

# SB 8

Measure Title: RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.

Report Title: Veterinary Medicine; Criminal Penalties

Description: Amends section 471-2, HRS, to prohibit the owner of an animal, and the owner's employees, from performing any surgical procedure, including but not limited to surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, and debarking on the animal without being licensed as a veterinarian. Makes intentionally or knowingly performing any surgical procedure, including but not limited to surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, and debarking, on a pet animal by any person not licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to section 471-2, HRS, guilty of a class C felony. Amends section 711-1108.5, HRS, to specify that accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced, shall not be considered cruelty to animals in the first degree if performed by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 471, HRS.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN, JDL

Introducer(s): HEE

<b><u>Sort by</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>		<b>Status Text</b>
1/17/2013	S	Introduced.
1/17/2013	S	Passed First Reading.
1/17/2013	S	Referred to CPN, JDL.
1/24/2013	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 01-30-13 8:30AM in conference room 229.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013**

Wednesday, January 30, 2013  
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 8, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is John Kaya, D.V.M. and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Veterinary Examiners ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 8, Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the owner of an animal and the owner's employee from performing any surgical procedure, including but not limited to surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, and debarking on the animal without being a licensed veterinarian. Also, any person convicted of violating section 471-2 and who, in the course of that violation, intentionally or knowingly performs any surgical procedure shall be guilty of a class C felony.

Unfortunately, the Board has not yet held a meeting at which the language or substance of this bill has been available; therefore, there is no official position on this measure at this time. The Board will be discussing this bill at its next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

Although we have no official position on this measure at this time, based on the Board's previous discussions on related issues, we suggest the following amendments:

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Wednesday, January 30, 2013  
Page 2

1. Include "dewclaw removal" on page 2, line 2 following "tail docking".
2. Include "dewclaw removal" on page 3, line 17 following "docking".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 8. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

TO: Honorable Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Committee Members  
Senate Consumer Protection Committee, 1-30-13, 830am, Rm. 229

**RE: In STRONG SUPPORT OF SB8; Relating to Veterinary Medicine**

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,  
P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, [igibson@hsus.org](mailto:igibson@hsus.org), 808-922-9910

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On behalf of our members and supporters of The Humane Society of the United States in Hawaii, we thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of SB8; Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

This important measure would prohibit unlicensed veterinarians and non-veterinarians from performing cruel surgical procedures on pet animals, and set forth appropriate criminal penalties. This bill is necessary as our current animal cruelty law exempts “cropping and docking as customarily practiced” but does not require that these procedures be performed by a professional licensed veterinarian. This law only applies to pets, not farm animals.

Ear cropping, tail docking, declawing, debarking and any other surgical procedure is extremely painful to an animal if proper pre and post-operative care and anesthetic are not administered. Non-veterinarians performing these procedures often forcefully restrain and bind the dogs with duct tape, then use razor blades, box-cutters or simple scissors to cut the dogs’ ears and/or tail.

Ear-cropping by non-veterinarians is also a common procedure performed on dogs prepared for and used in illegal dogfighting to prevent bleeding from torn and ripped ears, which may compromise the dogs’ vision and ability during a fight.

Unfortunately, we have seen many cases where individuals (non-veterinarians) have attempted to perform such procedures on pets, resulting in extreme suffering. In addition, if not performed by a professional veterinarian, these procedures can result in serious infection, blood loss, shock and even death the death of the pet.

We respectfully urge your support of this measure.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

**To:** Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)  
January 30, 2013, 8:30 am, Room 229

**Submitted by:** Jennifer J. Han, Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society, [jhan@hawaiianhumane.org](mailto:jhan@hawaiianhumane.org)

**Date:** January 29, 2013

**RE: Support SB8;  
Relating to Veterinary Medicine**

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The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 8 as it prohibits laypersons from performing certain surgical procedures without being licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to section 471-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Surgical procedures should only be performed by licensed veterinarians as they can result in negative physical consequences and can be extremely painful thereby resulting in distress. Surgical births, or otherwise known as cesarean births, tail docking, ear cropping, and debarking are some examples of these procedures where, if performed improperly by a layperson, could cause serious pain and suffering to the animal. Also, various procedures require critical post-surgery care in order to ensure that the wounded area is not infected or otherwise compromised. As with all surgical procedures, there are inherent risks of anesthesia, blood loss, and infection to the animal in addition to the emotional distress.

