

SB 96

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Makes unlawful the use, setting, maintenance, or tending of any
body-gripping trap.



February 3, 2011

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

The Honorable Will Espero
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wildlife Services

Re: Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
(PGM)

Hawaii State Office

Senate Bill 96

Hearing Date and Location: February 8, 2011, Conference Room 224

3375 Koapaka Street,
Suite H-420
Honolulu, Hawaii
96819-1869

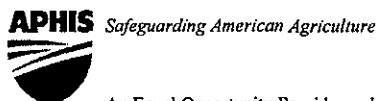
This letter is in response to your request to provide written testimony for Hawaii Senate Bill 96 as it relates to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services' (WS) Federal authorization and mission.

Tel: (808) 838-2840
Fax: (808) 838-2860

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to conduct a program of wildlife services and has the legal authority to administer wildlife damage management programs pursuant to 46 Stat. 1468; 7 USC 426-426b, as amended (otherwise known as the Act of March 2, 1931), and Public Law 100-202, 7 USC 426c (otherwise known as the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1988). These public laws enable the Wildlife Services program to enter into cooperative service agreements with public and private entities to provide technical and operational assistance to resolve human-wildlife conflicts. This authority spans across many resource classes that include agriculture, human health and safety, natural resources and property.

Wildlife Services uses offset, laminated leghold traps, conibear traps and snares in daily and routine operational activities here in the state of Hawaii. These tools are an integral part of our integrated wildlife damage management approach and decision model (see WS Directive 2.105 and 2.201 at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/ws_directives.shtml). These trapping devices are carefully used and tended on all land zone types with landowner and/or lessee permissions where a bona fide need exists. Should these trapping devices become unlawful to possess and use, we foresee that there will be a significant impact on our operational effectiveness to resolve wildlife damage associated activities relevant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC. 1531, 1543; 87 Stat. 884, as amended) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC. 703-711; 40 Stat. 755, as amended). The passage of Hawaii Senate Bill 96 will likely have a negative effect on the resources we are attempting to protect, namely threatened and endangered flora and fauna, agriculture commodities, and private property.

If allowances provide exemptions for Wildlife Services to perform their duties, we will be able to continue to adequately serve the State of Hawaii in the area of wildlife

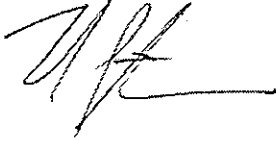


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damage management. I will not be providing live testimony at the hearing. Should the Committee have any further questions regarding Senate Bill 96, please feel free to contact me at (808) 838-2841 or via email at Mike.E.Pitzler@aphis.usda.gov.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pitzler', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

MIKE E. PITZLER
State Director, HI/GU/Pacific Islands
USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2011
3:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 96
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources does not support Senate Bill 96 to ban the use of body gripping traps. This bill, if enacted, would prevent government agencies and landowners from protecting biological and cultural resources from the devastating impacts of introduced feral animals that are widespread throughout the islands.

Hawaii's watersheds, ecosystems, and cultural sites are among the most threatened in the world. Impacts from introduced grazing animals and predators have resulted in extinctions of numerous bird species found nowhere else in the world, degradation of watershed function and service, widespread damage to coral reefs and the fisheries resources they support, and destruction and defilement of Hawaiian cultural sites.

Recent years have seen notable progress in efforts to protect natural and cultural resources after decades of steady and relentless decline from the impacts of feral animals. This success has been the result of strong public support and partnerships at considerable investment from stakeholders. While the department respects the need to deploy the most humane methods for the control of harmful animals, and does so as a matter of policy, removal of these judiciously used tools would result in the loss of progress that has taken years to achieve at considerable cost.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Strongly Opposing S.B. 96 Relating to Public Health and Safety
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 3:15PM, Rm. 224

The Nature Conservancy strongly opposes S.B. 96 Relating to Public Health and Safety.

Feral ungulates, including pigs, goats, sheep, deer, and wild cattle, are one of the biggest threats to the health of our native ecosystems and critical watershed areas. While Hawai'i has an important history of hunting game mammals for food and recreation, it is a modern history. With the exception of the Hawaiian bat, Hawaii has no native land mammals. Wild pigs were introduced from Europe and Asia after 1778. The smaller Polynesian pig brought by the first Hawaiians is gone (except on Ni'ihau), crowded out by these later introductions.

Centuries before the introduction of game mammals, Hawaii's native plants and animals evolved in geographic isolation to form the globally unique ecosystems that make up these islands. In the absence of predator species, native species did not develop defenses such as thorns or other mechanism to deter browsing or rooting animals. As a result, our native forests have no defenses against wild mammals that consume and destroy forest understory plants and native seedlings.

- Collectively and individually, the conservation agencies and organizations in Hawai'i are highly experienced with trapping non-native species, and are continually working to refine methods and protocols. They are composed of individuals who chose their profession because of their love and passion for animals, plants, and their habitats, and so have no desire to cause undue harm.
- Agencies are already required to complete management plans under federal and state environmental laws in which their non-native species control programs are open to public review and comment.
- Conservation agencies and organizations in Hawai'i are already overstretched, especially in these times of severely limited government and non-profit budgets. Additional administrative burdens on conservation agencies and organizations will come at the direct expense of important activities to care for our natural resources.
- Placing additional regulatory, administrative and enforcement burdens on the State to control the tools and circumstances allowed for effective animal control will give private citizens little recourse but to hold State government responsible for rectifying animal damage issues. Feral pigs, for example, have become a significant nuisance in many residential, agricultural and even urban areas of O'ahu. By regulating and limiting control, the State assumes the responsibility for management in the public eye.
- Responsible care of pet animals and existing pet care laws, if followed, would go a long way to preventing interactions with land managers taking responsible actions to care for natural, agricultural, human health, and other resources.

