



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

TO: Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Woodson and Committee Members

House Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee, 2-2-15, 2pm

**RE: SUPPORT for HB 466; Relating to Cruelty to Animals**

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 **support of HB 466, and your consideration of the below amendments.**

HB466 would prohibit veterinarians and non-veterinarians from performing declawing on cats except for medical reasons. Too often, people think that declawing is a simple surgery that removes a cat's nails—the equivalent of having your fingernails trimmed. Sadly, this is far from the truth. Declawing involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe. If performed on a human being, it would be like cutting off each finger at the last knuckle. Declawed cats often exhibit negative physical and behavioral problems long after the procedure. Declawing has long been prohibited in the European Union, Israel, Japan, Australia and other countries. In addition, it has long been illegal to declaw wild cats in the U.S.

Unfortunately, an even more prevalent “procedure” is being performed on pets across Hawaii; painful ear-cropping, by unlicensed persons, and without the use of necessary anesthetics or infection prevention medications.

We respectfully request the Committee amend HB 466, suggested below, to also include a prohibition on ear-cropping. Our current law exempts “cropping and docking as customarily practiced” but does not require that these procedures be performed by a professional licensed veterinarian.

Again, ear cropping, 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.

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 the death of the pet.

**Suggested Amendment:**

**"§711- Cruelty to animals by declawing or ear-cropping.** (1) A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals by declawing **or ear-cropping** if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:

(a) Performs surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any domesticated cat **or crops the ear or ears of any dog**; or

(b) Assists another in the commission of an act specified in subsection (a).

(2) This section does not apply to any ~~person~~ **licensed veterinarian** performing or assisting in the surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy of a domesticated cat **or cropping the ears of any dog** for the purpose of addressing the medical condition of the cat **or dog**, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claw **or ear that** compromises the animal's health.

(3) Cruelty to animals by declawing **or ear-cropping** is a misdemeanor.

(4) As used in this section:

"Declawing" and "onychectomy" mean any surgical procedure in which a portion of a cat's paw is amputated in order to remove a cat's claws.

**"Ear-cropping" means to cut a dogs ear or ears or any portion of a dogs ear or ears**

"Tendonectomy" means a procedure in which the tendons to a cat's limbs, paws, or toes are cut or modified so that the cat's claws cannot be extended."

**Section 2. Section §711-1108.5 Cruelty to animals in the first degree, is amended as follows:** (2) Subsection (1) (a) shall not apply to: ~~(c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced~~

We respectfully urge your support of this measure with the above critical amendment. Furthermore, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) also opposes ear cropping (and tail docking of dogs) when done solely for cosmetic purposes.

More information from the AVMA here: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Ear-Cropping-and-Tail-Docking-of-Dogs.aspx> and <https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/030415c.aspx>

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this testimony.

January 28, 2015

Testimony in Opposition to HB No. 466 - Relating to Cruelty to Animals

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Date of Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2015

Submitted by: Charlee Abrams, Secretary of Hawaii Hulacat Club, an affiliate of the Cat Fanciers Association, America's Largest Registry of Pedigree Cats.

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Woodson, and Committee Members

I am testifying in opposition to HB 466 as I do not believe that there should be a law that would disallow cat declawing or tendonectomy in all cases.

As a breeder/exhibitor of CFA registered Siamese cats since 1988, I speak from experience when I say, if done properly, cats do not suffer either during or after the procedures. And, while I do not recommend or suggest these procedures to my kitten and cat owners, I agree with them when it is absolutely necessary to preserve the cat's presence in the household.

Sometimes, due to health problems or infirmity of the owner, the companion cat must be declawed or be removed from the household. As the companion cats that I place are indoor only

cats, it is not a question of the safety of the pet, but a necessary reality in order to preserve the cat/human bond.

I can also say, that after almost 30 years of breeding the Siamese cat, I am not aware of a single incidence of ensuing negative behavior, such as litter box aversion or biting.

In my opinion, the decision to declaw or perform a tendonectomy should be up to the owner and the veterinarian, and is surely a better option than for the State to pass a ban on a medical procedure that is not painful when provided by a veterinary surgeon and not disruptive to the cat or owner.

Thank you,

Charlee D. C. Abrams

Kaluamoa Farms Cattery

**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015 5:48 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/27/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 6:40 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** icare@saveananimal.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Miedtke-Wolf	Save An Animal	Comments Only	No

Comments: Surgery of any kind should ONLY be preformed by a licensed vet! Inflicting pain and possible disfigurement is not something any lay person should ever be allowed to do.

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January 29, 2015

RE: In support of HB 466

To whom it may concern:

My organization, the Paw Project, is in strong support of this important animal protection legislation.

I am the Assistant Director of the Paw Project, a nonprofit organization that helped develop and sponsor legislation that bans declawing in the California cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, and Culver City. We also sponsored legislation which prohibits declawing of wild and exotic cats throughout the state of California. We helped draft the NY bill to ban declawing, A1297, which was introduced by Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal recently.

Onychectomy, colloquially known as declawing, is surgery to remove an animal's claws by means of the amputation of all or part of the distal phalanges, (the last bones), of the individual's toes. Amputation of the bone is necessary to fully remove the claw as the claw develops from cells in the third phalanx. While the terms "onychectomy" and "declawing" imply mere claw removal, a more accurate term would be phalangectomy, which refers to excision of the entire bone in the toe. This procedure is commonly performed in the United States and Canada; in much of the rest of the world it is considered "mutilation." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onychectomy> accessed December 18, 2014)

Scratching, stretching and defining territory are part of the repertoire of normal cat behaviors necessary for their well-being. Declawing is never in the best interests of the animal and is often inappropriately used to address the impact of claws on household furnishings.

There are two other common rationalizations veterinarians cite as reasons to declaw cats.

#### 1. Relinquishment

Some veterinarians declaw cats believing that they are helping keep a cat in its home. Interestingly, there is no scientific evidence that that supports this. After illness, spraying to mark territory, urinating and defecating outside of the litter box and aggression (biting) are the top reason that cats are euthanized at shelters, rescues and trap neuter return programs. Additionally, behavior problems are the top reason for otherwise healthy cats being euthanized at veterinarians. (Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. Cats in Canada: A Comprehensive Report on the Cat Overpopulation Crisis, 2012.) One study in a peer reviewed journal (JAVMA, Yeon et al January 1, 2001) indicates that declawed cats begin to show behavior problems subsequent to the declaw surgery. Litter box avoidance and increased aggression (biting) were exhibited by 33% more cats after declaw surgery. Additionally, some shelters and rescue groups will disqualify a potential adopter if that person is planning on declawing the cat.

