



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

To: Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Senate Ways and Means Committee members
In Support Of: HB2072, HD2 SD1 with amendment
Date: April 3, 2018 10:00 a.m.
Testimony By: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, The Humane Society of the United States

On behalf of the Hawaii members and supporters of The Humane Society of the United States, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HB2072 HD2 SD1, to limit the tethering of dogs, with an amendment.

HB2072 HD2 SD1 creates reasonable standards for chaining dogs who live outdoors, addressing a critical issue with impacts on both animal welfare and human health and safety. The legislation offers modest, common sense protections for Hawaii's dogs; it does not prohibit tethering. The bill:

- a) requires that dogs who are kept outdoors be provided proper and humane restraints, with collars and tethers that won't cause pain and suffering, and
- b) provides basic standards for the type of chain used, to prevent tangling and the inhibition of the dog's freedom of movement.

We do request an amendment to remove the "in lieu of" language in section 1 of the bill, amending subsection 4 of the statute. The courts already have the latitude not to issue fines or jail time for a misdemeanor.

So saying that the other may be imposed *in lieu of* jail time or fines doesn't grant any new latitude. Judges already know what sentences they can impose, based on the severity of the crime.

The "in addition to" language gives judges the ability to impose other penalties (i.e. performance of community service, mental health counseling, or attendance at educational classes concerning animal abuse prevention) – whether they do so in addition to or in lieu of jail time/fines – and we support its inclusion.

This story of Laki, a Big Island dog found near death with a chain embedded in his neck, aired on KHON on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, and is a prime example of why Hawaii needs stronger laws to prevent dangerous and inhumane tethering methods: <http://khon2.com/2018/02/20/couple-nurses-chained-dog-back-to-health-as-new-bill-aims-to-protect-animals/>. Graphic images of Laki's condition may be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/A-dog-named-Laki-308644822976139/>.

HB 2072 HD2 SD1 is supported by The Humane Society of the United States and all four county-contracted humane societies in Hawaii. **The Humane Society of the United States requests a favorable report on HB2072 HD2 SD1.**

Keith Dane
301-312-1489





HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

Hawaii Island Humane Society | Hawaiian Humane Society | Kauai Humane Society | Maui Humane Society

Date: April 2, 2018

To: Chair Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted By: Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in support of HB2072, HD2, SD1: Relating to HRS 711-1109
Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 10 a.m., Capitol room 211

The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAAWA) supports the passage of House Bill 2072, HD2, SD1, which would prohibit the use of specific tethering equipment and techniques that are injurious to dogs.

HAAWA represents the four county animal service providers in the state of Hawaii. Our independent local nonprofits are united in support this change in policy.

The harmful tethering of dogs is an issue on all of our islands. The constant confinement and isolation of dogs is dangerous both for the animals and the people around them. Dogs are happiest when they are treated as close members of their human families.

The provisions of this bill are specific and enforceable. They will allow our humane investigators to educate dog owners so they can correct any violations and ensure that their animals are safe from harm. Educational outreach is the standard first step when investigating a reported violation of HRS 711-1109.

We do find the language on page 4, lines 2-7, of the bill to be unnecessary. Courts already have broad discretion to order community service, counseling and/or education in these cases.

The provisions in HB2072, HD2, SD1, have been endorsed in the prior two sessions by animal welfare groups and law enforcement, we urge you to pass this measure.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fowler, President & CEO
Hawaiian Humane Society

Donna Whitaker, Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane Society

Orianna Skomoroch, Interim Executive Director
Kauai Humane Society

Jerleen Bryant, CEO
Maui Humane Society

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2018 9:05:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Testifying for Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 3:28:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2072 HD2 SD1. If passed please make it to be effective in the year 2019 or before. Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 5:27:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill to increase protections for Hawaii's dogs that are tethered outside. Thank you.

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 6:01:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ellen jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill which helps protect animals against one form of cruelty. Thank you

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 9:45:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2072 as a first step in protecting dogs from unnecessary and damaging restraints. In the long run, all dogs should be off chains or other teathering devices. they need room to roam free.

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 10:10:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Jisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB 2072. Let's have compassion and empathy for Hawaii's dogs.

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2018 7:43:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kaluna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today in support for HB2072. Our Humane Society and police aren't able to take action because the laws don't define what abuse or neglect is (so I was told when trying to rescue a dog). This bill is a great start that I hope will give people some ability to protect these innocent and helpless souls.

Thank you,

Lisa M. Kaluna

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2018 5:24:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Gloria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill--to prohibit certain restraints and tethers that endanger, or deny sustenance, to a dog--although this is only a small step towards ending animal abuse.

This bill, when passed, should be effective in the year 2019 or before. There are countless dogs presently suffering and dying. Many more will suffer and die if this bill will wait until 2035. Rather, any form of animal abuse should be considered history by the time we find ourselves in 2035.