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As you can see from the attached photos, left unmanaged, feral ungulates can strip large areas of forest bare thereby contributing to erosion, runoff, damage to coastal areas and coral reefs, and impairing the natural absorptive function of watersheds. The areas disturbed by these animals create open soil for the invasion of weed species, further enhancing the decline of native ecosystems and watershed values. Pig wallows are a breeding ground for non-native mosquitoes that carry and spread avian pox and malaria to our fragile native bird populations. A native bird inflicted with avian pox suffers as lesions slowly eat away at the bird's feet and beak until it can no longer perch or seek food for its young. Urine and feces from ungulates contaminate our streams contributing to health threats like leptospirosis, trichinosis, brucellosis, and tuberculosis.

Through years of research and experience, it has been shown that the most effective way to control feral ungulates is by using a multi-faceted approach. Responsible public and private land managers use a variety of tools to control non-native animals, including fencing, public hunting, staff hunting, trapping, and snares. In some accessible locations, hunting and live trapping are sufficient for ungulate control. However, many areas of important native forest and watersheds are remote, mountainous, or otherwise so steep as to make standard animal control techniques dangerous, impractical and, in some cases, impossible. Furthermore, in many instances hunting and trapping alone simply cannot get ahead of the breeding capacity of these animals. Pigs can double their numbers in just 4 months.

Thankfully, as a state we are finally recognizing the need to manage our forested watersheds so that they can continue to deliver their benefits for generations to come. There are now eleven watershed partnerships encompassing more than 1,250,000 across the state. It is essential for the public and private land owners and land managers in these partnerships to have the right tools for the job in their animal control programs.

Attached photos.