#### 2. Human Health

Another reason commonly cited to justify declawing cats is for the protection of human health. While no one likes being scratched (or bitten), other than unfortunate and uncomfortable trauma experienced, declawing cannot sensibly or logically be recommended as a means to protect human health. The individuals of greatest concern are those with compromised immune systems: organ transplant patients, HIV infected individuals, elderly and very young people and those on immunosuppressive therapy. Declawing cats to protect human health is discussed in the M&M Report of the CDC, NIH, and USPHS. Their conclusion is that ..."declawing is not advised." ([http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/lvguidelines/adult\\_oi.pdf](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/lvguidelines/adult_oi.pdf); accessed December 18, 2014.) On its Bartonella webpage the CDC states: "To prevent scratches, some advocate declawing cats. This is controversial, however, because cats need their claws for a number of activities." (<http://www.cdc.gov/bartonella/veterinarians/>; accessed December 18, 2014) Similarly, declawing is not recommended or even mentioned on the CDC webpage regarding prevention of Cat-scratch Disease. (<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/cat-scratch.html>, accessed December 18, 2014) Additionally, in their guide to living with an organ transplant and pets, there is no mention of requiring declawing as a preventive measure.

Matters of human health should be left to physicians and it is unethical and sanctionable for veterinarians to practice/advise on human medicine. For these reasons, the statement often made by veterinarians that declawing a cat is necessary to protect human health is beyond the scope of veterinary practice and leaves a veterinarian open to a serious liability. This is compounded by the fact that declawed cats are recognized to bite more and use the litter box less, the former possibly being of greater significance to an immunocompromised person than a scratch. A veterinarian who recommends declawing may be contributing to his/her client's false sense of security and could conceivably be held accountable for medical bills associated with a bite.

Cat scratch disease caused by the bacteria *Bartonella henselae* is transmitted via flea dirt. While it can be argued that flea dirt embedded under a cat's nails can be the source of infection when a person is scratched, the logical and medically sound method of prevention is to provide solid, ongoing flea control, not amputation of a cat's digits.

While we believe that elective declawing should never be performed under any circumstances, pathology might require removal of a phalanx. When one or more toes need to be removed due to a tumor, chronic infection or inflammation, or fracture, for example, removal of the affected phalanx incorporating the claw is indicated to protect the patient's health. We do not consider this "declawing." The Paw Project feels that other elective, non-medically indicated surgeries such as ear cropping, tail docking and devocalization are also not indicated and are inhumane.

Veterinarians commonly provide services to trim nails or place nail caps. Behavior issues must be addressed with behavior modification and training. Adequate and appropriate scratching surfaces must be available for all cats. Cats learn readily, thus these are not daunting tasks and can, in fact, be an enjoyable, rewarding service to offer. We recommend that veterinarian who prefer not to do so, refer patients to behavior specialists instead of offering declaw surgery.

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. James Jenvold  
818 404 1633 mobile

Dr. Jennifer Conrad  
310 948 6789 mobile  
[info@pawproject.org](mailto:info@pawproject.org)



**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 4:31 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** craigtebeau@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Craig Tebeau	The Cat Doctor Veterinary Center	Support	No

Comments: I am a veterinarian in Washington State. I have been in practice for 19 years. I practice only with companion cats. I used to perform declaw surgeries. With time and experience I have learned that these surgeries are 100% damaging to the patients and 100% unnecessary. Veterinarians should not have be allowed to perform this procedure for "cosmetic" or behavioral reasons. Even when done by the most skilled surgeon, this procedure creates a life long debilitation for the animal which makes this a clear case of unnecessary cruelty. My fellow veterinarians often debate this issue, but even the smallest child in the room can see this for what it is. Thank you. Dr. Craig Tebeau

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:21 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: mamakitty808@live.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Miller	Mamakitty's House	Support	No

Comments: I am a longtime caregiver to cats as well as dogs and many other animals over the years. I believe it is long past the time when we should pass laws to afford rights and status to the companion animals living here in the great state of Hawaii. The Hawaiian culture is one of compassion and humbleness but also of living right and well with each other the aina and all creatures great and small. This bill is much needed to help protect those with no voice. I ask you now to speak for them and say you will ensure their protection from this disgusting and painful procedure. Mahalo nui loa!

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Submitted to House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce / Hearing: 2/2/2015, 2:00 p.m.

### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 466

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy. **We do not condone declawing** – and, in fact, we actively **discourage** the declawing of cats – but we nonetheless oppose H.B. 466 as currently drafted.

Scratching is an instinctive and natural behavior of all cats. Damage to household furnishings from cat scratching can be minimized by routine claw-clipping, by actively redirecting the cat's scratching activity to acceptable surfaces such as scratching posts, or by the use of claw covers. Declawing of cats (onychectomy) and the severing of digital tendons (tendonectomy) are procedures that have no benefit to the cat. Declawed cats may be left defenseless without full use of their claws if they either intentionally or unintentionally go outdoors. Because of the discomfort associated with any surgery and the potential negative behavioral or physical effects of declawing, **we strongly disapprove of routine, unnecessary declawing or tendonectomy surgery**; instead, we encourage pet owners to use the proven alternative solutions to prevent household damage from their pet cats.

However, not every pet owner and not every cat should be subject to inflexible statutory prohibition of declawing and tendonectomy. Although uncommon, situations can and do arise in which these surgical procedures offer the only alternative to re-homing a beloved cat (which often isn't a feasible option) or even euthanasia of a cherished family pet. For example, in certain situations, including those involving pet owners with a high risk of injury because of bleeding disorders or who take anticoagulant medications, or owners with compromised immune systems with high risk of disease transmission, declawing may be justified as the only way to maintain the bond between a cat and its owner. H.B. 466 would not allow for any exceptions to accommodate these special circumstances.

Rather than enacting a broad, inflexible statute, perhaps a better approach would be to require veterinarians to fully disclose in writing the risks of declawing and tendonectomy, and the proven alternatives, to cat owners contemplating one of those procedures for their pet, and to restrict performance of those surgeries only to cats whose owners have documented medical risks and who are unable or unwilling to re-home their cats. Those exceptional circumstances should be rare, but need to be accommodated.

The Pacific Pet Alliance will continue to educate the public on this issue and will seek to discourage unnecessary declawing of cats except under the most unusual, medically justifiable, and documented circumstances. We thank the committee members for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

**PACIFIC PET ALLIANCE**

Kenneth Cribbs, Director (kcribbs@hawaii.rr.com)



## Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB 466

Dear House Members,

I strongly support HB 466, a bill to prohibit the act of declawing domestic cats for cosmetic reasons (i.e. for a non-medical purpose).

