have to. If you have ever been to one of the "elephant sanctuaries" you will see that no matter how large the acreage, the elephants remain close to the barn and close to the food and water source. Requiring space does nothing more than deceive the uneducated that the elephants are "happier" or better cared for. The elephants here at the Honolulu Zoo are very well cared for they have never had any major medical problems including foot problems that plague other zoos. The elephants at the Honolulu Zoo have been here as their only home since 1982 and 1992. They were a gift from the government of India to the children of Hawaii. If this bill passes, the zoo will be forced to get rid of the elephants. You see, the American Zoo Association (AZA) now requires a minimum of 3 elephants in a group. The Honolulu Zoo is in the midst of building a new larger elephant exhibit that by AZA standards could hold 4 adult elephants and a calf. If this bill passes the new exhibit would only be large enough for one elephant. Besides the zoo spending approximately \$11 million on this new exhibit already, they must follow AZA guidelines and if they can not house 3 elephants they will have to move all out. If this happens, the two elephants that have built a bond not only with their keepers but with each other, will be sent off to zoos in the mainland. They won't be able to be placed together. They will face new elephant groups as an outsider in a new social group. As this is a pecking order they will be pushed around and be at the bottom of the group unless they are strong enough to fight for a better position. They will face more extreme weather than they are accustomed to. I have worked with wild animals for over 30 years and have worked elephants for 12 years including 6 years at the San Diego Wild Animal Park where I was in charge of the park's 18 elephants. I know from experience that moving these elephants out could pose as a death sentence, which will be on your hands. Please do not pass this bill.

To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: RE: Elephant Legislation to Oppose SB1126

—Original Message—

From: Cherry Smith [mailto:blondie_6617@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:22 AM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: Elephant Legislation to Oppose SB1126

February 7, 2011

Dear Senator Espero,

As a concerned citizen and your constituent, I am writing to OPPOSE SB 1126 as it is currently written – requiring at least one acre of land per each elephant in captivity in the State of Hawaii. My concerns are:

1. There is no scientific reason, and no data supporting the definition of "suitable space" equating to one acre per elephant. To enact legislation without evidence is ill-advised.
2. Only one of Hawaii's two elephants could stay at the Honolulu Zoo as the exhibit space will total 1.4 acres. This would break the well-established "family" bond that exists between these two elephants, an important and well-documented aspect of elephant welfare referred to briefly in SB 1126. It would also force "solitary confinement" on an animal that is known to live in close family groups, both in captivity and in the wild.
3. While elephants in the wild may travel many miles, they do so for survival; in search of food and water, a point not elucidated in SB 1126. In a captive environment, this search is not necessary. Even in the wild when abundant food and water supplies are available, elephants do not travel long distances; they congregate around easily accessed food and water sources. To counteract this tendency in captivity, zoos and sanctuaries (including the Honolulu Zoo), employ active exercise and enrichment programs to maintain good health and well being.
4. In the specific case of Hawaii's two elephants, Mari and Vaigai, they are healthy, well-adjusted, and show no evidence of negative behaviors sometimes seen in captive animals. Although this legislation may be well-intended, the impact of separation would be far more detrimental to them both.
5. Mari and Vaigai were gifted to the children of Hawaii from the government of India (former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), and serve as Ambassadors to increase awareness, education, and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts.
6. The City of Honolulu has invested over \$11.5 million on the new "Asian Tropical Forest

Elephant Exhibit" currently under construction at the Honolulu Zoo. The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. If the Senate had this concern, it should have been raised before the commitment of public funds was made.

FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1126 AS LONG AS "SUITABLE SPACE" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS "ONE ACRE PER ELEPHANT".

Thank you for your civil service.

Sincerely,

Shelby Carlos
PO BOX 117
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810

—Original Message—

From: Colin Perry [mailto:ewakahuna@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 7:04 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Subject: Elephant Space at the Zoo

Dear Sen Espero,

Having grown up here and being a frequent visitor to the Honolulu Zoo, I believe that we need to avoid any legislation that could possibly affect our ability to afford our children's experience of learning first hand of the elephant, at our zoo. Please do not support any legislation to cause this to happen.

Respectfully,

Colin Perry

Ewa Beach

From: Leonae_Rodrigues/HONDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 2:28 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: S.B. NO. 1126 Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

As friends of the Zoo Animals, We are concerned about this Bill S.B.NO.1126, which may jeopardizing the Elephants, that the children like so much, might be re-moved from our Honolulu Zoo. The Elephants is one of the top Animal that everyone wants to see. We are aware of the new Area ,that is in progress, and will be completed soon, which is 1.4 acre. The two Elephants that are on display ,are females. The Male are the aggressive ones. Please allow these two female Elephants to remain here in Honolulu. It will be sad to be alone .

