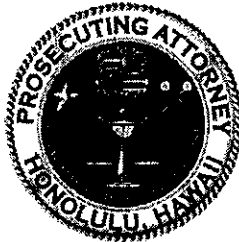


DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawai'i

February 1, 2011

RE: H.B. 108; RELATING TO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony, supporting the intent of House Bill 108.

The purpose of House Bill 108 is to amend Chapter 711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to create separate offenses for 'dogfighting' in the first and second degrees. With these amendments, dogfighting in the second degree would include those who knowingly wager on or attend a dogfight, within specific definitions of the term "attend," and dogfighting in the first degree would encompass those involved in putting on a dogfight and/or handling the dogs.

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney supports this bill's intent of decreasing or eliminating dogfighting, which is a cruel and unacceptable activity, and further agrees with the intent to address "demand" as well as "supply" for the industry. Nevertheless, the Department also recognizes that these amendments may be potentially difficult to enforce.

Based on the foregoing, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the intent of House Bill 108. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

2700 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
Telephone: 916-2187
Fax: 955-6034
www.hawaiianhumane.org

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■
The Hawaiian Humane Society is dedicated to promoting the human-animal bond and the humane treatment of all animals.
■

House Bill 108

To be heard on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

This is written testimony, which will be accompanied by oral testimony.



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Mary H. Weyand

Rick Zwern

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February 02, 2011

Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

SUBJECT: Support House Bill 108 relating to cruelty to animals

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

We believe that Hawaii's laws that prohibit animal fighting and cruelty will be strengthened by your support of HB 108 to specifically address dog fighting as a blood sport and those who attend them.

Hawaii ranks last in terms of having the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws and we do believe that it is being practiced here in our islands. Deputized by HPD to enforce state and county animal cruelty laws, we have received reports of dog fights after they have taken place, solicitation of bets, bait dogs that have been killed and found, as well as underground websites that promote local dog fighting.

This bill before the Judiciary Committee would effectively prohibit the use of dog-fighting equipment, betting, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight – all of which would help the Humane Society and law enforcement partners statewide in their efforts to pursue such cases and investigations.

Forty percent of Oahu's households have dogs. Dogs are companions and not tools for cruelty and profit.

We ask for your unwavering support, which would stand as a strong message to dog fighters that we are aware that this inhumane blood sport does exist in our islands and dog fighters and all participants should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Your support of HB 108 will help strengthen Hawaii's animal protection laws. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in Support of HB 108.

Sincerely Yours,

Keoni Vaughn
Director of Operations
Hawaiian Humane Society



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

TO: Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades and Committee Members

House Judiciary Committee, Thursday, February 3, 2011, 2pm Rm. 325

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB108; Relating to Dogfighting

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 Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades and Committee Members:

On behalf of our more than 49,000 members and supporters of The Humane Society of the United States in Hawaii, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak in strong support of HB 108; relating to dogfighting. We thank Rep. McKelvey for his introduction of this critical crime and cruelty prevention measure, and Senator Hee for introducing the Senate companion bill (SB 1069).

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws in the states and the District of Columbia, Hawaii ranked 50th, in part because our law provides no penalties for those attending or wagering on an organized dogfight. This bill would also add critical language relating to those who possess, breed, raise, sell or transport dogs for fighting purposes, including explicitly prohibiting the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train fighting dogs. Under our current law, dogfighters could claim they only breed or sell fighting dogs and not be subject to any charges. Dogfighters could also claim they don't legally "own" the dog which can be difficult to establish.

The 2007 Michael Vick case sadly exposed that no community is immune from dogfighting—a community that also believed that such activity was not occurring. In fact, it was strong anti-dogfighting laws, such as the proposed, that allowed Vick and his co-conspirators to be successfully charged and convicted. Our organization has assisted in hundreds of animal fighting raids across the country and we are sadly aware that dogfighting activity *has* been present in Hawaii for many years.

Need for "knowing attendance" penalty

Under our existing law, one would need to be literally caught in the act of dogfighting, which, due to the clandestine nature of such activity, is extremely rare. Even if law enforcement were to encounter a dogfight in progress, under current law, those attending as knowing participants would face no legal penalty. Attendees provide much of the profit associated with dogfighting. The money generated by admission fees and gambling helps keep this "sport" alive. Because dogfights are illegal and therefore not widely publicized, attendees do not merely happen upon a fight; they seek it out. They are willing participants who support a criminal activity through their paid admission, wagering and attendance.