My name is Dr. Nicole Martell-Moran and I am currently the Chief of Staff at the Cat Care Clinic of Indianapolis. I am writing to congratulate the State of Hawaii for taking on such an important issue in the veterinary medical community. If you are not a cat owner this may not seem as important to you however, every day I have to see the suffering and pain declawed cats have to endure for life. This is the unfortunate reality every single day and it is completely unnecessary animal torture. Declawing is the amputation of the last bone joint from each of the cat's toes along with severing tendons, nerves and ligaments that enable normal function and movement of the paw. In humans, fingernails grow from the skin, but in animals claws grow from the bone; therefore, the last bone is amputated so the claw cannot re-grow. An analogous procedure applied to humans would be cutting the ends of each finger off at the last joint. The procedure is extremely painful and the cat can sustain chronic pain for the rest of its life, whether a person can identify it or not.

For decades this procedure has been advertised and promoted as a safe way to prevent cats from scratching and performed by thousands of veterinarians in every state without thought to the long term consequences. However, we are now finding that due to the chronic pain cats can suffer, declawing can cause behavior problems such as litter box aversion, chronic pain and increased biting behaviors, which can be a serious public health concern. When cats do not have claws, their first line of defense is to bite. One argument people have cited for declawing cats is that they are immunocompromised and cannot be scratched. The Center of Disease Control and Prevention does NOT recommend declawing cats in these situations because cat bites (instead of a scratch) can be fatal for these people. The American Medical Association has also not recommended declawing for the benefit of children nor immunocompromised individuals.

Hawaii can be the leader in this humane movement to stop the pain, stop the suffering and take a stand against a procedure that is used as a war-time torture technique – digital amputation.

Sincerely,

Nicole Martell-Moran, DVM, MPH  
Chief of Staff  
Cat Care Clinic of Indianapolis

**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:40 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** dldcats@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM  
**Attachments:** image.jpg

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Drury	Individual	Support	No

Comments: PLEASE PASS THIS BILL! The following is my story posted on my Humane Society in my area of Virginia. Declawing should never, ever have been legal in the first place. Veterinarians please stop declawing cats, it is a barbaric procedure that does not benefit the cat. I have two cats that were rejects that I care for, one does not purr and bites when a hand approaches, the other has spurs growing from each paw pad and had infections of the ears, eyes and chin. This is the 21st century, declawing cats is outdated and illegal with stiff penalties in about 40 countries. Declawing a healthy cat cripples and many declawed cats are euthanized. Assemblywoman, Linda Rosenthal has a bill ready for New York to ban declawing in that state. The #pawproject in California has legislated declawing illegal in seven California cities and is working on the US. If you know declawing is cruel and unjust, and you continue to do so, then I would not consider a veterinarian who declaws ethical at all. A veterinarian took an oath to heal animals not harm them. I refuse to take my pets to a veterinarian who cripples healthy cats by amputating them for the sake of furniture. Pet stores sell numerous anticlawn items including SoftPaws. If anyone wants to interview my two problem cats, send me a message. A veterinarian wanted to put one of my cats down because she went crazy in his office...was he the vet who declawed her? Why put her down when she was psychologically damaged? I no longer go to him, I see a vet in Warrenton and another in Gainesville who do not declaw depending who has an appointment available. Many vet techs have quit because they do not like to deal with the screams of a cat when she wakes up from her declaw and they refuse to work for an unethical veterinarian who cripples cats for profit only. If you need proof of what I just said, message me. I have videos of my cat online showing how she hisses, growls and bites when a hand tries to pet her. I HOPE THIS BILL PASSES and I hope the other states will do the same, AND that goes for Canada too.

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Contrary to most people's understanding, declawing consists of amputating not just the claws, but the whole phalanx (up to the joint), including bones, ligaments, and tendons! To remove the claw, the bone, nerve, joint capsule, collateral ligaments, and the extensor and flexor tendons must all be amputated. Thus declawing is not a “simple”, single surgery but 10 separate, painful amputations of the third phalanx up to the last joint of each toe. A graphic comparison in human terms would be the cutting off of a person's finger at the last joint of each finger.



Adapted from Atlas of Feline Anatomy for Veterinarians; HudsonHamilton, W.B. Saunders Co.

**AN ELEMENTARY CHILD KNOWS THIS IS THE  
ULTIMATE IN CRUELTY, HOW COME A COLLEGE  
EDUCATED DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
DOES NOT???**



**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015 6:56 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** zojing@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/27/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Zojing Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015 7:27 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** ppchawaii@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/27/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith A Mick	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha- I would ask that you pass this legislation to stop the inhumane treatment of cats by declawing. Perhaps a vet might indicate for health reasons the surgery should be done, but 99% of the time it is only for the owner's wanting to protect their furniture. Those people should not have cats in the first place. Another inhumane practice that needs to be stopped is dog ear-cropping and tail docking. An animal should have the right to not have to suffer cosmetic surgery. Please help the animals that can not speak for themselves. Mahalo and aloha, Judith Mick, Kailua

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## woodson2-Rachel

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**From:** Jennifer Chiwa <bjcmd808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015 10:14 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Subject:** Support of HB 466 for CPC Hearing January 29, 2015, 2:00 pm

Aloha, Chairperson McKelvey, Vice Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce. Please support HB 466 which would make declawing, onychectomy and tendonectomy of a domesticated cat a misdemeanor. I ask that you support the request of the Humane Society of the United States to amend this bill to include ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when not done by a veterinarian. Furthermore, I think this bill should be amended to include all cats, domesticated and feral, and to make the acts mentioned in it a felony, not a misdemeanor. Clearly, these acts are cruel, and considering them to be a felony is in alignment with Hawaii's law that cruelty to animals shall be considered a felony. Thank you.  
Jennifer Chiwa

**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 6:00 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** niidesign@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terry Nii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill. Although I am not in favor of declawing, there may be circumstances where indoor cats may need to be declawed. If they are extremely destructive, then that may be the only way to keep them from being put down.

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**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 6:26 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** kianas@hawaiiintel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Kimura-Sugiyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dew claws and tails are removed for a reason. In many instances it is to prevent injuries for the animal. Also dewclaws are harder to trim and sometimes grows into the animals' flesh creating infection and more pain and suffering.

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**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 6:54 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** gillian1@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gillian Boss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 8:04 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** feathers03@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I ask that you also support the HSUS recommendation to include banning ear cropping/docking by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my strong support of House Bill 466, regarding cruelty to animals by declawing.

Declawing is an unnecessary and extremely painful proceeding for cats. Cats' nails are not like human fingernails that can be easily and painlessly clipped. Declawing actually involves amputating the last bone of each of a cat's toes. This is similar to amputating a person's fingers at the first knuckle.

Because of this, many countries and a handful of U.S. cities have banned declawing outright.

Declawing is not a "quick fix" for curbing a cat's natural urge to scratch, and should only be performed in very, very rare cases where it is necessary for medical purposes, and only then by a veterinarian.

I also support the ban of ear cropping and tail docking in dogs when not performed by a veterinarian. Ear cropping and tail docking are done solely for the aesthetic preferences of people. These procedures provide absolutely no medical benefit to the dog, and when incorrectly done, often result in extreme infections. For these reasons, these procedures should only be performed by a veterinarian.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth K. Buff

**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 9:48 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** ollo1188@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 466 which makes performing or assisting with a surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any domesticated cat a misdemeanor. Declawing cats is unethical and cruel and I support the effort to curtail this practice.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** pottishl001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Jan 29, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB466, Rep. Saiki's bill to prohibit cat declawing. I would also respectfully ask that the bill be amended to include prohibiting of ear cropping and tail docking ( dogs) unless performed by a licensed Hawaii veterinarian. Thank you for your time, Laurie Pottish, Pukalani, Hi 96768

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 10:16 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** rodnrod@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terri Shishido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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### Support of Bill HB466

Declawing any animal for any reason other than medical reasons is inhumane and painful to the animal as well. To declaw an animal requires an operation and a sort of amputation of the digits. The Humane Society of The United States stated in an article: "Declawing traditionally involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe. If performed on a human being, it would be like cutting off each finger at the last knuckle" (humane society of the united states, 2014). Furthermore the article states, "It is an unnecessary surgery that provides no medical benefit to the cat. Educated pet parents can easily train their cats to use their claws in a manner that allows everyone in the household to live together happily." (humane society of the united states, 2014).

To declaw a domesticated feline because you do not want your furniture, floors, or drapes damaged is just not a viable option. I strongly believe that if you do not want property damaged in this fashion, do not get a cat. Other pet options are available that will not damage property. Personally, I have interacted with two different cats during my life that had been declawed. Both of the felines in question did not like their paws to be touched, as soon as someone touched their paws, they would pull their paw away quickly. Observing this, I feel that show that it is painful to have their paws handled after the declawing surgery. An article on the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals website also concurs with the above hypostasis. They say that after the declawing surgery writes that the animal wakes up in pain, has to relearn how to walk and the claws may regrow in its skin (PETA, 2014).

It is natural for a feline to scratch. The reason for scratching is to remove the dead husks from their claws. So it is a medical necessity for the feline (PETA, 2014). There are other options to declawing such as claw caps, scratching posts, and scratching toys that can be purchased at any pet store such as PetCo. These alternatives are less expensive and non-invasive, and do not cause harm to the feline.

At this time, none of the States in the United States has any laws protecting felines from declawing. The practice is illegal in Australia, Slovenia, Israel, Brazil, Japan, New Zealand and most member states of the European Union (Martin, 2013). If this bill passes, we will be the first state in the country to pass any legislation regarding this matter.

In conclusion, declawing of domesticated cats is unnecessary, can injure the feline, and puts the feline through unnecessary pain. Please pass this bill so that we can show the rest of the country and the world that America cares about domesticated felines. My contact information is below my citations if you have any questions.

### Citations

Declawing Cats: Far Worse Than a Manicure : The Humane Society of the United States. (2014, May 12). Retrieved January 28, 2015, from

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/declawing.html>

Declawing. (n.d.). Retrieved January 28, 2015, from <http://www.peta.org/issues/companion-animal-issues/cruel-practices/declawing/>

Martin, C. (2013, November 1). Cat declawing: Once routine, procedure now draws fire as harmful.

Retrieved January 28, 2015, from [http://www.denverpost.com/homegarden/ci\\_24432739/cat-declawing-once-routine-procedure-now-draws-fire](http://www.denverpost.com/homegarden/ci_24432739/cat-declawing-once-routine-procedure-now-draws-fire)

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Kyle Oyama

1456 Thurston Avenue #1504

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

obakeone@gmail.com

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 7:04 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** jamisona@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexis E. Jamison	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Declawing a cat is unnatural, unnecessary, and inhumane. I strongly support this measure and hope that it will be passed. Declaws cripple cats for life, lead to behavioral issues, and ultimately more abandoned animals in shelters. Veterinarians should counsel all patients on the importance of the cats ability to claw and scratch and educate their clients about alternatives to declawing and how to deter unnecessary scratching. Just as medical doctors for humans must do no harm, veterinarians must do no harm to the animals that they treat. Please consider viewing the Paw Project on Netflix and learning the truth about declawing and why it is illegal in more than 20 countries around the world. Mahalo.

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## woodson2-Rachel

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**From:** Rosemary Karlsson <rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 7:12 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 466 - SUPPORT

Please support HB466 with HSUS amendment to ALSO prohibit cruel ear-cutting! And prohibit cutting tails.

I've done dog rescue for 15 years, so I've seen plenty of abuse.

Ear cutting should be totally outlawed. Don't allow anyone - owner, breeder, or vets to cut ears or tails. In England, it is outlawed as it is unnecessary cosmetic surgery.

Backyard breeders & puppy mills do NOT use anesthesia - they just cut.

Backyard breeders & puppy mills (there is one in Mountain View on the Big Island) do kitchen table C-sections on small dogs like Chihuahuas - not by vets but by the mill owners - they cut the puppies out of the pregnant mom with NO anesthesia for the mom. They won't spend the money on a vet using anesthesia.

Rosemary Karlsson  
PO Box 492266  
Keaau, HI 96749  
16-1885 Uilani Drive, Keaau.  
808-966-6589

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 7:49 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** Nekokichigai@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: Re: HB No. 446 – Testimony in support I am submitting testimony in support of HB No. 446 – Cruelty to animals by declawing. Declawing of cats is not only a cruel and painful procedure that disables cats, but it also removes their natural means of defense even if they are kept indoors. Indoor cats have been known to escape outdoors, and if they have been declawed, they, like all feline species, no longer have their primary means of defense, their claws. Cats kept as pets that are allowed to go outdoors are even more at risk of being maimed or killed if they do not have their claws. Declawing is a surgical procedure on cats which is akin to humans having their fingers amputated at the first joint. This is a disabling procedure on people since it limits the ability of their hands to function normally. And this is also what happens to cats that are declawed. The only time I would agree to declawing is if the cat is found to have a medical condition which is not treatable through any other means except declawing. In any other instance, declawing should never be considered. I believe that people who would opt for declawing of a pet cat despite all the literature that has proven the detrimental effects of declawing, should not own cats as pets. Thank you. Suzanne Watanabe 85-329 Imipono Place Wai’anae, HI 96792 Nekokichigai@aol.com 808-696-5891