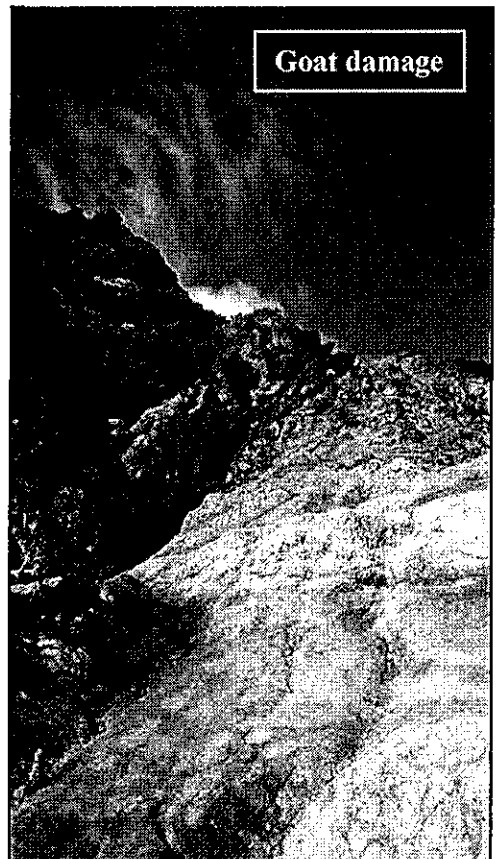
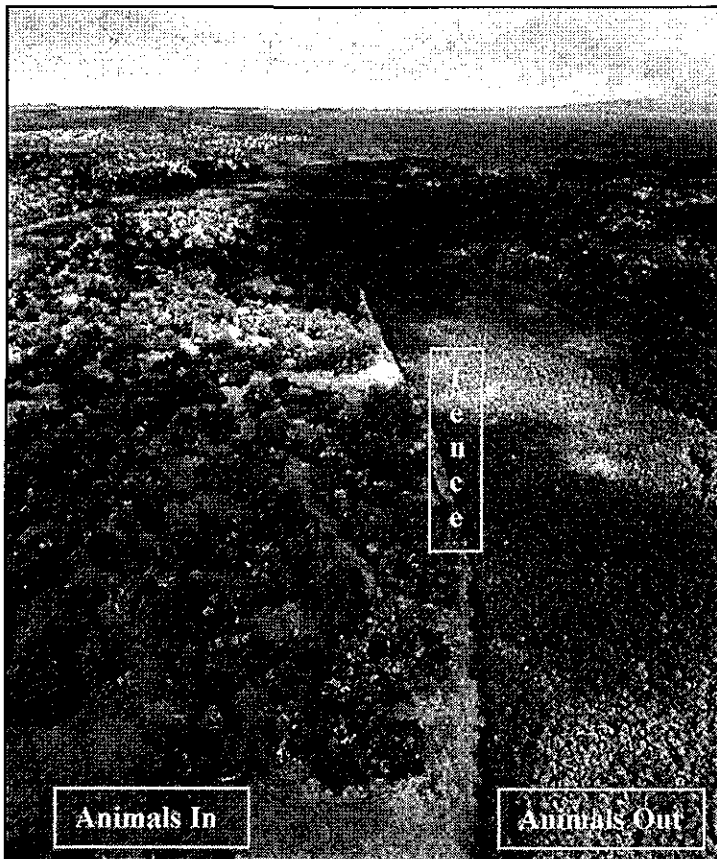
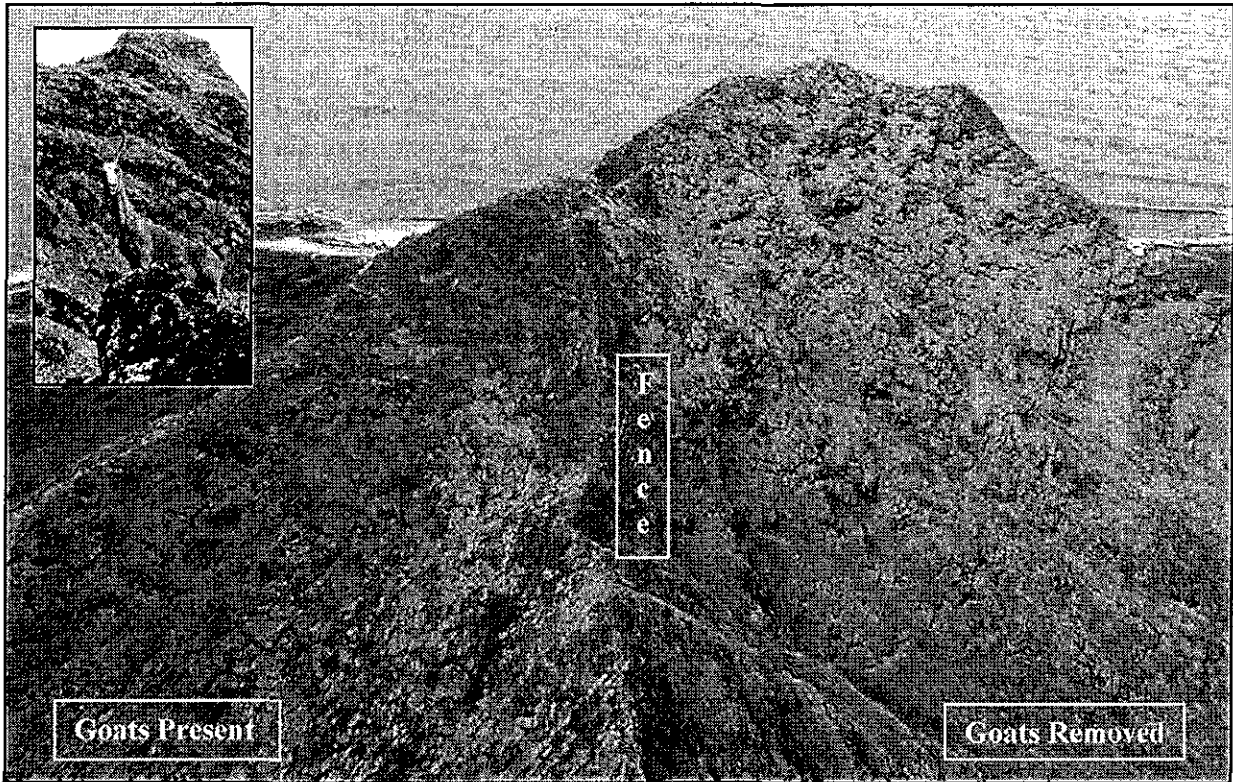
April 2009: 50 wedge-tailed shearwaters (*'ua 'u kani*) killed at Molokai's Mo'omomi Preserve by this loose dog (note collar). Dog was not claimed when turned over to County shelter.



Pigs Removed

Pigs Present







HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

2700 Waiālae Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96825
Telephone: 946-2187
Fax: 955-6034
www.hawaiianhumane.org

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promoting the human-
animal bond and
the humane treatment of
all animals.*

February 4, 2011

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony on SB 96

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs:

We strongly support this bill to prohibit the use of body-crushing traps and padded or non-laminated foot or leg hold traps. These types of traps can cause tremendous pain and suffering to animals that they are intended for and even those that they are not intended for.

There are many alternatives to inhumane traps that cause such pain and suffering and are often left unattended and unmonitored. This bill aims to eliminate the use of the most inhumane ones in Hawaii.

We ask for your unwavering support of SB 96.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely Yours,

Pamela Burns
President and CEO

State of Hawai'i
The Senate
The Twenty-sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Hawaii Senate Bill 96
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 3:15pm
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Written Testimony from: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From both:

Mr. Barry W. Stieglitz, Project Leader
Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm. 5-231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Phone: 808-792-9540
Email: barry_stieglitz@fws.gov

and

Dr. Loyal Merhoff, Field Supervisor
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rms. 5-231 and Rm. 3-122, Box 50088
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Phone: 808-792-9430
Email: loyal_mehrhoff@fws.gov

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Wildlife Service (Service) is responsible for the conservation and protection of more than 500 Federally endangered, threatened and candidate species in the State of Hawai'i, Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Pacific possessions such as Wake Atoll. The Service also has a role ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act, implementing conservation partnerships with public and private land owners, and providing leadership with invasive species and contaminants issues.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has a public trust responsibility to manage ten National Wildlife Refuges in the State of Hawai'i in a manner that protects, conserves, and where appropriate, restores native fish, wildlife, and plants and their associated habitats. All of these refuges are also managed to protect and recover State- and federally-listed endangered species.