Thank you for your kind consideration,
Friends of Jefferson Elementary School.
PGMCommitte Hearing: February 8,2011 at 3:45pm

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 2:33 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: comtnwmn@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marilyn Yeager
Organization: Individual
Address: 1655 Makaloa St. #2405 Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 808 944 4656
E-mail: comtnwmn@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Do not misunderstand, I do care for animals and I care for Marie and Vaiggi, the two elephants who are supposedly "suffering" from lack of space. Come on, let them be, they've been together for 20 years in limited space. They're a family and they are managing in the "limited" space. We have HOMELESS AND HUNGRY FAMILIES, ELDERLY IN NEED OF MEALS, AND RESPITE CARE, Let's concentrate on them first, and when their needs are addressed and fulfilled, then if we still feel the elephants need more space, let's address it at that time.

P O Box 22232
Honolulu, HI 96823
February 7, 2011

Hawaii State Senate

Re: OPPOSITION to SB 1126 Relating to Animals (Elephant 1 Acre Requirement)

Dear Senators:

SB 1126 would require the Honolulu Zoo to have one acre per elephant in its exhibit space, which I believe would mean eliminating the elephants at Honolulu Zoo. If that is the intent, whoever is proposing the legislation should be up-front about it instead of using the one-acre threshold as a means to backdoor eliminating the elephants.

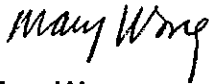
If that is not the intent, then the question is whether or not the legislature is willing to add the necessary funding so that the Honolulu Zoo can enlarge the proposed elephant exhibit, for which construction has already commenced?

The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. I believe the design for the proposed elephant exhibit meets all accreditation and design standards.

On what basis would the legislature be imposing a different standard, at what expense, and with what consequence?

I urge you to OPPOSE SB 1126.

Sincerely,



Mary Wong

From: Deborah Olson [<mailto:dolson@elephantconservation.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 6:46 AM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: *****SPAM*****

Dear State Senator Espero:

The International Elephant Foundation (IEF) is writing to express our opposition to SB 1126 as explained in the attached letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the IEF if you have any questions on this or other elephant related issues.

Deborah Olson
Executive Director
International Elephant Foundation
P.O. Box 366
Azle, Texas 76098
817-237-9034
www.elephantconservation.org

INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

The International Elephant Foundation supports conservation, awareness and scientific programs that enhance the survival of elephants and protect their habitats worldwide.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:32 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: puaa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 10845 Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: 808.721.4211
E-mail: puaa@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:
ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAII
ADVOCATING FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1975
PO BOX 10845
HONOLULU, HI 96816
ANMALRIGHTSHAWAII.ORG

William Espero, Chair
Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs February 8, 2011
3:15 PM
Conference Room 312
State Capitol

SB 1126
position: support

In the late 1980s I served for 6 years on the Board of Directors of the Honolulu Zoo Hui which is now called the Honolulu Zoological Society and one year as President; I have seen the original plans for a savannah with large swaths of land available for the grazing animals, including the Elephants, diminish with each year, each budget, each administration.

Now the two aging Asian Elephants, Mari and Vaigai, will have more space than ever before—but still less than an acre per Elephant. Although less than proposed in this bill, we hope that they will soon be able to stretch their legs in the the exhibit (...finally)

Animal Rights Hawai'i supports this bill in so far as it limits the number of Elephants at the Honolulu Zoo to two females.

We have heard comments from the politicians wanting to add at least a male Elephant and perhaps a younger female. They have no understanding of Elephant needs nor behavior, nor the health and safety of the zoo staff.

Male Elephants are huge, strong and dangerous during musk when they are ready to breed. The Honolulu Zoo does not have the facilities to handle a male Elephant.

Therefore we support SB1126. Mari and Vaigai deserve more, but you can make them happier and healthier by passing this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Goeggel
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:56 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: benjaminpries@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Benjamin Pries
Organization: Individual
Address: Kaipii Street Kailua, Hawaii
Phone: 808-620-0499
E-mail: benjaminpries@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

-----i

From: Sen. Will Espero
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 2:22 PM
To: Marlene Uesugi
Subject: FW: NO

February 6, 2011

Senator Espero,

SHAME ON YOU!! There are many other matters of greater significance to the people of Hawaii than acreage for elephants. I question your political motives – still want the zoo moved to Ewa?! Harassing the elephants isn't the way to do that.

