



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

TO: Honorable Chair Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members

House Judiciary Committee, 3-17-11, 200pm, Rm 325

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1533 SD1; Relating to Cruelty to Animals

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,
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On behalf of our more than 49,000 members and supporters of the Humane Society of the United States in Hawaii, thank you for this opportunity to speak in **support of SB 1533 SD1; Relating to Cruelty to Animals.**

A recent acquittal in a case involving the beating of a peacock with a baseball bat exposed the need to clarify our existing animal cruelty statute related to animals, such as peafowl, who may be considered "pests" or "vermin." Furthermore, our existing statute does not adequately reference the method by which "pests" or "vermin" may be killed. The proposed bill provides critical clarification by removing the broad and subjective terms of "pest" or "vermin" which also lacked reference to accepted or standard methods of control.

As proposed, this modest but necessary bill would still allow for the removal of rodents and insects and for the removal of peafowl and other species by licensed pest control operators performing services under a contract.

To prevent the cruel and unnecessary suffering of peacocks and potentially other animals who may be perceived as "pests" or "vermin" we respectfully urge your passage of SB 1533 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.