For instance, Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge on the Island of Hawai'i protects 9 endangered bird and 16 endangered plant species. National wildlife refuges on Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i were established to protect and recover four endangered waterbird species by managing some of the most unique and significant wetland habitats in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Invasive species are one of the primary causes of ecosystem degradation and species extinction in the U.S. Pacific Islands. Invasive species negatively impact the economy, agriculture, and human health in the region in addition to accelerating the rate of endangered species extinction or degradation of native habitat, including that on National Wildlife Refuges. It is critical that Federal, State, and private entities are able to control and eradicate established non-native vertebrates (e.g., pigs, deer, sheep, mongoose, cats and rats) in Hawai'i on public and private lands with the most efficacious techniques. Similarly, it is critical that Federal, State, and private entities have the widest range of tools available to capture and eradicate species of vertebrates (e.g., snakes, amphibians, and rodents) in the future that may become established in the State of Hawai'i.

The intensive control of non-native vertebrates is required for the continued existence of many native wildlife and federally-listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species within the State of Hawai'i. For example, feral animals prey on endangered waterbirds, such as the Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian moorhen, Hawaiian coot, and Hawaiian duck. Feral ungulates destroy native tropical forest habitats necessary for the survival of endangered forest birds, invertebrates, and plants by trampling and grazing on native plants and facilitate the spread of non-native plants. Trapping of invasive, non-native vertebrate species on Federal, State, and private lands is an essential management tool to protect native wildlife and restore native habitats. Additionally, there are many cases where the Service requires Federal, State, and private landowners to control non-native vertebrates to be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Limiting the techniques landowners and managers can use to control non-native vertebrates will have negative impacts on rare species survival and the implementation of Federal natural resource mandates.

Although State law would not affect Federal landowners directly, we provide the following example based on the completed Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge to provide reasonable, scientifically grounded guidance for improving the Refuge's forest, riparian, and wetland habitats that are being degraded by feral ungulates and invasive plants. We concluded that the control of ungulates, rats, mongooses, cats, and dogs by trapping would result in long-term, intermediate, beneficial effects on koa/'ōhi'a/māmane forest habitats, which would benefit native birds dependent on these habitats for food, shelter, and reproduction. The removal of ungulates also provides increased protection of forest birds from mosquito-borne diseases, since a reduction in ungulates will reduce mosquito breeding habitats. Removing ungulates would also increase other native plant species populations in these habitat types, leading to an increase in native pollinators present.

Control of animal pests on national wildlife refuges in Hawai'i is essential to conserving and protecting the Nation's and State's native fish, wildlife, and plant resources as well as maintaining environmental quality and ecosystem function. We conduct trapping activities in

accordance with Federal pest management laws and Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulation and policy to ensure that public health and safety is not compromised, while at the same time meeting our conservation mandates under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended. In accordance with refuge policy, animals trespassing on refuge lands may be captured and returned to their owners or transferred to humane societies or local animal shelters, where feasible. Based on the Code of Federal Regulations Part 50, Section 28.43 (destruction of dogs and cats), dogs and cats running at large on a national wildlife refuge and observed in the act of killing, injuring, harassing, or molesting humans or wildlife may be disposed of in the interest of public safety and the protection of wildlife. Feral animals are disposed by the most humane method(s) available and in accordance with Fish and Wildlife Service policy.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

TO: Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committee Members

Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee, 2-8-11, 315pm

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 96; Relating to Public Safety

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

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 49,000 members and supporters in Hawaii, we thank Chair Espero for introducing this critical measure to prevent and reduce unnecessary animal suffering, and urge your support of this bill.

The issue of regulating the use of snares and body-gripping traps has come before the Hawaii legislature for almost a decade, demonstrating that this is a serious concern for the residents of Hawaii.

Humane societies across Hawaii regularly receive pet dogs, hunting dogs and pet cats who are the victims of snares or foot-hold traps; often these animals must be euthanized due to the extent of their injuries. One recent case on the Big Island involved 8 dogs who were intentionally captured using neck snares and who either died or had to be euthanized due to the extent of their injuries. The Prosecuting Attorney's office was unable to charge the person who had set the snares due to our lack of any law explicitly prohibiting the use of such devices to capture pet animals, or requiring that the device be checked to ensure that the target animal is captured.

Furthermore, unattended snares or foot-hold traps are indiscriminate and can capture pets and native wildlife. Last year a Wallaby was found captured in a snare and had to be euthanized at the Honolulu Zoo due to the extent of his injuries. Whoever set the snare could not be identified because there are no laws that require that snares or foot-hold traps be registered or have identification—encouraging the illegal or irresponsible use of these devices, which can be easily purchased by anyone over the Internet.

Most importantly, Hawaii has no laws that require that snares or foot-hold traps ever be checked after they are set. Many animals are simply left to suffer and die. Animals, including pet dogs and cats, are known to chew off their own limbs in an attempt to escape, causing severe injury or even death. Animals left in unattended snares and foot-hold traps thus suffer extreme pain for days or even weeks before finally dying of infection, starvation or dehydration.

To understand the affect of snaring on canid species (which include dogs) in one study researchers characterized the condition of 94 coyotes that had been trapped using neck snares. The coyotes showed signs that they had struggled significantly and that this resulted in a slow,

painful death. Briefly, their necropsy data showed many cases of severe hemorrhaging, bloody noses and bloody eyes, bloody limbs, broken necks, broken rostrums, cyanosis, and a condition called “jellyhead” that refers to the thick bloody lymph fluid that swells the heads and necks of snared canids. These same effects can be seen in other snared species.