In order to ensure that all animals are treated humanely in all aspects of their lives, it is incumbent for all surgical procedures to be performed by the licensed veterinarians as deemed qualified by statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 8, relating to veterinary medicine. On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, I ask for your support in passing this measure.



Submitted by: Donna Whitaker, Executive Director  
Hawaii Island Humane Society  
Date: January 28, 2013  
RE: Support SB 8  
Relating to Animal Cruelty: Surgery by Non-Veterinarians

The Hawaii Island Humane Society joins with other Animal Welfare Agencies in the State of Hawaii in support of SB 8 in order to better protect animals from inhumane conditions and needless suffering associated with surgical procedures being done by a non-veterinarian.

This bill would provide much needed protection for animals by prohibiting the owner of an animal from performing any surgical procedure, including but not limited to surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, and debarking on the animal without being licensed as a veterinarian.

Non-Veterinarians shouldn't be allowing to perform surgery on their own or anyone else's pets! As an open admissions animal shelter, we have seen countless times that animals have had surgery by a non-professional and something had gone terribly wrong. It is an inhumane practice to allow this cruelty to continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the committee and we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Menacho	West Hawaii Humane Society	Support	No

Comments: Non-Veterinarians shouldn't be allowed to perform painful surgery on pets! Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo!

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Ako DVM	Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association	Support	Yes

Comments: The Executive board on behalf of the members of the Hawaii Veterinary medical Association is in favor of SB 8. The mission of the HVMA is to ensure the delivery of quality veterinary services to the community.



**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Betina Parker	Equine 808 Horse Rescue	Support	Yes

Comments: As an animal lover and being in the animal industry for many years, I have seen appalling medical procedures preformed by their owners on different animals to include; horses. The animals suffered in the process and although the wounds healed they are forced to live with the gross scars or painful aftermath. Surgical procedures on animals should only be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

To: Senate Committee

Re: SB 8

Dear Committee Members:

I oppose SB 8, as it is written, at this time.

As a pet lover and advocate, I agree with this bill that surgical procedures should be left to veterinarians. Although it does not apply to me personally, I think that this bill needs to be more specific as to these "surgical procedures." In Section 471-2, line item (2), it states, "...shall not perform any surgical procedures **including but not limited to...**" This statement is too broad, as it does not clearly identify what is considered a surgical procedure. If there is to be monetary and jail sentences imposed for treating an animal, the allowed guidelines should be clearly defined.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker  
Owner/Member  
The Pet Hale

Allan & Pamela Schildknecht  
45-203 Puali Koa Place  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Telephone: (808) 235-7959  
Facsimile: (808) 247-0118

January 28, 2013

Subject: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL No. 8

Honourable Chair and Members of the Committee.

I have mixed emotions on this Bill, having owned dogs that had docked tails and clipped ears for many years. Today, when I see dogs of this breed without them they look strange to me. However, many dog associations, especially in Europe have agreed that unless the docking of the tail is required for the performance of the duties of the dog, they should no longer be docked. I note the following legislation from England, where most dog clubs originated.

1. *The current law is set out in section 6 of the **Animal Welfare Act 2006** and in the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1120).*


*In brief, the Act makes it an offence to remove the whole of part of a dog's tail other than for the purpose of medical treatment, subject to the exemption for docking the tails of certain working dogs. In particular, the legislation states:*

- a. that any veterinary surgeon who docks a tail must certify that she/he has seen specified evidence that the dog is likely to work in specified areas;*
- b. the dog must be no older than five days and will need to be micro chipped;*
- c. the types of dog that may be docked; and*
- d. the types of evidence which the veterinary surgeon will need to see*

Most dogs do not need their tail docked for any reason, but if they must for working purposes, it should be done by a veterinary surgeon.

I would recommend support for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Allan Schildknecht,

Theresa Donnelly - SUPPORT

Dear Sen. Baker, Sen. Galuteria and other members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Theresa Donnelly, and I am a volunteer with many national and local animal nonprofits. Previously, I was an officer with our local Boxer dog club and the owner of Hawaii Military Pets, an online educational resource for Hawaii Military families.

