

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 8, 2019
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1162
RELATING TO PET BOARDING FACILITIES

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 1162. This bill amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding a new chapter to title 11 regarding pet boarding facilities. This new proposed chapter details physical and operational requirements for pet boarding facilities, imposes penalties for violations, and directs the Board of Agriculture and Department to adopt rules and enforce the new chapter. The Department of Agriculture opposes this bill.

This measure involves pets and pet businesses rather than agriculture. Therefore, the Department believes this initiative is more appropriately managed by the county that has existing pet animal regulatory mechanisms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





February 3, 2019

In Opposition of HB 1162

Representative Creagan and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 1162.

We do not claim expertise regarding fire safety regulations; however, we recognize and respect the work of individual businesses that provide this much needed service to the animals who share our lives.

We have conferred with a number of the larger boarding businesses across the state, and we support their position in opposition of this bill. PPA agrees with them that the section in HB 1162 on fire safety regulations is very onerous for small businesses to comply with, as this system would be similar to the type typically found in hospitals or nursing homes (the red pull switches that are directly connected to the local fire department). The fire safety requirements in this bill exceed the State Department of Health's regulations for Adult Residential Care Homes for the elderly and disabled, which only call for battery-operated or hardwired smoke alarms.

The businesses we communicated with believe that they already have processes and procedures in place to address the care of animals in their kennels.

Thank you again for this opportunity to offer testimony. **We respectfully request that this honorable committee not to pass HB 1162.**

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:23:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:38:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:00:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:38:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:35:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:09:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lor. Maki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:42:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:13:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:52:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Correa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:11:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Govier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Representative Creagan and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

I OPPOSE HB 1162

1. There is NO need for this legislation as people in the business of boarding pets already provide good care for the animals or they do not stay in business--consumers regulate this business already; the legislature should not interfere where it is not needed.

2. The provision for the fire alarm connection is MORE than is required for a stae approved nursing home. This does not make sense.

3.The Department of Agriculture would have to add inspection and enforcement to their duties. This is a huge and unnecessary imposition on their work responsibilities.

4. The Department of Agriculture has to go help find an escaped animal? That does not make sense either.

Not only is this legislation not needed to protect animals, or consummers, it is onerous to businesses that do this work, a burden on the Department of Agriculture and not well thought out. This is about animals boarding but reads like a care home for people.

I OPPOSE this bill. .

Please VOTE NO on HB 1162

thank you, Mrs. Susan Govier

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:09:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makaala Kaaumoana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support regulation of this vital service. We need to trust these businesses will take good care of our family pets.

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:16:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:13:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April M Blades	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB1162 to regulation the operation of boarding facilities within the state.

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:36:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Dangelmaier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i oppose bill hb 1162 as the proper enforcement agency for such monitoring of business is unclear. Also some of hte provisions appear excessive.

TESTIMONY IS SUPPORT OF HB1162 RELATING TO PET BOARDING FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: Kati Conant

2/6/19

Aloha Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to share my support for HB1162. This bill came about based on personal tragedy that uncovered extensive issues relating to pet boarding facilities. My husband Blake, daughter Giovanna and two bull mastiffs, Piko and Nalu, lived on the north shore of Kaua'i in Wainiha Valley. In November of last year, we had to travel to the mainland for a family funeral and the normal facility where we board Piko and Nalu was surprisingly closed. The Humane Society, which we've used several times to board as well, was also full. We then found another facility that we heard of through a friend. At first, the facility seemed ok and we trusted that our dogs would be cared for. We called/text to check up on them and the facility responded that they were playing and doing well.

Upon our return from the mainland, we went directly from the airport to be reunited with our fuzzy family members. We picked up Piko and Nalu and put them in the back of our pick-up truck for the long ride back to Wainiha. They seemed lethargic, which was strange. When we pulled in the driveway and opened the tailgate, we realized there was bloody stool all over the back of the truck and our dogs were extremely ill. I called the facility and asked if it was possible that they got into something and any advice on what may have happened so we could seek appropriate treatment. The facility responded defensively and was not helpful.

We took Piko and Nalu to the vet as soon as possible. They issued medication and did testing. Over the next 24 hrs., Piko showed very small signs of improvement and Nalu got worse. We brought them in again the next day and Nalu required emergency hospitalization. After approximately, \$5,000 in emergency care, we got the phone call from the vet that we should come see Nalu as they weren't sure she was going to make it. They told us she may be very contagious to humans and seeing her could put myself, my family and my daughter (since I was breastfeeding) at risk of serious illness. They quarantined her and made me take protective measures, wearing rubber gloves to say my goodbye. My heart was not only breaking that my beautiful friend was bleeding from her mouth all over the floor, but I couldn't even touch her soft ears and pet her without a barrier to say goodbye. I curled up on the floor with her and gave her as much support and love as I could through her final suffering. A couple of hours later, our best friend and family member of only 6 years, was gone.

Nalu was the dog of a lifetime. She was a Certified Canine Good Citizen and was loved by literally everybody that met her. A sweet and gentle giant that exuded affection and melted everyone with her big, warm brown eyes.

Throughout this whole process, I kept calling the boarding facility, urging them to shut down, quarantine any animals that may have been in contact with Piko and Nalu and to bleach and completely sanitize their entire facility. These recommendations were met with resistance and defensiveness. I even asked the emergency vet to call more than once, which they did, as well as their colleagues, to encourage the facility to follow sanitize and take all safety precautions to avoid other pets from getting sick and dying.