Please figure out how to balance the budget without increasing taxes and hurting the "little people." Please concentrate on the education mess that you all were part of making last year. Please look into the true needs of jobs and job security. Can you spend your few weeks doing something worthwhile this year? Acreage for elephants should be considered demeaning when compared to what really must be handled in this legislative session.

Vicki Millard
1124 Kukila Place
Honolulu 96818

Public Safety and Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee
Hearing Date: February 8, 2011 3:15 pm

S.B. 1126, Relating to Elephants

Testimony from Adrian Kresnak

In Support

My name is Adrian Kresnak and I am twelve years old. Elephants should be given a space to walk in. I heard they walk 10 miles a day and even I know the space they have isn't close to that. I like walking a lot, too, and closed spaces make me uneasy.

Public Safety and Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee
Hearing Date: February 8, 2011 3:15 pm

S.B. 1126, Relating to Elephants

Testimony from Joshua Kresnak

In Support

My name is Joshua Kresnak and I am ten years old. Our school went to the zoo and our grade even slept there overnight. If you don't give the elephants enough room, they could die, then we'll have to take another bunch from wherever they come from. Then if they die, we'll have to do it again. It would be good to give the elephants a lot of space because they need the exercise.

From: Jean DeMercer-Breese [jeandb@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:26 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Sidney Quintal; mmollinedo@honolulu.gov; thigashino@honolulu.gov
Subject: SB1126 RELATING TO ANIMALS

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee for Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

From: Paul Breese, Honolulu Zoo Director Emeritus
Jean DeMercer-Breese
P. O. Box 1049
Kapaau, HI 96755

Subject: Testimony for SB1126 RELATING TO ANIMALS

Please do not support SB1126; this issue is not a State responsibility and is already regulated by the federal government and other agencies.

Formal and informal safeguards that address zoo animal care including elephants have been in place for several decades. The United States Animal Welfare Act establishes standards of animal care for all agencies that display mammals to the public. This act is administered by the US Department of Agriculture through its veterinarian employees some of whom work in our state and have overseen these regulations at the zoo for many years.

Another set of standards for animal care that are even more stringent than the federal Animal Welfare Act are those required for membership in the Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). The Honolulu Zoo has been a long time accredited member of this organization.

For a number of years, the zoo has constructed, in a series of increments, improved housing for its elephants. Work is now in progress on the final phase of this major project. This new development includes pools, a filtering system, fencing, and larger night time quarters. Completion is expected in the coming months.

In keeping with responsible governance, please do not support SB1126 which is redundant and unnecessary.

Thank you.
Aloha,

Paul Breese
Jean DeMercer-Breese

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:59 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ebarker@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Barker
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: ebarker@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Elephants are large animals that are suited for long distance roaming, over many miles. An acre per elephant is ridiculously small already. Let's do this already.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:29 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ejnuuanu@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: elaine Johnson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ejnuuanu@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

please support this bill. Elephants kept in captivity should have ample room to move about, it is only humane.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 4:54 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: k14myespe@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1126 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB1126

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mycah Esperanza
Organization: Individual
Address: 1728 Colburn Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 841-8421
E-mail: k14myespe@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

This is not a good reason to ban elephants from here because they're doing fine as it is, plus a new exhibit is currently being built. If you ban them, what will the zoo do with all the space?

February 8, 2011

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair

Fr: Jacqueline Boland, Parent

Re: SB 1126

Good afternoon Senator Espero and committee members. I'm writing in opposition of SB 1126 which requires elephants in captivity in Hawaii to have 1 acre per elephant in which to roam. This space designation far exceeds the national standard and would specifically do damage to the Honolulu zoo, the two elephants who currently live there, and any future elephants.

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association set standards for elephant care that require the outdoor space at 1,800 square feet for the first animal and an additional 800 square feet for additional animals.

The new 1.4 acre elephant exhibit being built at the Honolulu zoo far exceeds the national standard for elephant husbandry (there are 43,560 feet in an acre).

Over the years I've taken a special interest in elephants and their social needs are well documented. If this law passed, it would break up the pair of currently owned elephants, who have formed a family bond over the years and it would destine any future elephants at the Honolulu Zoo to live in lonely solitude.

Around the world, elephants are threatened by poaching for profit and loss of habitat. Zoos, though not an ideal environment, are an important part of animal preservation. Not only do they ensure continuation of a species, they help our children learn to care about and appreciate the animals that will surely need their support in the future.

As a new parent, I started going to the zoo in Honolulu about three years ago. My daughter loves the elephants. She looks forward to every visit. The people working at the zoo clearly share this love and the community came together to fund the new enclosure.

SB 1126, while well intended, sets arbitrary space allocations for elephant habitats and would do more damage than good. I urge you to oppose this bill.