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 9:53 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** govierj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Govier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I write to OPPOSE H.B. 466. first point, declawing is NOT routine. second, while normal animal advocates prefer to leave cats in their natural state, there are circumstances which require intervention for various reasons and this should be the call of the owner and their vet, NOT some legislative representative who has no personal stake in the owner or the cat. third, who is promoting this as cruel and how did it get to the Judiciary committee? It is animal husbandry and should be in Agriculture committee. Please vote NO on H.B. 466 Thank you, Mrs.Susan Kane Lucas Govier

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 12:21 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** skyuen808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sally K Yuen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 1:11 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** hystericgarage@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ray Morita	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have no testimonial as none of my cat companions have been declawed. It is barbaric to inflict such measures of cruelty on feline lives of all ages and sizes. I've seen the documentaries, done the research and there is no way anyone in their right mind should oppose this bill. Hoping for the day declawing becomes a distant memory amongst veterinary practices nationwide.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:54 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** lcuccia@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I really hope that this gets passed. Declawing is cruel...it is the same as if our fingers were amputated to the first knuckle. It causes a lifetime of pain for the cat, and often causes behavioral issues as well. There are many safe, effective and humane ways to keep a cat from scratching furniture. This one should not be allowed. Mahalo.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 8:01 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** ozako@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lor. Maki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chair, and Members of the Committee, I strongly oppose this measure.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:44 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** groomer808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sachie Yakuwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: let's support this bill and help stop this useless procedure done on all felines including wild cats and domestic cats.

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 10:12 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** chibi.baxter@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ivy Lin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We support HB466 100%! As owners of three rescue cats here in Honolulu, Hawaii, this bill is very important to us and we would be so proud of our state if it was passed. People opt for declawing as a way to prevent their furniture or themselves from getting scratched. Little do they realize that declawing produces other behavioral issues. Cats need their claws to help them climb, exercise, maintain their balance and defend themselves against danger. There are other proven methods of preventing undesirable scratching behavior that we ourselves have used successfully without having to resort to declawing. So many times people opt for declawing with the misunderstanding that it is a safe and humane procedure, when it is just the opposite. It is the equivalent of humans getting their fingertips amputated. Declawing is unnecessary and inhumane. We ask that you please support HB466. Mahalo.

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 10:24 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** e.oshiro@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I am in support of this proposal. Declawing is inhumane and these cats need our voice.

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 2:15 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** herbgirl@copper.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimberly Sabrosky	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Animal cruelty is not acceptable, and this includes the senseless maiming of cats through declawing and similar procedures. I urge Hawaii to pass this groundbreaking bill and thereby become the leader of what I hope will be a movement among all US states. Thank you for considering my comment.

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 2:15 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** stagawa@zephyrins.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 3:33 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** nnaser1979@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Naser	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. Declawing is cruel and unnecessary.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 5:12 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** alicesaul@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Dear COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE I am writing in support of HB 466 relating to cruelty to animals: declawing. There is No reasonable rationale for allowing such an inhumane practice, and there are many ways to positively correct the behavior of cats to prevent damage to household furnishings; I know this because I have lived with a number of young, energetic kittens over the years and have been able to protect important items such as sofas, the grill cloth on audio speakers, etc. For starters, sharp claws can easily be clipped without maiming the animal. I myself can't imagine trying to get by if the nails on my hands had been removed! Can you? I also want to strongly support amending this the measure to include prohibiting ear cropping and tail docking of dogs if not performed by a veterinarian. There are good reasons why we require licensed medical professionals to perform surgery on us, and we should similarly limit such procedures on animals to the veterinarians who have the education, skill and experience to do them properly. Thank you. Aloha, Alice Saul

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**woodson2-Rachel**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 5:58 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** carrienied@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Niederpruem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:18 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: zumaster@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bruce Allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Declawing is a cruel barbaric act which is only designed to make more money for veterinarians who have no real concern for animals. While the penalty is mild, the message is clear. Declawing is cruelty to animals...period. Please support this bill. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:23 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: catdrinkwater@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: DE -Clawing amounts to a Life Time of Pain, Infection , & Suffering for all Cats that are Crippled by this Barbaric & Inhumane procedure. Cat's have claws, that grow deep within the paw, attached by a network of Nerves & Tendons, There is no such thing as a painless De-Clawing for the poor Cats subjected to this cruelty.

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Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:39 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: vkushima1957@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Kushima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Declawing cats is a terrible mutilation to the animal. Tantamount to amputating a humans fingers.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:44 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: info@pawproject.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Conrad, DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 1. Please know that this measure saves cats lives and saves taxpayers money. It is a well known phenomenon that declawed cats lose their homes because they were declawed. They begin to avoid the litter box because they don't want to dig with their amputated nubs and they bite more. This is why so many cat rescues and shelters are against declawing. Please don't believe the vets who say that there will be an increase in relinquishment. If that were true, then organizations that rescue cats wouldn't be for this bill. But they are and they are in huge numbers. NYS is also trying to ban declawing A1297(Rosenthal). 2. Please don't believe the thin skin immunocompromised excuse either. The CDC, NIH USPHS and many MDs say don't declaw cats. Doing so to protect human health is a mistake because these cats now bite more. We were able to ban declawing in Los Angeles and much of California. No one has seen an increase in relinquishment or cat scratch causing disease. Lastly, cat scratch fever is now known to be caused by fleas. Thank you!

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Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 8:38 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: beacresp@yahoo.fr  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Declawing a cat is a real amputation. It's a barbaric acte created by humans and cruel to animals.

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Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:23 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: alannakagawa@mac.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Nakagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Decisions on the listed procedures should be made by the pet owner

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## **SUPPORTING Testimonial for HB 466**

[HB 466](#)  
[Status](#)

RELATING TO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.  
Makes performing or assisting with a surgical  
claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or  
tendonectomy on any domesticated cat a  
misdemeanor.

I am writing to **SUPPORT** HB 466 that will make performing or assisting with a surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any domesticated cat a **misdemeanor**.

Declawing a cat is cruel. Declawed cats cannot defend themselves if they are ever lost outside.  
Please pass HB 466.

Thank you very much for your support!

Julie Chen

woodson2-Rachel

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 10:57 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: laura.ponder@hotmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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woodson2-Rachel

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:27 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: wildaboutmaui@aol.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaime Rush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:43 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: puppy\_luv\_78@hotmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
melia prinzing	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this ban on declawing because declawing a cat so that it can stay in its home is better than euthanasia. I am a CVT in Hawaii and I know there are people who are on blood thinners in Hawaii that own cats and it would be better to declaw these cats then to be euthanized. I strongly discourage declawing in majority of cases but a ban on the procedure is not what is best for the few animals that have no other options.