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for SB 8, relating to veterinarian medicine. Frankly, I find it difficult to believe that Hawaii didn't already have such a law.

I own a Boxer dog, a breed that customarily has a cropped tail and cropped ears. And, Pit Bull types are hugely popular here, which is another breed with ears that are cropped. I have personally seen the disastrous effects of a poor crop job on tails and ears. This delicate surgery must be done properly or animals suffer. It's that simple.

I hope you get some testimony from Hawaii's veterinarian community who no doubt have firsthand experience fixing these botched, painful backyard surgeries from suffering pets. Many of these veterinarians may tell you that they oppose docking and cropping all together, as this is the position of the American Medical Veterinarian Association. However, these surgeries are extremely popular in Hawaii. **The sad truth is that like abortion, this practice if outlawed would continue to go on without anesthesia, without pain medicine and without follow-up care.**

And currently, that's shamefully legal.

**We wouldn't allow average citizens to perform surgeries on people. What makes animals ok?**

**These creatures deserve our voice and our protection and our advocacy.**

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony.

Theresa Donnelly

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Lidh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of Senate Bill 8 to prohibit non-veterinarians from performing surgical procedures on animals. This is not a matter of whether procedures like tail docking, ear cropping, debarking, and declawing are necessary and humane. Regardless of individual opinion on that debate, we should all agree that these surgeries should be strictly limited to licensed veterinarians who have the proper training and experience. Even the American Kennel Club, who defends procedures like tail docking and ear cropping and includes them in their breed standards, states in their policy that they are standard and safe, and that appropriate veterinary care should be provided. It is obvious that if citizens without professional training are performing these surgeries, they will not be standardized. The animals are typically in an unsterile environment without anesthesia or immediate access to medical attention if something goes wrong. This not a question of the ethics of these procedures, but the safety of our island pets. Therefore, I urge the Committee of Commerce and Consumer Protection to support SB8. Thank you for your consideration.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, and Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection I write in support of SB8 and ask that you enable its passage to prevent the harm and cruelty that is otherwise visited on animals who can not speak for themselves to seek our protection. The prospect of allowing untrained persons without knowledge of pain mediation to perform surgical procedures, even the widespread practices of ear and tail docking, is unthinkable. Thank you. Aloha, Alice Saul

I support SB8 because doing any surgical procedure is risky and takes years of schooling in medicine/science to understand. Veterinarians go to school for years just to be able to do surgical procedures on animals. Therefore, what makes a person think they can operate on an animal without having gone through schooling? It would be like me (a college student studying Finance) operating on my friend because they don't have health insurance. Even though my friend doesn't have insurance, I have no training in medicine which makes me highly unqualified to operate on them. I could possibly even kill my friend if I mess up the operation. The same thing applies to animals. If you aren't qualified, you shouldn't do it. With this being said, I ask that you please pass SB8. Thank you.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shanna Kodo	Individual	Support	No

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Markl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please do not allow just anyone to get away with doing these procedures on innocent animals causing both pain and infection. You are their only hope for accountability. Thank you.



**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Naomi Egami	Individual	Support	No

Comments: urging you to please pass this important bill on behalf of all dogs. pain, infection and mutilation should never be a compromise for looks.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ginny Tiu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: It is inhumane to think of allowing non veterinarians, to perform such procedures, without the benefit of anesthesia or under proper hygienic conditions. Please take into consideration that these are living creatures, who feel pain the way that you and I do, and do the humane thing. Please pass this bill. Ginny Tiu

To: Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Brickwood Galuteria and Members of the  
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

From: Mary James

Date: January 30, 2013

Re: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 8

Veterinary education provides not only training on how to perform surgical procedures but also the knowledge of how to do these procedures with little or no pain to the animal in a clean environment set up for such procedures. Prohibiting the performance of surgical procedures without a veterinary license will improve the lives of many animals and raise the respect for these animals in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stefanie Delmont	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and this is definitely a "no-brainer" , unless one feels it's o.k. to let someone operate on their child without bothering with the time waste of attending medical school and passing licensing requirements prior to surgeries.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Bounds	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Non-Veterinarians should NEVER be allowed to perform any surgical procedures on Pets!!!!

