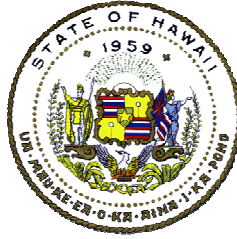


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



LATE

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Blvd. 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 635, SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1, HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 2
RELATING TO
ANIMAL CRUELTY

By
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 28, 2013, 3:15 PM
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the
Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** SB 635, SD1, HD2 which amends the language to create the offense of cruelty to a law enforcement animal in the first degree, making it a felony to intentionally or knowingly cause the death of or substantial bodily injury to a law enforcement animal while the animal is engaged in its law enforcement or corrections duties. This bill also adds new language to create the offense of cruelty to a law enforcement animal in the second degree, making it a misdemeanor to intentionally or knowingly cause injury to or to recklessly cause the death or substantial bodily injury of a law enforcement animal while the animal is engaged in its law enforcement or corrections duties. PSD views its drug and bomb detection dogs as part of our Law Enforcement family and feels that SB 635, SD1, HD2 would help deter an individual from injuring our dogs while conducting searches, if the suspect knew that there were criminal penalties for such an action.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.