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woodson2-Rachel

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Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 7:24 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: username0865@yahoo.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Talya Nicol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 8:17 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: bhnr@isp.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leo A Millan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please DO NOT pass this bill! We already have problems with feral cats surviving in our outdoor areas, not being able to de-claw domestics aids in their survival when they are released by their irresponsible owners. I would rather see a bill enforcing the de-clawing of all domestic cat pets.

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Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 8:49 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: whiskerwood@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the ban of declawing because of the cruelty of the practice. Please search The Paw Project to learn how horrific declawing is. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 9:09 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: curbhodoc@comcast.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Gordon Palm, DVM,CVCP	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a practicing veterinarian of 32 years, I have taken a stand to never again perform elective partial multiple digit amputations, otherwise known as "de-clawing" of cats. The veterinary hospital I have been associated with for 27 years has also taken this stand. We hope to inspire others to do the same. We also hope to educate and thus motivate cat owners to not request this aggressive surgical procedure. Please read on. More and more evidence is showing that complications from this procedure outweigh the benefits. It was once thought that after the initial pain from the procedure was managed, the animal "heals" and they then learn to adapt to the changes that permanently alter their conformation. However, bearing weight on these altered extremities has been found to cause long term complications. Cats are masters of masking their discomfort and behavior idiosyncrasies can occur. The question is, how many of these behaviors are the result of enduring chronic pain? Obvious initial complications include post-op pain, infections, nail re-growth, nerve damage, and behavior changes. Subtle longer term adaptations such as avoiding the litter box due to sensitive toes, arthritis in joints and elbows, obesity from decreased comfort of moving, are from a growing list of issues being discovered as this subject is scrutinized more and more. Biting tendencies are increased since their less assertive forms of communication are ineffective. Cats need to scratch and stretch for their physical and emotional health. Training cats to adapt to sturdy scratching objects is preferred as an investment to the long term emotional and physical health of your cat. Some cats are horizontal scratchers, and some vertical. Having both options would be advised (cat trees, carpeted boards, corrugated cardboard). Loose sheets of tin foil or sticky carpet runners can be draped over unintended scratching surfaces during training. Veterinarians can help to counsel on individual case management, as well as coach you on trimming nails and aid in the application of plastic nail caps. Thirty two countries and several cities in California have banned this procedure. Veterinarians still performing the procedure are merely providing a service that is being requested, and may feel between a rock and a hard place. The mistaken intention guiding this reviled surgery is preventing the cat from ultimate surrender. The irony is, in many cases, surrendering eventually occurs due to the above mentioned complications. Or worse, the cat may be subjected, un-armed, to the outdoors. Rental properties have historically required declawing. Most have accepted a letter by a veterinarian expressing the above complications, and subsequently reversed their request. ThePawProject has been successful in passing legislation in several cities to remove this rental requirement. Another concern stated, has been in the areas of public health. Contrary to public opinion, the CDC does not advocate declawing cats for those households with immunosuppressed individuals as they are aware

that a cat bite is a more severe public health concern. Veterinarians from the US now practicing in Europe, where surgical declaws are already banned, report that they do not see the number of fractious and anxiety ridden cats upon routine veterinary exams. It becomes apparent that inflicting the emotional and chronic pain of surgical multi-digit amputation may in fact create a form of PTSD in the very animals we profess to adore. There are many cats who are declawed and are (amazingly) managing their fate in varying degrees of successful compensation. There are many who aren't. We owe it to our future cats to not purposely alter their God-given perfect physique for our convenience. Janet Gordon Palm, DVM, CVCP Veterinarian and Sole Proprietor of "Animobility" Director of The Paw Project Minnesota Plymouth, Mn 763-229-6425 (cell) Assoc Veterinarian at New Hope Animal Hospital New Hope, Mn 763-593-1004 Sent from my iPad

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Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 9:15 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: curbhopdoc@comcast.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Gordon Palm, DVM,CVCP	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I wanted to submit a post to Veterinary Informational Network (VIN) 109. Posted By Janet Gordon 01/29/15 15:48 ET I have revisited this post today. I do not feel there is a place for arrogance on either side of this debate. Some people I feel, are gifted (or cursed) with more empathy than others, which can explain the variation in responses out there. This is not right or wrong, and not to say those empathically challenged individuals lack sympathy. Sympathy involves feeling sorry for an individual in pain. Recognizing this pain is a product of learned observations. Empathy involves the ability to literally place yourself in the others shoes (or paws). I know sterilizing procedures have come under fire with new knowledge of endocrine imbalance and consequences. That becomes a conversation of risk vs benefit for each individual client, taking into consideration age, breed, finances, lifestyle, and life stage. Inflicting severe pain that has the potential to cause daily discomfort for the next 15-20 years is usually not a sequellae. The same can not be said for declawing. Altering the animals structural conformation forever as well as bearing weight on these stumps subjects them to chronic changes leading to varying degrees of accepted endured pain. What choice do they have but to make the best of their limitations? Cats on carpeted surfaces fare much better than cats in wood floor households. Who can say they haven't diagnosed a cat lameness as a bruised digit from leading with that leg when jumping from a surface? An example of this ability of cats to mask pain would be those cats with the resorptive dental lesions (FORL). Few can deny the pain endured until the tooth is extracted. Don't we hear our clients challenge our recommendation for dental surgery with the statement that "they are rolling around on the floor, happy, playing, eating" (most are still obese as they have figured out a way to swallow those kibbles whole- hmm- could the declaw status have contributed to the obesity?). "If they were in pain, I would know". After dental surgery, they are amazed at the new cat that shows up! However, there is no way to resolve the pain from a declaw. Educate and change the mindset of the population who are conditioned to ask for this procedure. Be the hero our cats look to us to be. We have all seen the graphic bumper sticker that The Paw Project circulates showing the digitally challenged raised human hand with P3 removed with the exclamation: "All those in favor of declawing cats-raise your hand". What I feel would be more effective would be the addition: "Now walk on these for the rest of your life".

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To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: risasuga@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Risa Sugahara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: AKOE002@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Honorable Chair Representative McKelvey, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, I am opposed only in the sense that the ultimate decision to perform an onychectomy on a pet cat should rest with the attending veterinarian and the cat owner. Veterinarians are required to engage the client on all of the pros and cons in order to make this decision. They are clearly elucidated in the AVMA Ethics policies which have been adopted by this State. Surgical procedures such as onychectomy should be performed by a licensed veterinarian who is the only professional able to effectively manage infection, pain, and other possible complications. Thank you, very much, Eric Ako DVM

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woodson2-Rachel

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Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 1:20 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: kaye.weaver@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathryn Weaver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

Richard Fujie DVM, PhD, MS  
King Street Pet Hospital  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 808 951 7777  
[Ksph.rmf@gmail.com](mailto:Ksph.rmf@gmail.com)  
January 30, 2015

Pertaining to House Bill No. 466 Cruelty to animals by declawing  
Committee February 2, 2015 Rm 325 2 pm

Dear Sirs:

I oppose this bill. The surgical decision to declaw a cat should be between the client and their veterinarian.