Public Safety Issue:

Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals. The presence of these dogs in a community increases the risk of attacks not only on other animals but also on people. Children are especially at risk, because their small size may cause a fighting dog to perceive a child as another animal.

Associated Crimes:

Dogfighting is also associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. According to a study conducted by the Chicago Police Department, of more than 300 people arrested for crimes against animals (including dogfighting), more than 65 percent had also been arrested for battery-related violent crimes and 70 percent for illegal drugs.

Cruelty to dogs and "bait" animals

The injuries inflicted and sustained by dogs participating in dogfights are frequently severe, even fatal. Dogs used in these "events" often die of blood loss, shock, dehydration, exhaustion, or infection hours or even days after the fight. Other animals are often sacrificed as well. Some owners train their dogs for fights using smaller animals such as cats, rabbits or small dogs. These "bait" animals are often stolen or stray pets or animals obtained through "free to good home" advertisements.

This critical measure would bring Hawaii's law in line with the rest of the country and provide law enforcement with more comprehensive laws to investigate and charge those involved with illegal dogfighting. Furthermore, upgrading our law serves as a deterrent for those who may consider becoming involved in illegal dogfighting activity and sends a clear message to the community that dogfighting is a cruel and serious crime that will not be tolerated.

We respectfully urge your passage of HB 108 to reduce crime, cruelty and create safer communities for pets and people alike.

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members.

Please support HB 108, to prevent cruel dogfighting.

- Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.
- Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.
- Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Thank you for time and consideration. Please support HB 108.

Sayo Nakagawa

2029 Wilhelmina Rise

Honolulu, HI 96816

(808) 741-7134

Dear Honorable Chair Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary
Committee Members,

Please support HB 108 to prevent dogfighting. How can we allow such
cruelty to occur? If we can keep gambling away from Hawaii, why can't
we stop dogfighting or any other cruelty to animals?

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Endo

Please support HB 108 with help strengthen Hawaii's dog protection laws.

We believe that Hawaii's laws that prohibit animal fighting and cruelty would be strengthened by your support of HB 108 to specifically address dog fighting as a blood sport and those who attend them.

Jacque LeBlanc
480-B Mananai Place
Honolulu 96818
673-1474

Please support the end of this cruel activity. It dehumanizes us all.
Thank you.
Dixon & Penny Smith

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SueLyn Tran
Organization: Individual
Address: Kinau St. Honolulu, Hawaii
Phone: 808-386-6673
E-mail: suelyn_tran@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

I am in support of HB108. Dog fighting is not only cruel to animals, but it cultivates an environment of gambling and animal abuse. Often times, dog fight participants bring their children to show them how to gamble and how to benefit from forcing two dogs together to maim or kill each other. This will inevitably desensitize children to gambling and to the acts of brutal torture of living things. Please take into consideration the many and serious ramifications of dog fighting. Thank you very much.

SueLyn Tran, Esq.

Aloha,

I know that Hawaii is an anti-animal fighting law. As such, our state must move forward with laws that support this stance. Please pass HB 108 - Prohibition of Dog Fighting. We need to be completely clear that animal fighting is wrong. Let's make dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs and attendance at a dog fight illegal. It is a shame that Hawaii ranks 50th in the nation for the weakest dog-fighting laws. Let's change that.

Mahalo!

Starr Dods

133 Wailupe Circle
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
808.358.4658
starrd@gmail.com

HB108; JUD; 2/3/11; Thursday; 2PM; Rm 325

Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]

Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 2:31 PM**To:** JUDtestimony**Importance:** High

HB108, Relating to Cruelty
JUD; Chair, Rep Keith-Agaran

IN STRONG SUPPORT!!

It truly is embarrassing to be from a state that is ranked nationally as the easiest place in the country to abuse animals. In particular, dog fighting, highlighted by the Pro Bowl appearance of notorious dog fighter Michael Vick is still a serious problem in Hawai'i nei. This too is an embarrassment for all of us.

I am very grateful that you are hearing this bill as it will create stronger penalties to try to prevent this horrendous practice and to punish it if it does occur.

Dog fighting is neither a part of any one's culture nor is it any one's right. Dog fighting is cruel and horrific.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor (Ret.)

