

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2490

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 01 2012

RE: S.B. No. 2232  
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred  
S.B. No. 2232 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMAL WELFARE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the  
selling, buying, transporting, delivering, offering for sale or  
transportation, or receiving for transportation in intrastate  
commerce, any product, item, or substance containing, labeled, or  
advertised as containing bear gallbladders or bile.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from Born Free USA, the Hawaiian Humane Society, the Species  
Survival Network, the World Society for the Protection of Animals  
with a petition of sixty-eight individuals support, and fifty-  
three private individuals.

Your Committee finds that the methods of extracting bear bile  
are horrendously inhumane. Bears are commonly kept in extraction  
cages that measure 2.6 feet by 4.4 feet by 6.5 feet for a bear  
weighing between one hundred ten to two hundred sixty pounds.  
These cages prevent the bears from standing upright and severely  
restrict their movement. The process for extracting the bile  
involves pushing a hollow steel catheter through the bear's  
abdomen to "milk" the bile out of the bear.

Despite this inhumane treatment, bear gallbladders and their  
bile byproduct are used in Asia and the United States to create



medicines and some luxury cosmetic items and toiletries. The high worldwide demand for bear gallbladder and bile translate into a high-profit industry. According to testimony, Hawaii is one of the few states that still allows the trade of bear gallbladders taken from bears outside of the State. Your Committee notes that products containing bear bile were found available for sale in Chinatown at \$500 for approximately twenty-eight grams. By prohibiting commercial activities involving any product, item, or substance containing bear gallbladder or bile, this measure allows Hawaii to join the other states that have fully banned this trade.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Correcting language to reflect the intent of the measure to prohibit the receipt of certain bear gallbladder or bile items for transportation in interstate, rather than intrastate, commerce;
- (2) Clarifying that the items prohibited include bear gallbladder or bile, not just items containing bear gallbladder or bile; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2232, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2232, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary and  
Labor,



---

CLAYTON HEE, Chair