Unlike past attempts to prohibit these devices all together, the proposed bill provides exemptions for the use of these devices in the protection of public health and safety, for rodent control and for recognized research or educational purposes. Furthermore there are other more humane and effective methods to address human-wildlife conflict that do not put pets and other non-target animals at risk of the extreme suffering that these cruel and archaic devices may cause.

In closing, animal cruelty and wanton waste are contrary to Hawaii’s values, the most basic hunting ethics of a “quick kill” and is disrespectful to our environment. Furthermore, regardless of whether an animal is native or introduced, feral or domesticated, no animal should or need to suffer unnecessarily.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we again urge your support of this critical measure to prevent unnecessary and prolonged animal suffering.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743

Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607

e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Tuesday February 8, 2011 3:15 p.m. Room 224

SB 96 RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Makes unlawful the use, setting, maintenance, or tending of any body-gripping trap.

Chairman Espero, Vice Chair Kidami and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ members represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Opposes** SB 96.

As you well know, wild pigs, sheep, goats and feral cattle have done tremendous damage to our forest lands and watersheds. Feral pigs, sheep and goats also damage our range lands. Furthermore, feral dogs, often in large packs, have been a historical threat killing or maiming sheep and calves. Traps of various type are an important tool for controlling this threat to our resources and protecting our livestock from horrific abuse or death. Traps include leg hold snares to capture feral dogs, rope snares to capture feral cattle and a variety of snares and traps to capture feral pigs. No such traps are effectively used for goats or sheep. While we concur with the intent of this bill to mitigate the suffering to a trapped wild animal, we are also here to make a case for the protection of the helpless young livestock who are the prey. On behalf of the newborn lambs and young calves in our State, we ask you to table this bill which we believe would for all practical purposes preclude a rancher from protecting his livestock and resources. If you think it is cruel and inhumane to trap a feral dog, please consider the pain and suffering of a young calf attacked by a pack of wild dogs or a newborn lamb confronting a wild boar that kills and consumes it.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of this very important issue.



Maui Humane Society
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February 7, 2011



TO: Public Safety, Government and Military Affairs Committee



RE: Support of SB 96



Dear Chair Espero and Committee Members;



I am writing in support of SB96 which would prohibit and in some cases regulate the use of body crushing traps and other inhumane types of traps.



The Maui Humane Society supports prohibition of the use of these cruel trapping devices. These traps can cause significant suffering for wildlife and can also trap pets, native and endangered species. Animals that are trapped in these devices can suffer for days, sometimes weeks until they ultimately die of starvation, dehydration or infection.



There are more humane traps available that can be used in place of these barbaric devices.



Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill and we hope that this committee will see fit to pass it.



Sincerely,



Jocelyn Bouchard, CAWA
CEO, Maui Humane Society



The Maui Humane Society is committed to building lifelong bonds between people and animals through education, community outreach and the prevention of cruelty.



Providing Love. Preventing Cruelty.

From: Madelyn Barrea [madrbar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 9:44 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: FW: SB 96 Body Gripping Traps

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

I would like to go on record as definitely being in favor of you supporting SB 96.

I feel it is totally barbaric and inhumane to allow the use of such torturous devices. Whether the animal caught in such a trap is wild or someone's pet, makes no difference, ***let's evolve from the dark ages.*** There are humane traps that will do the job, ***no need for torture!***

Anyone caught using such traps should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for your support.

Humanely yours,
Madelyn R. Barrea
Executive Director
West Hawaii Humane Society
P.O. Box 2965
Kailua-Kona, Hi 96745

SUPPORT!

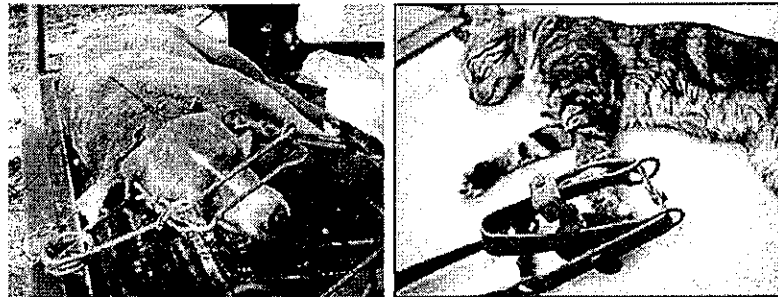
SB96
(PROHIBIT BODY-CRUSHING TRAPS/LEG SNARES)
Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Rm. 224

PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVT. OPERATIONS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (PGM)
Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Dear Senators:

In the movie based on a true story, "127 Hours", hiker *Aron Ralston* cut off his hand in a desperate attempt to get free from the rock crevices that accidentally trapped him. For 5 days, he suffered tremendous **fear, pain, thirst, starvation, and inclement weather** before arriving at such a dire action. Ralton was lucky, but the MILLIONS of animal currently sharing his same harrowing experience caught in human traps & snares are not.