President, 19-3
Democratic Party

University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

It is better to be "over the hill" than under it.
Anonymous

IN SUPPORT OF HB 108 AT JUD 2/3/11

MMMMahalo2000@aol.com [MMMMahalo2000@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 8:09 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: MMMMahalo2000@aol.com

Aloha Chair and committee members,

Mike Moran
Kihei, HI

In SUPPORT

The JUD Committee;

Thursday Feb 3 at 2:00 PM

HB 108

Please support this house bill 108 so it can proceed on to the next committee. This horrendous practice has no place among civilized society, and especially in the land of Aloha. Dogs have proven their value to humans in countless ways. Please severely punish the savages among us who would participate in it in any way.

Mahalo,

Mike Moran

Testimony for HB108 on 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 6:41 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: akele33@aol.com

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Gail McElrath

Organization: Individual

Address: 98-1738 B Kaahumanu Street HI

Phone: 808 282-0824

E-mail: akele33@aol.com

Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

The Vick dog-fighting scenario should have sent a message to people. This should not be happening, and it's time for this to be a major felony charge. The only way people will stop this is if the penalty is greater than the reward.

Support HB 108; Dogfighting, House Jud 2-3-11 at 2pm

Anika Glass [anika.nui@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:35 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Aloha Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members.

Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting.

--
Anika Glass
Waikoloa

Please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws, Hawaii needs to change this. Please help prevent dog fighting.

--

Thanks,
Chelsea

2217 Kalihi Street Honolulu, HI 96819

To: The Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and members of the House Judiciary Committee
Date: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 2:00PM, House Conference Room 325
Re: HB 108: Relating to Cruelty to Animals

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Mayumi Levesque. I am currently a graduate student in Social Work at Hawai'i Pacific University. As a long-time supporter/volunteer at animal-welfare organizations locally, nationally and internationally, I have always been concerned about the ways humans have treated Man's Best Friend. Dogs have served mankind over a millenia in countless numbers of ways, and have asked very little in return. My previous profession catered to dogs that served vision-impaired individuals in ways that have changed their lives-- they brought them mobility and courage. Though my current profession is directed toward the well-being of people, that sense of beneficence, compassion and responsibility has always extended to the dogs that have served our society, regardless of breed or function. For this reason I am writing in strong support of HB 108.

Strengthening animal cruelty laws (such as those that prevent dog fighting), is about respect for living things; it is about self-respect and moral dignity; it is about teaching compassion to our keiki; and it is about ensuring we act with a sense of kuleana for all of our neighbors and neighborhoods.

I do understand Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law. HB 108 will strengthen this law by effectively prohibiting the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, using bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. For proper enforcement, it is necessary to be clear that no form of participation associated with barbaric acts of violence against dogs will be tolerated by residents of Hawaii. Our state is dead last among all states-- we have the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws. This situation demands remedy.

I urge your support of HB 108. Thank you for hearing my comment on this bill.

Mayumi Levesque
(House District 24, Senate District 10)

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

Since Hawaii does have an anti-animal fighting law, I have faith In you Chair Keith-Agaran, in you Vice-Chair Rhoades, and I have faith in the House Judiciary Committee members that you will all support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. This will prohibit the use of dog- fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. This new law will help keep people on the right path and keep our dogs safe. It brings a new level of respect to the Island that will take Hawaii from 50th in the nation with the weakest dog laws and allow us to soar up the list. Let Hawaii take a new stance in life. Let Hawaii lead this nation, and let her lead in respect so that others may follow.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

A Former resident of Hawaii

Vanessa Davis

124 Breckindale Cr.

Winston Salem, Nc 27104

Aloha Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

I am writing to ask that you please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws

Sincerely,

Lisa Imai

265 Moomuku Place

Honolulu, HI 96821

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members. Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dog fighting

Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog fighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.

Dog fighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Sincerely,

Denise Towle, Kailua Kona, HI

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members.

Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting

Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.

Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donna Whitaker

Executive Director

Hawaii Island Humane Society

808-329-8002

808-329-7375 Fax

To: Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary
Committee members

Please support HB 108 to prevent cruel dog fighting. Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws--that makes us last place in defending animals! It is important that we recognize greater compassion for animals and look out for their well being as they cannot speak for themselves. This bill will help to make Hawaii more compassionate community and hopefully eliminate dog fighting all together!

Thank you,

Mary Okinaka
411 Hobron Lane #713
Honolulu, HI 95815

House Bill 108 should be passed to prevent dog fighting. We need to hold people responsible who are supporting dog fighting by attending events. Our record of promoting dog fighting in the state is inhumane.

We need to change our society so that children are taught about the inhumanness of dog fighting in their homes and neighborhoods.

Your support is appreciated,

Sharon MacQuoid
411 Iliaina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee member,

Please pass House Bill 108 if only to maintain the national average for Hawaii's animal cruelty laws. As the proud and loving owner of an abused dog, I can attest to the true benevolence of a rehabilitated dog. Dog fighting is a human act of violent & sadism that should not, in any way, be allowed or permissible in our culture. Please see the value in this bill & pass it for your constituents who love, support & value their animals & who also continuously work to protect & rehabilitate them.

If you aren't aware of this article, please take them time to read "Humane Society Program Tries To Tame Dogfighting" by NPR. It emphasizes the violent nature of dog fighting, along with the statistical correlation between poverty & violent societies. As we are progressing, as a society, I hope that our legislators can recognize the necessity of this bill & how it is a reflection on our values, not only of other living creatures, but also of ourselves.

Your time is greatly appreciated.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/24/132869090/humane-society-program-tries-to-tame-dogfighting>

Respectfully,

--

Nicole L. Maryott

Nicole.maryott@gmail.com

319 Iliwahi Loop

Kailua, HI 96734

Please support HB 108 related to dogfighting. Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs. Dogfighting is also associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence. Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and children. This important bill would help to reduce crime and better protect our community. Thank you. Stephanie McLaughlin, 95-310 Haakualiki Place, Mililani, Hawaii, 96789, phone (808) 384-4764

Aloha from ...

Stephanie McLaughlin

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary committee members,
I am humbly asking you to support the passage of HB 108 Relating to Cruelty to Animals. I have been a practicing veterinarian for over 30 years and have spent the last 15 years as the shelter veterinarian for the Maui Humane Society. I have seen first hand the tragic consequences of dog fighting and the strong link between animal cruelty and violence against humans. Please help us protect those who cannot speak for themselves.
Mahalo, Dr. Miyo Miyasaki-Kim D.V.M.

I support HB 108; to prevent cruel dog fighting



Jody Bade-DeViney
Executive Director of Operations
Oahu SPCA
91-1839 Roosevelt Dr.
Building 1142
Kapolei, Hi 96707
(808) 754-1519
Save a life. Spay and neuter all your pets!

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members:

Hello, my name is Corinna Gann. As a voting citizen of the beautiful state of Hawaii, I am writing to ask that you please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. Even with our anti-animal fighting laws, I know that there are those uneducated members of society who still participate in this pathetic, cruel practice. Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws. Are we contributing to the problem by making it too easy?

Respectfully,

Corinna Gann
84-148 Water St.
Waianae, HI 96792

Hi,

I am writing to request your support of HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. It is so troubling that Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws, we should do something more to protect the animals that bring so much joy and love into our homes.

Katie Burleson
95-033 Kuahelani Avenue #235
Mililani, HI 96789

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

Please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. Hawaii ranks an embarrassing 50th with the nation's weakest dog-fighting laws.

Dog fighting is inhumane and should not be tolerated.

Gail Windle
158 Kuuhoa Place
Kailua, HI 96734
gwindle@hawaii.rr.com

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoades,
House Judiciary Committee member,

Please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting!

While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill is important in effectively prohibiting the use of dog fighting equipment, placing belts, use of bait dogs, AND attending a dog fight. As far as I am concerned, if someone is watching an organized animal fight, they are complicit!

Hawaii has one of the weakest dog-fighting laws in the nation. What is up with that???

The Aloha State should be leading the way...Aloha for ALL Hawaii's creatures!

Jacqueline Just

3061 Pualei Circle 304B

Honolulu, HI 96815

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members. Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dog fighting.

No virus found in this message.

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Version: 10.0.1204 / Virus Database: 1435/3417 - Release Date: 02/01/11

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members:

Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting. Please make it illegal to attend a dogfight, and make it illegal to train fighting dogs.

