

# LATE TESTIMONY

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Bill scheduled to be heard by JUD on Thursday, 02-23-12 2:00PM in House conference room 325.

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To: Committee on Health Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair Representative Dee Morikawa,  
Vice Chair  
Thursday, Februar 23rd, 2012  
Written Testimony from Gail Ellingson, Individual Bill: HB 2749  
In Absolute Opposition

I love dogs. Much of my life I've been lucky to have a dog companion. However, it is simply ludicrous to imagine people's pet dogs, (other than service dogs) in restaurants.

When I was 11 years old, I witnessed my sweet, well behaved, loving collie mix bite off the entire upper lip of my girlfriend ~ whom she knew for 5 years, because we were playing with her puppies and had made a movement too fast. As I stood frozen in fear screaming at the blood streaming from my friend's face, my Mom swooped in, grabbed her unattached mouth and rushed her to the hospital. I will always remember that moment frozen in time.

My friend had over a hundred stitches in her mouth and face, swelling, surgeries and scars and pain for a lifetime. I was filled with such shame ~ and the knowledge that our four legged friends are still animals ~ as we are ~ and sometimes unpredictable. Remember the story of the chimpanzee who ripped off the face of the owner's friend, now blinded and faceless, she lives on. Ask her what she thinks about this bill.

We hear horror stories of beloved family pets who turn on owners, children, babies and other animals in an instant. The general public should not be put at risk because someone has come up with the idea that it would be wonderful to bring our pets everywhere.

They do not belong in food establishments, stores and other places in public.

Feces, fleas, urine and the risk of someone or another dog getting bitten or attacked are a few more reasons to consider canning this bill forever.

Can you imagine the stench outside the entrance of such establishments, along the walkway, sidewalk or parking areas as the doggies diners are encouraged to pee one more time before eating? How will anyone prevent this? Already dogs are at liberty to pee anywhere they walk, and not everyone carries a doggie bag or conscience to always scoop the poop.

That a hired by me legislator even came up with a waste of bill such as this, shows the lack of intelligence in this governing body ~ including the Governor and his wife. We have millions more important issues than dogs in eating establishments. If you created a Dog Town, where everything was catered around our furry friends, that would be different, but to put the rest of us at risk is unacceptable.

Imagine sitting with your sweetie, having a romantic dinner, and someone nearby orders a big, juicy steak, or burger. Two tables away the canines are sitting peacefully at the owners feet.

But just as suddenly, the aroma of cooked meat is wafting through the air and there is another carnivorous canine that just can't control his chops ~ and neither can the owner control the dog, as a dog might lunge towards that yummy dinner, tipping over tables, diners, dogs, who knows what could happen! Dog fight, dog bite, screaming, mayhem and who's going to step in and control the situation. Someone with a gun comes in and has to put an out of control animal down?

You must imagine all possible senarios as you consider passing any bill and it's time to put this bill to rest.

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I have waitressed before and have had service dogs sitting at the feet of their companion. I was always worried about stepping on the tail or legs, or somehow accidentally tripping on that creature as I worked around the table. It always made me nervous, but for the sake of the blind or wheelchair person, it was compassion for the situation that justified the dog being there.

In the situation of HB2749, it is not a necessity to bring pets to eating places.

Already I have seen owners let their dogs sit on cushions and outside chairs of some places that don't monitor their outside tables. Those dogs may have just peed or pooped and now it's sitting on a place where the next unsuspecting guest (me/you?) might sit.

I have strolled through outdoor shopping malls and seen clumps of dog feces on the sidewalks, some stepped in, some ground in, some still soft and steaming. As much as you think this could be a controlled situation, there are still many irresponsible dog owners. Please do not subject us to any more places where we have to be diligent regarding dogs.

And really, not all dog owners treat their pets for fleas. Fleas can jump on and off anyone and hitch a ride home. I will not support any restaurant that would allow dogs.

And what about insurance? Who's going to pay for the hospital bill if someone's Fido gets furious? The restaurant? The dog owner?

Children often run up to stranger's dogs ~ who will be responsible if that child is bitten, mauled or killed?

In the end, if this bill should somehow slip through, it will be each and everyone of you who would put their stamp of approval.

Please, for the sake of everyone, kill House Bill 2749 before it kills anyone. You cannot know the behavior of every single dog and owner. It is your responsibility as a Law Maker to use common sense for the sake of all.

With warm aloha,  
Gail Ellingson  
808-528-1788

**Testimony for HB2749 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM**

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

**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:17 AM

**To:** JUDtestimony

**Cc:** roxannesarme@clear.net

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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Testimony for JUD 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2749

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Roxanne

Organization: Individual

E-mail: roxannesarme@clear.net

Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:



# LATE TESTIMONY

## Hawaiian Humane Society People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.946.2187 • [hawaiianhumane.org](http://hawaiianhumane.org)

**To:** Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran  
Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members  
  
House Committee on Judiciary  
February 23, 2012, 2:00 pm, Room 325

**Submitted by:** Natalie Lukashevsky, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Hawaiian Humane Society, [nlukashevsky@hawaiianhumane.org](mailto:nlukashevsky@hawaiianhumane.org)

**Date:** February 23, 2012

**RE:** **Support HB2749 HD 1;  
Relating to allowing dogs in restaurants**

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Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the passage of this bill and supports restaurant owners and managers in having the right to choose whether to allow dogs in their restaurants or not.

Current health code interpretations disallow all animals except service dogs in eating establishments. The Hawaii State Department of Health was asked in 2010 to reconsider their interpretation of the existing administrative rules that prohibit well-behaved dogs and their owners from dining together at private establishments.

Through our Dogs in Restaurants Advocacy Initiative, we have recruited the following restaurants who agree that they should be able to choose to allow dogs with their patrons or not: Brasserie du Vin, Baci Bistro, Big City Diner, Doraku Sushi, Sabrina's Ristorante Italiano, Le Bistro and Chart House.

Thank you for your consideration of this important measure. We ask for your support in promoting a more pet-friendly community.

**Testimony for HB2749 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM**

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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:09 PM

**To:** JUDtestimony

**Cc:** igibson@humanesociety.org

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Testimony for JUD 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2749

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Inga Gibson

Organization: The Humane Society of the United States- Hawaii

E-mail: igibson@humanesociety.org

Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

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

Support for HB2749 DH1; Dogs in Restaurants

More than 60% of Hawaii households own a pet dog or cat, who is considered a companion family member. This measure simply allows individual restaurant owners the discretion to allow dogs, as is common place in many of the largest, most-progressive cities across the country. Allowing dogs in restaurants helps to further the human-animal bond and increases the likelihood that a dog owner will be more responsible in ensuring their animal is well-behaved, socialized and trained in order to have access to a restaurant where dogs are allowed.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Inga Gibson

Hawaii State Director

The Humane Society of the United States