It was a few days later, my friend forwarded me a blast email sent to the facility's customers by the owner. They did not send it to us. The email was defensive and explained how they handle sick dogs. This included statements that if a dog has loose stool, they don't do anything as that is, "normal" and if a dog has bloody stool, they wait and see if it happens again. Loose stool is obviously a sign that something is off and bloody stool is a clear sign the animal is very sick and should seek medical treatment immediately. If this facility would have notified us that our dogs were sick, we would have contacted a vet immediately. I believe Nalu would still be with us today if she received treatment earlier. By the time we got to her, it was too late and the infection was too far progressed. The facts are crystal clear: we brought two very healthy and happy dogs to the facility and we picked up two deathly ill dogs and one died later that week. It took Piko over a month and a half to recover to a healthy state, not to mention the emotional journey he is on losing his best friend that he spent every minute of every day with since he was 8 weeks old. Our family will forever have a hole in our hearts and will never be as full without our sweet Nalu.

Given the unwillingness of the facility to close temporarily or at the very least, sanitize the facility, I turned to Facebook to share my story, hoping to prevent this from happening to anyone else's loved one. I was astonished at the overwhelming response that flooded my way. I received numerous horror stories regarding this specific facility and others on island and on the mainland. I received text messages, private IM, phone calls and people stopping me all over town to share their stories. I also learned, there were rumors, which I later confirmed with the owner, that the normal facility that we used to board Piko and Nalu, closed previously for similar reasons; sick/dead dogs. While we are angry and consider the option to sue the facility, we are choosing at this time, to focus our energy on positive change and prevention. After lots of research, I drafted a bill based on the California bill and shared it with Nadine and her team. California has passed this bill and so can we.

Based on my research I estimate there are at minimum 50 facilities state-wide that could register with a nominal yearly fee to fund inspections. Fines could be issued to further fund these efforts. Those not in compliance should be required to disclose or post notices visible to customers at the facilities, much like restaurants post their health department grades. Animal control officers, already in place, could be offered additional hours or hire for vacancies on this self-funding and sustaining effort. I also learned that the Kaua'i SPCA is working on similar efforts to support inspections and regulation.

I commit myself to assist and pursue any obstacles necessary to pass this legislation. For example, research, outreach, funding options, rallying boots on the ground, whatever is needed

to keep the bill moving ahead. I have a small army behind me of pet owners and those that loved Nalu dearly that is growing by the day. I ask that you join our efforts and support this bill to keep our loved ones safe, in honor of our sweet Nalu.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Kati Conant



Nalu Conant



Nalu & Piko Conant

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:54:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Bon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Kauai and support this bill.

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:50:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hayley Stoner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an employee of a boarding facility on Kauai called bark bark backyard I was instructed by the owners to not give dogs water because the urinated in there kennels. I also witnessed the owner being very aggressive towards the dogs in there care. I also worked at another boarding facility on the island of Kauai where I witnessed an employee punch a lab named Nala Toner in the face and it took weeks before anything was ever done. This bill needs to pass there is a huge need for this!

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:18:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
F Blake Conant	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB1162 relating to pet boarding facilities

Please reference testimony given by my wife Kati Conant.

Following Nalu's death and Kati's post to social media, I have had several people approach me to offer condolences, especially the many who adored our dog. In all of the cases the conversation has turned to a revelation of similar circumstances. Each story is of a different boarding facility, which, for me, begs the reason why we are here today. The problem is not with just one, but with all.

Long gone are the days where the pets are relegated to the garage or doghouses. The dogs and cats and other animals are as much a part of the human family structure as a child is and in many cases are the only companions to humans. That said, we regulate childcare, we oversee pre-school, we do our very best as people to make sure the right thing is done for the health and well being of our children. There should be no difference with our pets. A simple process of transparency, monitoring, and guidelines for engaging in the animal boarding business will go a long way in preventing what we have had to endure.

Yes Nalu was a dog, but she was as much a part of our family as our daughter, she was a human in fur, barked, and wagged her tail. She was a happy healthy dog until she boarded in an un-regulated, poorly operated, negligent boarding facility.

I ask that you, our governing body, do the right thing and pass this bill into law so we can be sure that this doesn't happen to any other family.

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:38:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1162 to protect animals in boarding facilities, which lack oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:56:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Muramaru	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:48:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Burns	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Jeremy Burns, fully support this bill to set a reasonable minimum standard of care expectation for our boarded pets. The public and especially our loved animal companions will benefit from knowing any and all boarding facility must meet certain care standards; this will mitigate potentially difficult and costly individual research and verification efforts, help enforce appropriate ongoing care behavior in these facilities and help prevent subjecting pets to poor care as a litmus test.

AGRtestimony

From: Rosemary Karlsson <rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 11:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: multiple Agriculture Committee bills for 2/8/19 at 8:30 am

This is from Rosemary Karlsson, 16-1885 Uilani Drive, Keaau, HI, 96749. Mailing address is PO Box 492266. Cell is 808-966-6589, no landline. I am a private citizen not representing any organization.

This is regarding the Agriculture Committee hearing on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 8:30 am.

Please support the following:

HB 681
HB 1162
HB 704
HB 716
HB 930
HB 1281
HB 200
HB 24
HB 127

Rosemary Karlsson

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:53:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Pinto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to support these basic items for pet boarding facilities. Our pets deserve these minimum protections.

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:43:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:34:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Ginnebaugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill!

Maria Ginnebaugh

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:31:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi egami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:31:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi egami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:53:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1162

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:53:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments: