

Honolulu, Hawaii

April 5, 2013

RE: S.B. No. 8  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 2

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 8, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to better protect pet animals by:

- (1) Prohibiting the owner of a pet animal or the owner's employees from performing surgical procedures on the pet animal without being licensed as a veterinarian, with the exception that persons from counties with a population of less than 500,000 persons may perform tail docking and dewclaw removal procedures on pet animals within five days of the pet animal's birth;
- (2) Establishing that performing surgical procedures on a pet animal without being a licensed veterinarian is a class C felony; and
- (3) Clarifying that the exceptions to animal cruelty in the first degree for accepted veterinary practices and customary cropping or docking only apply if performed by a licensed veterinarian.



The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and numerous concerned individuals testified in support of this measure. Three concerned individuals testified in opposition to this measure. The Humane Society of the United States, Hawaiian Humane Society, and three concerned individuals provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the exemption from the prohibition against performing tail docking and dewclaw removal procedures on pet animals within five days of the pet animal's birth without a veterinary license applies only to persons residing on an island with a resident population of less than 5,000;
- (2) Removing language that would have made performing surgical procedures on a pet animal without being a licensed veterinarian a class C felony, so that the penalty is the same as that imposed for other acts of practicing veterinary medicine without a license, which is a misdemeanor;
- (3) Deleting language that would have narrowed the exceptions to animal cruelty in the first degree for accepted veterinary practices and customary cropping or docking; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 8, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 8, S.D. 1, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