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ginger Towle		Support	No

Comments: We need this law as currently there are no restrictions. Somehow or other some people do not understand the pain and suffering caused by their inhumane procedures. No one, other than a veterinarian, should be allowed to do any type of surgery on their pets.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/27/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karin Riedel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Ear cropping and tail docking should be banned completely! But I do support SB8.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/27/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Baker and Committee members, Thank you for considering this important bill that would protect pets from horrific amateur surgical procedures. Mahalo, Rene Umberger



**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/27/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn L Knoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No one except experts, i.e. veterinarians, should be allowed to perform medical procedures on any animal even if the animal is "theirs" or in their care.

## Testimony on SB8

I support a bill that would protect animals from harm from unqualified doing surgery on animals and require actual doctors and veterinarians to be the only ones performing any surgery or touching any animals to alter their bodies in any way.

This is a humane law and must be adhered to. Animals should not be made to suffer with infections and so forth the unqualified would put on these animals.

Thank you Sen. Baker for hearing this bill and please protect the animals . Barbara Steinberg

Kihei

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/27/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Liz Rizzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No surgery should be performed on an animal by an individual who has no training in medicine

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Wolf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill makes sense to protect animals from painful mutilations. Only people specifically tained to perform surgery should be performing surgery, be it on humans or animals.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Sen Baker, Mike Moran from you district here in S. Maui. Please support this bill to help stop needless cruel treatment to our companion animals by uncaring people. Hawaii's reputation in care for these loved creatures has improved slightly with some recent positive moves by the Ledge, but we have a ways to go, & this bill will help. Needless animal cruelty has no place here, so let's take this step in eliminating it. Respectively, Mike

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Sueoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this law, and prevent cruelty and suffering for our companion animals.

## Individuals in Support

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate Butts	Individual	Support	No
Helene Navaro	Individual	Support	No
Jane Arnold	Individual	Support	No
Gordana Leonard	Individual	Support	No
diana pugh	Individual	Support	No
Ann Marie Kirk	Individual	Support	No
Deborah Wilson	Individual	Support	Yes
Judith Aikawa	Individual	Support	No
star jacobsen	Individual	Support	No

**My name is Nancy Monden and I own Pembroke Welsh corgi. For years I have docked the tails by the use of rubber bands. This uses a slow steady pressure by a rubber band on a 2-3 day old puppy tail which gradually cuts off the circulation and the tail falls off. However, I do have show dogs and need the tail cropped properly to a certain length. If it is too long the tail will obstruct the outline and beauty of the dog.**

**I once took the dog to have the tail docked by a veterinarian. The result was very bad she docked the tail surgically and it was too long. I took the puppy to another vet and the tail was too short to be docked further. I wanted a show puppy and not a dog to be only a pet. This was a waste of my time and money to breed my bitch to obtain a dog to show. I spent about 2000.00 on breeding and cropping the tail. The vet did a poor job and this was a total waste of time and money.**

**Also, the breed requires dew claws to be removed. I have done the removal and the dew claws are taken off with ease then we stop the bleeding of the few day old puppy. Another time I did not have the proper things needed to cut the dew claws. The vet looked at me and just popped it off like I did except he got paid and I did not.**

**If the procedure requires the animal to be under anesthesia and for a procedure to be done I believe a veterinarian would be needed for the procedure. But for the docking of tails and dew claws the puppy is not placed under anesthesia. I remove the sutures from my dog after surgery and will take the dog to the vet if there is infection. My animals are very precious and I would not harm them but believe that if I can do something to save some money with minimal to no harm to my animal it should be legal and not controlled by the government**



**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pete diaz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the introduction of new bills or laws that we already have. If the law is in effect, then why is it not being used.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Walsh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Because the phrase "surgical procedures including but not limited to" is vague, it is unclear which procedures are included. Many non-veterinarians perform simple medical "procedures" on their newborn puppies, livestock, rescued animals, etc.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerald Luke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is insufficient and too broad a description for "surgical procedure". There are common procedures that owners may practice in the course of raising or breeding dogs that have not been mentioned in this bill. I will not specify these practices here, but in some cases they do involve minor surgical procedures. A full listing of all procedures will be preferable. I oppose SB8.