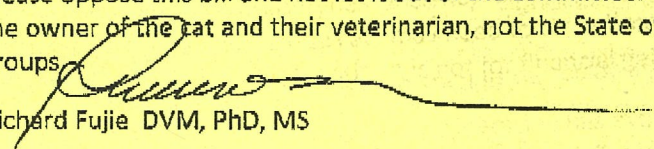
I have been practicing veterinary medicine and surgery in Honolulu since 1985. I am a member of the American Association of Feline Practitioners and the two CFA (Cat Fancier Association) cat clubs in Hawaii. I am also a member of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Assn and the Honolulu Veterinary Medical Assn. I served on the State of Hawaii Veterinary Medical Licensing Board. We have 7 cats in our home of which 2 are declawed

This bill limits what veterinarians can do for their clients and makes it illegal for us to do a surgical procedure that we feel is necessary in situations other than a feline nail disease. Declawing may be an option: when there is a fear of injury to young children, prevent cat scratch fever in humans, for clients on chemotherapy causing immune-deficiency and to prevent damage to the home and furniture. If declawing is not available, these cats may need to be re-homed or euthanized. I only do a few of these surgeries each year and my opposition is not for financial gain.

The surgical and pain control in veterinary medicine has evolved and many of the perceived fear of this procedure is no longer valid. The amount of pain and discomfort with this surgery is no more than in many of the surgical procedures done in veterinary medicine. This week, I showed a State Representative a cat that was declawed the day before. The cat was walking around in the exam room and was not in any distress. The cat went home to her loving owner the next day. There were no bandages or stitches and the only home care was antibiotics. The surgical pain was controlled by an injectable analgesic prior and oral analgesic for 3 days. We did not have to use powerful narcotics to control the pain.

I polled the 5 veterinarians in our hospital and of the 4 veterinarians that owned cats, at least one cat in each household is declawed. We love our pets as children and none of us would do a procedure on our own pets if it was as gruesome as proponents of this bill would want to make you think it is. I wonder if any of the proponents of this bill have ever seen a declaw surgery or the post-surgical care of a modern declawed cat.

Please oppose this bill and not let it out of the committee. The decision to declaw should be between the owner of the cat and their veterinarian, not the State of Hawaii or uninformed special interest groups.

  
Richard Fujie DVM, PhD, MS



**LATE**

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**Ali`i Veterinary Hospital**  
75 -349 Hualalai Road  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
Ph: 808-329-8999  
[www.aliivet.com](http://www.aliivet.com)



**Dr. Aaron C. Lorshbough**  
**Dr. Elizabeth A. Jose**  
**Dr. Maria A. Jose**  
**Dr. Eve M. Tremain**  
**Dr. Fine-Ferreira, DACVIM (Cardiology)**

*Exceptional Care for Cats & Dogs*

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February 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in opposition to HB 466. As veterinarians, we promote and help preserve relationships between pets and their people every day. To that end, making declawing illegal will limit my ability to keep loved pets in homes in some very specific situations.

There are three scenarios in which I feel that declawing a pet is justifiable:

- 1) Medical condition of the pet - In the case that a disease requires removal of a claw or claws to treat the disease or mitigate pain.
- 2) Medical condition of a human living with the pet – There are people with immune compromise who can become very ill if scratched. These people often rely on their pets for emotional support and companionship. Declawing allows the pet to stay in the home.
- 3) Destructive or aggressive pets who have been through training under the guidance of a veterinarian or animal behaviorist without resolve – There are a subset of pets who will either be banned from living indoors, turned in to a shelter or euthanized because of aggressive or destructive behavior. These pets can often stay in their current homes after being declawed.

Most of the concern regarding declawing is with regard to pain. As veterinarians, we expect post-operative discomfort after any surgical procedure - whether it be a spay or a tumor removal or a declaw procedure. We have the ability to help control pain with excellent pain medications. When a declaw procedure is done by a trained veterinarian, and proper post-op care and medications are administered, recovering from this procedure is similar to recovering from any orthopedic surgery, with no expectation that there will be any long term discomfort to our patients.

In summary, there are circumstances in which declawing a pet keeps that pet healthy and in a loving home. The limitations set forth in HB 466 do not allow veterinarians, at the forefront of preserving the human-animal bond, to provide proper guidance and care to our patients.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jose, DVM

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 2:11 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: hawaii hunting association@hawaiiantel.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom Lodge	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: First off, to call it cruelty to animals is sheer hyperbole. A surgical procedure is anything but, and if you allow for it for other conditions, cruelty is cruelty. Bottom line, we don't want our cats declawed for lots of reasons but CRUELTY isn't one of them. Turn this bill into a resolution to educate the public with public service announcements. You'll do a better job of educating that will reach more people than will this legislation. Much Aloha, Tom Lodge

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 2:17 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: janinecalvert999@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janine Callvert Biaggi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, I enjoy the love and company of 5 cats whom I have found to be incredibly intelligent, living entities. For veterinarians to be opposed to this compassionate bill based on their desire to make more money causing the suffering of creatures they are supposed to be caring for, is beyond my comprehension. Please pass HB466 and stop the needless suffering and torture of God's creatures. I speak not only for myself, but for scores of other Maui residents who love animals. Mahalo, Janine Calvert Biagi

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**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 466**