Chaining or tethering dogs must be banned altogether. Only during leashed walks or closely supervised activities should dogs be tied, for their own safety. Dogs are no different than human toddlers and must be treated and cared for as family members. They are not accessories, toys, security guards, hunting/killing tools, or slaves.

Hawaii desperately needs stricter laws against animal neglect or abuse. "Human health, animal health, and ecosystem health are inextricably linked" (<http://www.onehealthinitiative.com>). What humans do to animals and the world around directly and indirectly affects us all.

Christian Gloria, PhD, CHES
Associate Professor of Public Health
Residence: Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 10:12:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2018 9:59:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Chiang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to request that the committee make the effective date of this measure regarding cruelty to animal ie being chained or tethered to be made before 2019. It is unacceptable that a state that claims to be aloha and respect mana to allow such treatment of beings to exist. As a mental health provider, I can attest to the psychological well being animals such as dogs provide to humans and the return their love and loyalty with abuse certainly makes Hawaii look like a barbaric culture. So please amend and make effects be date ASAP.

Thank you for your time

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2018 8:56:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Markl	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hello Chair(s) And Committee Members:

Please pass and help this very important bill to become law this session to protect innocent dogs from what happened to Laki on the Big Island. You are their only hope, please fulfill that now,

Thank you all.

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:51:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill and help save our pups. Too many dogs are left chained outside, never knowing the love of a family. Allowing people to keep dogs as property only adds to the aggressive nature of dogs. Behavioural issues are common with dogs who's only existence is tied to a tree, as a means of "protection". They deserve better and we can help them, if this bill is passed. We can stop the suffering of these animals and help to make our islands a better place for the animals and people that inhabit them. If living with Aloha means being compassionate and kind towards others, then we have a responsibility to extend that to the creatures that live here with us. Mahalo.

HB-2072-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:56:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please continue supporting this bill. Compassion and kindness are needed in all areas of life.

From: [Dr. Jana Levin DVM DAVDC](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: PLEASE PASS "4-3-18 10:00 a.m. WAM Support HB2072 SD1" EFFECTIVE in 2018
Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 9:47:34 AM

Aloha Senators,

As of 2017, there are about 21 states that have enacted tethering laws that are now in effect. Of these 21 states, 17 clearly specify the manner in which a dog may be tethered by addressing parameters that include tether length and weight and collar type.

(<https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-dog-tether-laws>) (<https://www.animallaw.info/content/map-state-dog-tethering-laws>)

Current Hawaii law does address collar type but does not address tether length and weight. By addressing tether length and weight, HB2072 SD1 gives Hawaii's LEOs clear and enforceable parameters to identify abusive tethering and help differentiate abusive tethering from reasonable restraint.

Further, HB2072 SD1 recognizes that abusive tethering can be the result of various motivations on the part of the offender.

Therefore HB2072 SD1 creates the option for the penalties to include mental health counseling and/or educational classes.

In a broader view, HB2072 SD1 speaks to Hawaii's recognition that animal abuse and domestic violence are inextricably linked.

This link is validated by credible agencies including the HSUS, SPCA, FBI, the International Association of the Chiefs of Police.

The animal abuse-domestic violence link has been verified by academic research in psychology, child development, sociology, social work, criminology, veterinary medicine, and law.

(<http://nationallinkcoalition.org>)

Ending the animal-abuse-to-domestic-violence pipeline is a pressing societal need.

For the sake of the most vulnerable among us, please pass HB2072 SD1 and make the effective date immediate or no later than 2019.

Thank you,

Dr. Jana Levin DVM

Kailua Kona Hawaii 96740
808-325-9703

From: [zoomaran_](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support HB2072 HD2 SD1
Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 9:04:21 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Hawaii. My address is 1611 Miller St., Apt. 304, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

I respectfully urge the passage of HB2072 HD2 SD1 and the effective date be changed to 2019 or sooner.

We need to treat animals humanely. Chaining them under deplorable conditions must stop.

Thank you. Sylvia Ching 523-1798

From: [Tina Burt-Toland](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: WAMHB2072HD2SD1
Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 9:00:22 AM

I am in support of the bill to limit the tethering of dogs.. It is cruel to keep a pet tied out with out a chance to interact or move about more than a few feet. Especially day in and day out. Even with the best of intentions this type of restraint is dangerous.

I live in Puna on the Big Island and have seen many cases that are deplorable. I also work in a Veterinary hospital setting and see injuries related to being tethered. Injuries resulting from being tethered are numerous. Injured limbs , strangulation, Some times other stray animals will also attack tethered pets. They are left to defend themselves in a very uncontrolled environment.

PLEASE if this bill passes as it has elsewhere MAKE IT EFFECTIVE IN 2019 or earlier.

Thank you for your time

Tina Burt-Toland

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Aloha