**SB8**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for CPN on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Muramaru	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: January 28, 2013 Senator Baker and members of the CPN committee, I oppose SB 8. I am a breeder/exhibitor of Miniature Schnauzers, a breed that is shown docked and cropped. Docking and cropping of schnauzers is not done purely for cosmetic reasons. Many breeds that are docked and cropped are working breeds. Tail docking and ear cropping are done to prevent injury while working. The Miniature Schnauzer was bred as farm dog, a working dog on a German farm. History dictates docking and cropping. It is NOT a matter of personal preference. The best examples of tail docking and ear cropping I have seen for my breed were done by breeders themselves. Correct docking and cropping is an art form requiring more than just surgical skill. Only a breeder can best estimate projected adult proportions so that tails and ears are in balance once a dog hits maturity. I do not do these procedures myself but I have had breeders who were skilled come to Hawaii to teach local veterinarians how to do these techniques. A bill such as this would do more harm to the preservation of pure bred dogs by destroying what we refer to breed type. We ought to know at a glance that this dog is a schnauzer and that one is a poodle, etc. We should not have to guess. Procedures such as debarking have saved many a dog from being surrendered to rescue organizations by allowing them to remain in homes. Debarking does not render a dog barkless but instead it softens a dog's bark. With homes in Hawaii being so close together, debarking can make the difference to keep a dog in its home. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony that I hope will guide you to making the right decision. Lynn Muramaru, LSW Proud member of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club Member of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of So. California

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB8

Witness: Michiro Iwanaga  
Committee: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Date: January 30, 2013  
Bill: SB8 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am have been an exhibitor of Shetland Sheepdogs here in Hawaii for the last ten years. I am also Vice President of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Hawaii and a member of the Boards of the West Oahu Kennel Club and the Obedience Training Club of Hawaii. I am also a practicing attorney.

Over the years, I have conducted several breedings of shelties and cared for several litters. Each time, I left all veterinary procedures and care for the mother (in the dog world we call female dogs "bitches") and puppies, such as a caesarian section during the last whelping, to Dr. Francis Kamiya, DVM, and his staff. Frankly, I know of no dog exhibitor—or pet owner for that matter—who would do a C-section, ear cropping, tail docking, or debarking himself or herself or through an unlicensed person. Do you?

I OPPOSE SB8 for several reasons:

- Has anyone come forward with credible evidence that C-sections, ear croppings, tail docking, or debarking are being done with any significant degree by unlicensed people?
- Torture and mutilation of an animal is already constitutes cruelty to animals in the first degree under Section 711-1108.5(1)(a)
- SB8 is vague and ambiguous. The term, "surgical procedure," is undefined and this lack of definition is made even worse by the open endedness created by "surgical procedure including but not limited to . . ." (At a minimum, you should delete the phrase "surgical procedure including but not limited to" wherever it appears in the Bill.)

SB8 is an example of "make me feel good" and "make me look good" legislation.

Unless there is a critical need for legislative intervention, we should allow society to develop, foster, and police humane norms by itself. If the legislature interjects itself at every turn, our society's ability to deal with problems through individual good will and common sense will wither, like a muscle that atrophies with nonuse.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michiro Iwanaga

Individuals In Opposition

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenneth Cribbs	Individual	Oppose	No
Jodie Namba	Individual	Oppose	No
Randy A. Wheeler	Individual	Oppose	No
Robyn Thomson	Individual	Oppose	No
Diane (Kimura) & Sandy Sugiyama	Individual	Oppose	No
Bobbie Reger	Individual	Oppose	No
Lisa M Parker	Individual	Oppose	No
Linette Barrios	Individual	Oppose	No
Veryl Ann Grace	Individual	Oppose	No
Pam Kutaka	Individual	Oppose	No
Susan Ancheta	Individual	Oppose	No
Teresa Lynn Bell	Individual	Oppose	No
Wrenwick Lee	Individual	Oppose	No
RICKY BAKER	Individual	Oppose	No
Shirley von Platen Luder	Individual	Oppose	No
linda hunt	Individual	Oppose	No
Rona Totoki	Individual	Oppose	No
Catherine Staeger	Individual	Oppose	No