No traps/snares *should* be used on animals where grievous bodily harm and **prolonged suffering** are incurred. Indeed such devices are both **cruel & indiscriminatory, nonspecific** in their designs, catching accidental victims like pets, endangered wildlife, and even people. *The American Veterinary Medical Association* calls **leg snares/traps "inhumane."**



They have been **banned in 88 countries** and in a growing number of states across the U.S. since 1973, including California, Florida, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Washington. In 1994, Arizona banned the use of leghold traps on public lands. **California** voters **prohibited all commercial leghold traps** in 1998, and **Washington** voters followed suit, adding a ban on body-gripping traps, in November 2000. (Source: www.All-Creatures.org)



Please lend your support to SB96. It is the merciful thing to do. Mahalo~

Anjie Pham
Honolulu, Hawaii

From: Debra Bringman [mailto:DebraB@financefactors.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:50 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: I agree with SB96

SB 96

Testimony

Status

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.
Makes unlawful the use, setting, maintenance, or tending
of any body-gripping trap.

Debra Bringman

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From: robert menacho [rmkona@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:45 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Support SB 96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Please SUPPORT SB 96 to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

Mahalo, Mary Menacho

From: Denise [onewahine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:50 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Support SB96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

Sincerely,

Denise Edwardy Towle

Kailua Kona, HI

From: Rene Umberger [octopus@maui.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:05 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96 in Support

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Please pass SB 96 prohibiting the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

Mahalo,
Rene Umberger
Kihei, HI

From: MMMMahalo2000@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96 2/8/11 3:00 PM SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Espero and committee members,

Mahalo for agreeing to this hearing, & I am respectfully requesting that your SUPPORT in this initial committee hearing. As a society, we continuously find better ways to perform old tasks, and here is an opportunity to do so. this ancient way to trap animals is indiscriminate & unneedlesly cruel. Please pass this through your committee.

SB 96 2/8/11 3:00 PM PGM committee SUPPORT

Mahalo,
Mike Moran Kihei, HI 96753

From: Anika Glass [anika.nui@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:19 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96 SUPPORT (Prohibit body gripping traps.)

Anika Glass, Waikoloa, HI

Tuesday Feb 8 315pm Rm 224

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

The whole idea of these Medieval traps is sickening.

Respectfully,

--
Anika Glass
Waikoloa
Founder Malama Waikoloa Nightingales

Jesse Owens
1350 Ala Moana Blvd. Apt 1209
Honolulu, HI 96814

Feb 3, 2011

Subject: OPPOSITION to SB 96 Relating to Public Health and Safety
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations & Military Affairs
February 6, 2011, 3:15pm

Dear Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations & Military Affairs,

Please oppose this bill and any other measure that seeks to outlaw the use of snares or body-gripping traps. Snares and these body-gripping traps are the only practical way to control many of Hawaii's disease vectors, such as feral cats and pigs that spread leptospirosis and toxoplasmosis, which can cause death and birth defects. As a scientist, I am well aware of the ability of these feral animals to spread these and many other diseases that greatly threaten public health. If resource managers were not able to use the most effective methods which have proven to be body-gripping traps and snares, it would result in the inability to effectively control these feral animals and their exploding populations, and the diseases they spread, would become even larger problems.

Further, snares and body gripping traps are the most effective ways for resource managers to control feral animals in remote locations, which protect Hawaii's forests, rare species, and watersheds. Animals like feral cats are predators to Hawaii's most endangered birds. By "protecting" these feral cats in the name of being humane to animals, it will cause the death of the beautiful and precious wildlife that makes Hawaii unique. Feral pigs cause enormous destruction by eating and digging up Hawaii's forests which also leads to erosion and the extinction of Hawaii's plants and wildlife.

Snares and body-gripping traps are the most effective ways to control these animals. Please be practical and oppose this bill.

From: Robert Wintner [robertw@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 2:09 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 96

These traps are cruel and should be banned. Please pass this bill.

Robert Wintner, Maui

From: Allan & Faith Rossman [alfaith@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 3:16 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Bill to be considered: **Tuesday, Feb 8, 315pm, Rm 224**

Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

Thank you,

Faith Rossman, RN, MN
Kailua-Kona

From: Judy Mick [ppchawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 3:35 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96

Chair Espero ,Vice-Chair Kidani,and Committee Members-

I ask that you support SB 96 to prohibit the use of cruel body-grip traps. It is time we learned about more humane ways to control the problem of animal/human interaction. We do not need to resort to torturing animals to remove them from areas. Please take action on this bill and make Hawaii a more compassionate place. Mahala and aloha. Judy Mick, Kailua

From: Torun [starfire_retreat@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 3:51 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Support SB 96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

*Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.*

Thank you for your consideration.

*David and Torun Almer
Starfire Companion-Animal Sanctuary
84-5142 Keala O Keawe Road
Captain Cook, HI 96704-8418
808-328-2061*

To: Senate Public Safety, Government and Military Affairs Committee

**Attn: Committee Chair Espero
Vice Chair Kidani
Distinguished Committee Members**

Re: SB 96 - Support

Hawaii needs trapping regulations immediately!

Traps are inherently indiscriminate; they cannot select their targets. Traps often contain a suffering animal, like a family pet, for countless days as the animal endures excruciating pain and an intolerable death. Since traps are extremely difficult to open without the correct key, rescue attempts are challenging at the least, thus supporting the demand for trap owners to check traps on a frequent and regular basis.