Jacqueline Boland, Kaneohe
scubaronin@hotmail.com
235-3010

February 7, 2011

Dear Senator Fukunaga:

As a concerned citizen and your constituent, I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 1126** as it is currently written -- requiring at least one acre of land per each elephant in captivity in the State of Hawaii. My concerns are:

1. There is no scientific reason, and no data supporting the definition of "suitable space" equating to one acre per elephant. To enact legislation without evidence is ill-advised.
2. Only one of Hawaii's two elephants could stay at the Honolulu Zoo as the exhibit space will total 1.4 acres. This would break the well-established "family" bond that exists between these two elephants, an important and well-documented aspect of elephant welfare referred to briefly in SB 1126. It would also force "solitary confinement" on an animal that is known to live in close family groups, both in captivity and in the wild.
3. While elephants in the wild may travel many miles, they do so for survival; in search of food and water, a point not elucidated in SB 1126. In a captive environment, this search is not necessary. Even in the wild when abundant food and water supplies are available, elephants do not travel long distances; they congregate around easily accessed food and water sources. To counteract this tendency in captivity, zoos and sanctuaries (including the Honolulu Zoo), employ active exercise and enrichment programs to maintain good health and well being.
4. In the specific case of Hawaii's two elephants, Mari and Vaigai, they are healthy, well-adjusted, and show no evidence of negative behaviors sometimes seen in captive animals. Although this legislation may be well-intended, the impact of separation would be far more detrimental to them both.
5. Mari and Vaigai were gifted to the children of Hawaii from the government of India (former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), and serve as Ambassadors to increase awareness, education, and conservation efforts on behalf of their wild counterparts.
6. The City of Honolulu has invested over \$11.5 million on the new "Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Exhibit" currently under construction at the Honolulu Zoo. The new elephant exhibit was discussed in public forum for years prior to approval. If the Senate had this concern, it should have been raised before the commitment of public funds was made.

FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1126 AS LONG AS "SUITABLE SPACE" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS "ONE ACRE PER ELEPHANT".

Sincerely,

Wendy van de Waal
1981 Makiki St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

SUPPORT!

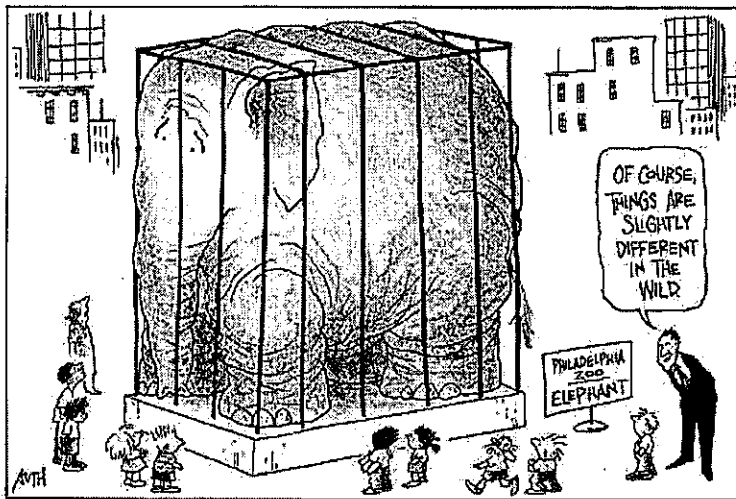
SB1126
(ELEPHANTS & STATE ZOOS)
Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Rm. 224

PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVT. OPERATIONS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (PGM)

Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Dear Senators:

Please **support SB1126!** If passed and enacted (way in the distance future 1/2014), it will require adequate space of at least 1 acre/elephant for any that is kept in HI zoos.



Elephants are *migratory animals*. In the wild, they travel in large herds of **complex family structures** between 10 - 50 miles a day. In zoos, they are kept in woefully tiny spaces resembling nothing like their natural habitats.

At the Honolulu Zoo, for instance, 2 lonely Asian elephants spend their years in a **tiny gravel and sand pit of 6,000 sq.ft. or .137 acre (!)** That is equivalent to the size of a

postage stamp for these two of the largest land animal on Earth.

Also in zoos, they are deprived of the space needed for them to roam naturally. This causes elephants many **health issues**, most notably foot ailments, but also obesity, **mental stress**, **shortened lifespans**, and many other problems.

So though I don't support zoos/similar kinds of unnatural confinement for wild animals, I recognize that if it must be done, **adequate space & a semblance of natural habitat** should be of topmost important, especially for large, intelligent animals like the elephants.

I hope you will agree. Please support SB1126.

Mahalo ~

Anjie Pham
Honolulu, Hawaii