**Declawing of a pet cat is an expensive surgical procedure that is not to be entered into lightly. Declawing requires experience and skill on the part of the surgeon, far beyond that which could be done by a non-veterinarian. It is also true that declawing a cat leaves it pretty much defenseless from its natural enemies. On the other hand it is only loving owners of pet cats who are willing to pay for the procedure, and who have it done, usually only when there are no other options available and the cat would otherwise be put down. Most veterinarians will only do the procedure after being convinced that there is no other viable option. Just as in the case of strong medicines which can be life saving but also dangerous, the procedure should not be outlawed but left to the educated, professional judgment of the expert: the licensed veterinarian.**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 2:43 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: cgoggia3@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Connie Goggia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Declawing an animal is abuse in ANY language and at any time! There is NO benefit to this barbaric practice and ANY veterinarian that dis it should really be banned from attending to ANY animal. I believe their oath is similar to human Drs, insofar as they should, FIRST DO NO HARM! Please consider passing this so that we no longer maim these poor creatures. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 3:02 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: kathleenhickman@post.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Hickman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a former veterinary technician, I wish to express my strong support for HB 466, which would make it a misdemeanor in Hawaii for anyone to perform or assist with surgical declawing of domestic cats. Declawing is the medically unnecessary amputation of healthy body parts and carries no health benefits to the animal, unlike spaying or neutering, and is an extremely painful procedure with a high incidence of postsurgical infections and other complications which often have long-term negative effects on a cat's well being and quality of life. Toes and claws are essential to a cat's ability to engage in natural and essential behaviors, and removing them without medical necessity, strictly for the convenience of the owner, is rightfully banned as animal cruelty in many other countries as well as in eight cities in California. Veterinary industry lobbyists will claim that declawing cats keeps them in homes, but the fact that declawed cats can almost always be found in animal shelters belies their claim. As someone who has been forced to assist with numerous declaw surgeries and the patient aftercare, I beseech you to please support HB 466.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 3:31 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: willsilver@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Navran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is unconscionable to remove a cat's claws; they cannot defend themselves when necessary.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 8:17 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: welovebillyboo@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 7:43 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: macwestie@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nina Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Declawing a cat is the amputation of a cat's toe bones, from which cat nails grow. In order to remove the nail, the veterinarian has to remove the bone. That is like cutting off a human's last knuckle. Declawing is one of the most painful routinely performed surgeries in veterinary medicine. It has absolutely no benefit for that cat. Declawed cats are more likely to lose their homes than cats with claws. If someone is intolerant of the cat scratching the couch, that person will be very intolerant of the cat not using the litter box. When the cat returns home from the surgery and digs in the litter box, it hurts their paws. At that point, the cat associates the litter box with pain and may never use a litter box again. Please support HB 466. Nina Davis

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 11:08 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: Kpaskew@msn.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*

**LATE**

**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Askew	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

Testimony in Opposition to HB 466

Rep. McKelvey and members of the Committee of Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I respectfully request that this committee not pass this bill. What follows are reasons provided by a Honolulu veterinarian who for a variety of reasons chooses to remain anonymous. This situation alone is cause for concern.

HB 466 makes an exemption to allow declawing for medical reasons for the cat. It makes **no** exemptions if the owner who is requesting the animal be declawed requires it for the **owner's medical conditions**.

- The process first starts with the owner and veterinarian having a discussion of the problem. The vet tries to identify the triggers for the unwanted behavior and owner & vet work on solutions. Consistent with the position presented by the Cat Fanciers Association, **declawing is presented as a last resort option**.
- These are examples of scenarios encountered by this vet in their Honolulu practice:
  - Elderly owners have very fragile skin and are susceptible to infections, **declawing allows cat ownership**.
  - Owners on the medications like coumadin/warfarin which thin the blood request to declaw their cat because scratches would cause them to bleed and the medications inhibit clotting.
  - Owners who have professions where they use their hands like dentists may request declawing their pet because they are concerned about putting their hands in people's mouths if their hands and arms have scratches and open wounds.

So the big question is Representatives, if **you** had to choose between saving a cat or saving a person, **who would you choose?**

What would **you** do if you had an opportunity to save **both**?

**I respectfully ask you to vote no and save them both.** The veterinarian is the professional in this area and I ask that you respect their abilities to work with their clients and determine the best outcome for all. **Please oppose this bill in order to preserve options that help to keep cats in loving homes.**

Lynn Muramaru  
Pet Owner  
Kapolei, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 1:24 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: WS9811@EARTHLINK.NET  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB466**

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
WILLIAM STALEY	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:21 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: feldoc@aol.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Suzanne Palumbo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am a veterinarian practicing in small animal medicine for more than 30 years. Since 1988 I have owned and operated a feline exclusive clinic in Honolulu. I stongly oposed the passage of HB 466 regarding animal cruelty in the declawing of cats. This bill claims that declwng cats is cruel and seeks to make it a misdemeanor. The main reason cats are surrendered to shelters throughout the country is because of behavioral issuses including desruction of property with their claws. Declawing these beloved famil y members allows them to stay in their homes and does not harm them in any way. Declawing cats is a surgical procedure by licensed veterinarians. It is performed under a general anesthesia with pain medication before, during and after surgery. Cats typically return to using their claws within hours of recovering from anesthesia. This is in no way cruel to cats. Other reasons we declaw cats include preventing injury to family members with immunosuppressive disease such as organ transplant, cancer therapy, HIV/AIDs. Some cats harbor an organism that causes cat scratch fever that can be transmitted to family. Declawing is the only way to prevent this disease. Cats with painful nail bed disease are declawed to prevent the cats from suffering persistent pain.. So this procedure is life saving for the cats. It is in no way cruel. I strongly urge you to prevent this bill from leaving Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.The practice of declawing is life saving for my patients. I have been involved in cruelty investigations with the Hawaiian Humane Society. I have seen cruelty. Declawing cats is in not cruel by any standard Thank you, M. Suzanne Sylvester Palumbo, DVM The Cat Clinic 1131 Kapahulu Avenue Honolulu, Hi 96816

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 1:28 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: linetteab@hawaiiantel.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
linette barrios	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: t should be noted that in 2013, a bill to restrict ear cropping, tail docking, and dewclaw removal for dogs was approved by this committee. The American Kennel Club recognizes that ear cropping, tail docking, and dewclaw removal, as described in certain breed standards, are acceptable practices integral to defining and preserving breed character and/or enhancing good health. Appropriate veterinary care should be provided. We should be able to do what is in our breed standard

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:20 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: brittleiatice@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 466 to ban the declawing of domesticated cats. Declawing cats can be compared to removing the joints on the hands of a human being. It is an extremely painful and leaves the cat affected forever. Many people are unaware of the procedure and effects of declawing. It may even come across to some as simply getting one's nails cut. But this is not the case at all. Declawing is already banned in many countries so please get on this bill to fight a cruel procedure to innocent creatures who just want to be able to use their paws as we do our hands.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:43 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: dobemom808@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB466 on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM



**HB466**

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for CPC on Feb 2, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Fujinaka	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am a registered voter in the Mililani Mauka district and I oppose any restriction to safe (ie under veterinarian care) cropping of ears, docking of tails and dew claw removal. Limitations proposed by HSUS (financial backing by PETA) have nothing to do with promotion of health or safety of animals. In fact, removal of dew claws, docking of tails and cropping of ears are alterations that are meant to decrease the chances of injury to certain breeds of dogs as they carry out the functions for which they are bred. please vote no on this measure.

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