Wild animals, companion animals and endangered animals are all vulnerable to traps. Trapping, with leg-holds, snares and Conibear devices, is inhumane and poses serious danger to companion animals and humans. Whether designed to kill instantly or to capture, traps cause an enormous amount of suffering. If the trap's victim is not killed suddenly, it will experience immense physical and psychological trauma, dying a slow and excruciating death from dehydration, starvation, blood loss or predator attacks.

Leg-hold traps, with or without "padding", snap closed on the animal's limb, resulting in fractures, muscle and connective tissue damage, and amputation. Deemed inhumane by The American Veterinary Medical Association and the Animal Hospital Association, leg-hold traps are banned in the European Union and 89 nations. Another form of metal trap, the Conibear crushes victims between metal jaws with a scissor-like motion. The large rectangular jaws of this trap crush the victims face, body or limbs. Snares are primitive wires devices used to kill trapped animals by strangulation. As an animal inevitably resists the grip, the snare pulls tighter causing injury and prolonged suffering.

Help protect innocent animals from unnecessary cruelty of traps and snares, please support SB 96.

Respectfully,

Rachel Huff-Wagenborg
(808) 888-5698

From: Nikki Nietz [niknietz@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 1:47 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: In support of SB 96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

I write asking you to please support SB 96 to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike.

I was absolutely grieved to hear that there is currently no requirement that such a trap be checked after its set. The thought of an animal being caught and left to suffer a slow painful death is simply unbearable and completely unnecessary, especially in this day and age. Please, please give your support to this bill when it comes to you for consideration.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Nicole Nietz

Testimony of Chelsea Arnott, Kalihi Valley resident
Strongly Opposing SB 96 Relating to Public Health and Safety
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
February 6, 2011, 3:15 pm

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members;

I am strongly opposed to SB 96 Relating to public health and safety.

I fail to see how body-gripping traps endanger public health and safety; in fact, by banning these traps you would be further endangering public health rather than protecting it.

Feral ungulates and rodents are all introduced species to the Hawaiian Islands and many are considered invasive because of their damaging impacts on native flora and fauna and entire watersheds. These animals spread diseases like leptospirosis and increase mosquito populations

I live in upper Kalihi Valley and enjoy taking my niece and dogs for a walk along the Kalihi stream in the upper valley. On hot days I would love the ability to let my niece play in stream, but with all the splashing some of that water would end up in her mouth. Like most people in Hawaii I realize that it's not safe to drink water straight from the streams, not even to wade in it with open wounds. This is not because of pollution but because of feral ungulates, especially pigs that run rampant in the valley and whose urine causes leptospirosis. Pigs love to forage along the forest floor eating roots and grubs. All this foraging leaves divots and sometimes large holes that can fill with water. Left standing, these ponds become perfect habitat for mosquitoes to lay larvae and mosquitoes aren't just annoying, but dangerous with the amount of diseases they can carry like avian malaria and some we still have avoided like human malaria and West Nile Virus. To me, these seem like bigger dangers to public health than the use of traps that are a tool used to prevent these things.

Another damaging effect of feral pigs in Kalihi Valley is the destruction of the native forest. Very limited native plants exist in the valley. Most areas are overrun with invasive strawberry guava and thimbleberry, which pigs love to eat and spread the seeds. The only areas that remain somewhat intact are the upper slopes of Kama Iki ridge and Bowman's Trail where few pigs ever venture.

At the moment only private hunters are controlling pigs in Kalihi and it's not enough. I would welcome more ungulate control in Kalihi Valley, including trapping and snaring, so our beautiful Valley can be restored to the native forest it once was. I hope you will vote no on SB 96.

Thank you,
Chelsea Arnott
Kalihi Resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:34 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: puaa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB96 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB96

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel
Organization: Animal Rights Hawai'i
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

SB96
Position: support

The suffering of animals in unattended snares and traps is difficult to describe. I can show you only some pictures .

There is no excuse for the cruelty involved in such "animal control"

Please pass this bill.
Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Goegegel
prsidnet

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-chair,
Committee on Public Safety, Government Affairs and Military Operations
Hawai'i State Legislature

February 7, 2011

Rachel Neville
Honolulu, HI 96821
rachel_neville@yahoo.com

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 96

I oppose SB 96 which would ban the use, setting, maintenance, or tending of any body-gripping trap, except when trapping rodents. These types of traps are necessary to protect seabirds, forest birds, and endangered plants from invasive mammalian predators. Seabird species, such as petrels and shearwaters that nest in the mountains are eaten alive by feral pigs and cats. Without trapping they will be gone. Along the coasts as well seabirds are eaten alive by mice, rats, mongoose and dogs. Endangered plants are grazed by feral animals, such as pigs and goats. Hawai'i's birds and plants alike evolved without mammalian predators and have little or no defenses against them. Trapping inside management areas is required to protect invasive species and in order to protect these areas.

Although I understand the intent of this bill is to prevent animal cruelty, it will actually increase the suffering of native animals. There will be more predators attacking them and the native plants they depend on for habitat will be increasingly scarce. Depriving land managers of this animal control tool will make life worse for Hawai'i's native plants and animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Neville".

Rachel Neville

From: INSPIREVISION@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:59 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: re:SB96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

It is wrong to intentionally inflict suffering on targeted animals as they feel pain no different from any other animal, or human being. We should evolve away from these cruel devices of the past as quickly as possible because it is not the right thing to do at all. I saw the a photo of a feral pig caught in a such a body gripping trap, it was horrible. The pig's face was frozen in such agony. We have no right to cause such suffering on sentient beings and our laws must reflect people's desire to see non-violent treatment and respect for life.

