



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony from
Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

Strong Support of HB 2749 – Relating to Allowing Dogs in Restaurants

The House Committee on Health
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti and I am the President of Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP), a local nonprofit helping people and their pets with the cost of caring for their pets. PDP is in strong support of HB 2749 which authorizes restaurant owners to allow dogs in restaurants.

On a recent trip to Oregon, we walked to a neighborhood microbrew pub – The Lucky Lab - to enjoy some pupu and drinks. It turned out to be a pet-friendly restaurant (I suppose I should've figured that based on the name). The tables were a little more spread out than traditional restaurants to allow for the dogs. Most pet owners had very well behaved dogs (a few whiners) and each dog had a little doggie bed to lie on as well as a bowl of water. The menu offered doggie items for purchase in addition to the human choices. And not a person would walk by a dog without making some sort of comment: "What a nice dog...", "What a pretty dog...", "What a well trained dog..." The discourse at this pub was one that I hadn't experienced and there was an elevated expectation to act responsibly since there were four-legged friends in the room.

Although we weren't accompanied by a dog, the first thing my brother thought was "I wish I had a dog." And that is exactly why these types of pet-friendly policies that change our traditional social and cultural traditions are so important to the next generation of families raised in Hawaii. If we want to change the mindset of people that pets are not commodities, then we need demonstrate and embrace more opportunities to elevate their standing as members of our ohana and ensure that we have places and spaces to include them in our lives.

Going for a walk with your dog in Kailua or Kaimuki or Kapolei is accepted today – and even expected in some areas. Going for a walk and then stopping for a cup of coffee or lunch or even a drink could one day be a normal part of our everyday lives. Food, fun and families. Allowing our pets to join us is a way to change communities and encourage social interaction between neighbors who may have little else in common.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2749.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:29 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Ckosora@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2749 on 2/7/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/7/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2749

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie Kosora
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Ckosora@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Just read about this proposed bill in David Shapiro's Saturday Star Advertiser column. I also found this amusing. Personally, I find it unsanitary and offensive to have pets in a food establishment. David Shapiro put it best and I quote him "These Include providing the animals privacy to lick their privates and toilets to drink from." In an enclosed eating establishment I am opposed to this legislation. Thank you, Katie Kosora Hilo, Hawaii

To: Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Rm. 329

Testifier: Eudice Schick, Individual

Bill: HB 2749
In Strong Opposition

Chair Yamane and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition of HB 2749, relating to Health

First, let me start by saying that I love dogs in their proper place. Restaurants are certainly not one of these locations. How can you be certain that an animal will not decided to relieve itself or bark? How can the law control the consistency, of the rules, from one establishment to the next? I certainly will not and, I cannot imagine that others do not feel the same way, patronize such an establishment.

I have to say that this bill 2749 is by far one of the most foolish and waste of our legislators time and tax payers' money that I have ever read. I am very disappointed to see the name of the creator of this bill.

I encourage you to defer HB 2729.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,
Eudice Schick