Rosemary Karlsson
PO Box 492266
Keeau, HI 96749
808-966-6589

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades,
and House Judiciary Committee members:

Rep. Tom Brower Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Mele Carroll Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Robert N. Herkes Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Ken Ito Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey Rep. Cynthia Thielen

I support the passage of HB-108

Mahalo,

--

Leigh A. Drewry, CMP
808-879-8988

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: anita wintner

Organization: Individual

Address: kihei Hi

Phone: 808874-8407

E-mail: anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. This should have been passed years ago. I work at an anima shelter and hear stories of people that have had their dogs stolen that later ended up in the dog fighting ring, as either bait of as a fighter. It is cruelty to animals. Stop it NOW! Do the right thing. What if it was your pet that ended up as the bait dog.

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee member,

My name is Bianca T. Radojevic, and have lived on Oahu for the past 4 years. Although I am not very active in politics, I strive to see this state increase its presence in animal welfare issues, especially because we are currently ranked 50th (the nation's weakest) when it comes to dog fighting laws. I am in favor of the two House Bills 108 - The Prohibition of Dog Fighting and 243- Strengthening of Hawaii's Animal Cruelty Laws.

House Bill 243

This bill strengthens the animal cruelty law to better encompass circumstances in which someone can be charged for killing or attempt to kill a pet animal

House Bill 108

While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight.

Help Hawaii, strengthen our animal-related laws.

Sincerely,

Bianca Radojevic
1720 Algaroba Street #2
Honolulu, HI 96826

To: Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice President Rhodes

I support HB 108 that prohibits dog fighting paraphernalia and attending dog fights. Dog fighting is a despicable act and should be abolished. I know that we have the weakest dog fighting laws in the nation, and it needs to change. I write in support of HB 108 and encourage its passing.

Thank You

Ronnie Perry
45-1050 Anoi Rd. A2
Kaneohe, Hawaii
96744

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members.

I ask you to please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting

- Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.

- Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

- Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Robert Wintner

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: robertw@snorkelbob.com

Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Dog fighting is cruel and must be stopped. Please pass this bill.

To Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

I am asking you to please support HB 108, as this bill strengthens the law to better encompass circumstances in which someone can be charged for dog fighting. Hawaii ranks LAST in dog fighting laws. Being a spectator at a dog fight is illegal in all states except Montana and Hawaii.

I urge you to please support HB 108. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Susan Matsui

92-201 Hoonua Place

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

The Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in April of 2009. Our first day of operations was marked by the largest rescue in the history of Hawaii. Amongst the 132 dogs rescued there were 5 pit bull terriers that were quarantined and unadoptable due to behavioral issues. Most likely they had been chained their entire lives to protect or pursue the ventures of their owners. In our first year of operation, a large percentage of our rescued dogs are pit bull terriers. Many of which have been altered for fighting.

Pitt bull terriers bred and raised for fighting routinely have their ears and tails cropped. If they are used for training, the trainers will file their teeth down so not to inflict injury on the superior dog or opponent. The Oahu SPCA rescues pitt bull terriers with cropped ears that have been further mutilated so that only a small stump remains. The initial cropping is done without anesthesia and the further damage results in repeated brutal attacks and excruciating pain. The average dog has the mental capacity of a five year old child. Their threshold to pain is exactly the same as an adult human. Subjecting a five year old to defend it life on a daily basis is illegal.

The presence of dog and chicken fighting is also indicative of a number of other illegal activities.

Addressing the issue of dogs chained to police the perimeters of a property can also be associated to crimes against humans. Statistics show that dog fighting is directly associated to violence against children and women. There is also an overwhelming correlation with dog fighting which raise revenues and drug trafficking. Illuminating dog fighting reduces the crimes directly associated with children and humans as well. Canines that are trained for dog fighting have spent their lives defending their own lives. As result they display aggression to humans as well who have trained them. Please stand behind House Bill 108. We must be diligent and watchful of all people and animals that live on our islands.

Mahalo,

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members. Please support HB 108.

I support the passage of HB-108.

Considering the exposure on a daily basis to the pre and after affects of animal cruelty/dog fighting, and the lack of compassion and sense of reality that goes along with it,etc., it is imperative that these bills get passed.

Dale Netz

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members.

SPCA Maui recently held an educational presentation for the people of Maui on the effects of animal cruelty in our community. The Honorable Judge Simone C. Polak gave an outstanding presentation on the DIRECT LINK between violence against animals and the escalation to violence against humans, including domestic violence and murder. If you allow someone to cause pain to a sentient animal without any legal consequences, the behavior escalates. Her presentation details the escalation of such violence – if you would like to see the PowerPoint it is here: <http://spcamauui.org/2011/01/spca-maui-reducing-animal-cruelty-on-maui/>

To continue to let activities occur that promote violence in our community is turning a blind eye to one of the roots of the problem of escalating crime and aggression.

Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting

- Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.
- Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Leili McKinley

Board Member, SPCA Maui

Honorable Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members:

Please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dog fighting laws.

Thank you.

Donna Shimabukuro
94-1071 Kaaholo St
Waipahu, HI 96797

Aloha Legislators-

In a place as beautiful as Hawaii, the idea that dog fighting exists here is repugnant. I am a pet sitter and along with many others have adopted pitbulls that were neglected and abused. We can only imagine where they came from. One of my clients had a dog that had been used as a bait dog in a fight ring, yet despite his torture, was loving and kind. We can not allow people to continue doing this or others to watch as if it is entertainment. Obviously, the people involved are dangerous to the surrounding community as when there are raids, guns, drugs, and evidence of gambling are always discovered. Let's eliminate this factor from our islands once and for all. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha, Judy Mick

To the Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members:

Please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting in Hawaii. Dog fighting is a cruel and inhumane sport often supported by illegal means such as gambling. While Hawaii does have an anti-animal fighting law, we need this bill to prohibit the use of dog fighting equipment, placing bets, using of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight.

Hawaii currently has the nations weakest dog-fighting laws, please support HB 108 to show the rest of the nation we are truly the Aloha State and that our aloha extends to all living creatures. Forty-three percent of all Hawaii households have dogs, please support HB 108 to say thank you to all those dogs who have increased the quality of life for so many Hawaii residents.

Aloha,
Cheri Souza
95-124 Kaalolo Place
Mililani, HI 96789

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: William Harris

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Please support HB 108 which aims at protecting dogs from abuse.

Lori Aquino
5288878

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members. Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting

Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.

Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Mari Nakamura, Coordinator
Ho'ouikaika Peer Mentoring Project
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
John A. Burns School of Medicine
Pacific Basin RRTC
1268 Young Street, Suite 204
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814—1801
808-592-5907
Toll Free: 1-866-447-9023
FAX: 808-592-5909

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

Please support HB 108 to prevent dog fighting. While Hawaii has an anti-animal fighting law, this bill effectively prohibits the use of dog-fighting equipment, placing bets, use of bait dogs, and attending a dog fight. Animal fighting of any type is inhumane and wrong. It is time for Hawaii to extend its compassionate reputation to its animals!

Thank you,
Bonnie Osaki
801 S King Street, #2208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Bonnie Osaki
Manager of Educational Outreach
Hawaiian Humane Society
808.356.2206

P.S.—Named as one of Hawaii's Best Places to Work in 2011 by Hawaii Business Magazine, Hawaiian Humane Society offers a variety of programs that serve animals and people. Visit hawaiianhumane.org to learn about all our upcoming events and news.

~*~**Find us on Facebook!**~*~

The Hawaiian Humane Society has a **FREE** humane curriculum for all ages covering the importance of compassion and responsibility. Learn more at <http://www.hawaiianhumane.org/teachers.html>.

Hawaiian Humane Society is Oahu's only animal welfare organization that shelters, rescues, adopts and welcomes all animals. Visit hawaiianhumane.org to learn more about upcoming events and join us as a volunteer and advocate.

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: anita wintner

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

No more dog fighting!

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

We don't think we have to tell you how cruel dog fighting is. It has always shamed us that Hawaii, a land of aloha and beauty could be the state that ranks absolute bottom in dog fighting laws among the 50 states of the US. This, we can only presume to be an oversight by the state lawmakers that we hope we can amend of during this session.

It is not enough to punish the ones who own dogs for fighting. We need to make it illegal for any person to attend such cruel spectacles or to use smaller, helpless animals as bait to train these dogs. How can anything be more cruel than watching dogs who have no choice but to fight to death?

I believe people are either for or against an issue. There is no time for straddling the fence. It is time for the lawmakers to take a side.

The failure to support these laws would mean to our citizens that the state lawmakers are supporters of dog fighting and all that it stands for – it would mean that the lawmakers want to continue dogs to be trained to be aggressive, posing threats to other animals and to people and children. It would mean that you want helpless, smaller animals to be killed and terrorized as bait animals in training dogs to fight. It would mean that you want people to gamble and cheer and watch these bloody and cruel spectacles taking place, and children learning from small age that it is okay to torture and kill animals.

Please take a side, and make sure that House Bill 108 is supported and passed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Yamane and Alli Kim-Yamane

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

Please use your position of power, to do the right and humane thing, and pass this bill to prevent the cruel practice of dogfighting. There is never a good enough reason, to inflict agonizing pain and suffering on a living creature. If you really want to bring gambling to Hawaii, I would rather that you do it through another venue, and not at the expense of these defenseless creatures, that feel pain the way that you and I do.

Do we really want to encourage our society to find entertainment in watching animals being tortured? I find it very sad, that we, " the land of aloha", ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law!

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration,

Ginny Tiu

Testimony for JUD 2/3/2011 2:00:00 PM HB108

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Diane Guerriero

Organization:

Address: 1930a Vineyard Street

Phone: 808 242 2012

E-mail: diane@ashmaui.com

Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members. Please support HB 108 & 243

I support the passage of HB 108 & 243.

Thank you

Toni Whiteside

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members. Please support HB 108; to prevent cruel dogfighting

Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.

Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

herine Gregoire

House Judiciary Committee

Rachel Huff-Wagenborg, Oahu SPCA Volunteer
91-1038 Kaileonui Street, Ewa Beach
Home Phone: (808) 888-5698

Date of Hearing: February 3, 2011 at 2:00pm

RE: Support HB 108; Dogfighting

TO: Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades and Committee Members

The recent pro-bowl that brought Michael Vick to Hawaii also renewed the awareness of dog fighting issues locally. Dog fighting is a major social problem that is associated with unethical and criminal behavior. Despite some claims that Hawaii is not affected by dogfighting, it is in fact present and nearly unpreventable with the limited dog fighting laws currently in place.

As a volunteer for the Oahu SPCA (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), an animal shelter in Kapolei, I encountered many rescued dogs, but one stands out in my memory. Tennyson is a bulldog mix with a sweet face and an even sweeter disposition. Unfortunately, his gentle kindness was also his vulnerability. When he was brought to the shelter as a rescue, his skin was peppered with scars, his ears were jagged and torn and his muzzle was carved with bite marks. Tennyson's affinity to licking volunteers' hands revealed teeth that had been filed down nearly to the gum line. The roots of his teeth were painfully exposed.

At first, he appeared to be the victim of mutilation, but upon closer interaction with Tennyson, we realized the likely source of these scars. Tennyson's mysterious past became clear; he was a bait dog. Baiting is an extremely cruel

practice testing an animal's "fight instinct" on a dog with intentionally limited abilities to retaliate (clipped nails, filed teeth or taped-shut muzzle). Bait dogs are often mauled, like Tennyson, or killed in the process. Wherever dog fighting exists, baiting is surely to follow. And with local evidence of bait dogs, we can assert that dog fighting is present in Hawaii.

Dog fighting and the criminal activities associated with it: animal cruelty, gambling, drug related offenses, violence and gang activity, make this a priority issue for Hawaii – a state with the weakest dog fighting laws in the United States.

Please consider Tennyson when you vote on HB108 and help prevent other dogs from suffering the cruelties of dog fighting.

Respectfully,

Rachel Huff-Wagenborg

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoades, and House Judiciary Committee members,

Please support HB 108 to prevent cruel dogfighting!

Hawaii ranks 50th with the nation's weakest dogfighting law. We must strengthen our current law and also make it illegal to attend such cruel spectacles or to use other animals as "bait" to train fighting dogs.

Dogfighting is associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, organized crime, drug distribution, firearms possession and even human violence.

Dogs trained for aggression to fight threaten the safety of other animals and our community—this important bill helps reduce crime and better protects both people and animals.

Thank you for supporting this bill,

Kim Williams

Dear Sirs:

I would like to urge you to support the bills before you relating to animal cruelty. Specifically, they are HB 108 and HB 243. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Maui Humane Society so I have close contact with this important issue. Our current laws are not strong enough for our staff to adequately handle animal cruelty cases and the passage of these laws would help us immensely to deal with this important issue.

So I strongly urge you to support HB 108 and HB 243.

Thank you,
Coralie Willett
Member, Board of Directors
Maui Humane Society
Home tel: 808-874-0175