Jane Shiraki

Honolulu

From: Rosemary Karlsson [rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 7:51 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

Rosemary Karlsson
PO Box 492266
Keeau, HI 96749

From: Kristine Holasek [keh@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:51 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 96

Dear Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Please **SUPPORT SB 96** to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body-gripping traps that cause tremendous suffering to pets and wildlife alike. There are more humane and effective ways to address human-wildlife conflict.

Mahalo,

Kristine Holasek

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 9:00 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ebarker@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB96 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB96

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:

I am in favor of this version of trap / snare legislation.

From: Modika [modika@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 7:20 PM
To: PGM Testimony

SB 96 support please, I do, thanks!!!

From: Shari Au, PhD [aus008@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 5:04 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: body gripping traps

It is shocking to discover that Hawaii has here-to-fore allowed 'body gripping traps.' What if this were a lost child, a pet, a non-targeted wild animal, a lost tourist? Please eliminate these grisley devices from sale and from use. Make it illegal, impose a \$1000 fine upon discovery, impose jail time. Hawaii has no room for media news highlighting 'body gripping traps' or 'steel-jaw traps'. What appeal does Hawaii have if not her natural environment? What media news wouldn't grab this story of death in steel jaws or body-gripping trap in Hawaii? It takes one incident to destroy an image. Please make steel-jaw-traps and body-gripping traps illegal for sale or use in this State. Protect us all by doing this as we all hike, get lost on hikes, take our pets and kids on hikes, who invariably stray. Protect Hawaii's image to the rest of the world, outlaw these horrendous devices with hefty fines and jail time.

Shari Au, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Hawaii & Guam

241 Condo Lane #514, Tamuning, Guam 96913

wk: 671-647-5319, cell: 671-777-2117.

The path to new horizons lies in seeing with new eyes....

From: Tina Bounds [care4petservices@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 3:46 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Support SB 96

I, Tina Bounds, support **SB 96** that makes it unlawful to use, set, placed, maintained, or tending any body-gripping traps.

These traps are so inhumane.

Sincerely,

Tina Bounds

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 3:09 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ruthheidrich@juno.com
Subject: Testimony for SB96 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB96

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ruth Heidrich
Organization: Individual
Address: 1415 Victoria St. #1106 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808 536-4006
E-mail: ruthheidrich@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

From: Spikecat1@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 2:29 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Support for HB 579 Relating to Wildlife

Dear Senator Will Espero (Chairman) & Committe Members of Senate Public Safety, Government and Military Affairs Committee,

We are writing in support of HB 579 and Senate Bill 96.

As you know this bill prohibits and in come cases regulates the use of body crushing traps and other inhumane types of traps. These are cruel and archaic traps which can cause intense suffering for pets and wildlife. They are inhumane and should be prohibited by every civilized society especially since more humane traps exist and can be used.

We urge you to insure passage of this bill.

Sincerely yours,
Judith Aikawa, MD
Ronald Aikawa, MD
37 Apali Way
Kula, HI 96790

From: J.Lilinoe [j.lilinoe@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 1:53 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB 96 Body-Gripping traps

I am totally against these traps and therefore, I oppose this bill.
Thanks.

Josephine Keliipio
76-168 Royal Poinciana Drive
Kailua-Kona, Hi 96740

From: beeps2000@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 1:49 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: PGMtestimony

I support this bill wholeheartedly. Please stop such cruelty to our animals.

Dawn Foster

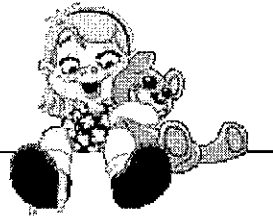
From: owlit1@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 2:16 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Inga Gibson
Subject: I support SB 96

I, Frannie P. Pueo support SB 96 that makes it unlawful to use, set, placed, maintained, or tending any body-gripping traps.

It is so cruel to even think anyone could justify the use of such an inhumane trap. If you can not imagine the pain and the cruelty of such traps, than I urge you to place your own limb, foot, or hand and see the severity of cruelty such devices inflict.

The animal suffers beyond any form of pain you can imagine, it will even chew off its limb to get away. Mostly to die off from loss of blood, or massive infection.

Frannie Pueo, (808) 968-8279
P.O. Box 943
Mt. View, HI 96771



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From: Stephanie McLaughlin [hawaiidogmom@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:05 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 96

Please support SB 96 which prohibits the use of all body-gripping traps except for use in protection of public health and safety. Thank you.

Stephanie McLaughlin, 95-310 Haakualiki Place, Mililani, Hawaii, 96789, phone (808)384-4764

From: g2@hokua.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 1:44 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Please support SB 96

Dear Hon. Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members,

Please support SB 96 to prohibit the use of cruel and archaic body gripping traps that cause unimaginable and prolonged pain and suffering to not only wildlife, but the possibility of pets as well, since these traps do not differentiate what comes into its path. And NO living creature should be subjected to this kind of torture! There ARE more humane ways to address this, if we just cared enough.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

Aloha,
Ginny Tiu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 7:16 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB96 on 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/8/2011 3:15:00 PM SB96

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Harris, MD
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments: