

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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. 716
RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 716 that prohibits the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance. The Department opposes this bill as this legislation is not needed and already exists in the Department's administrative rules.

The Department has already established a ban on the importation of dangerous wild animals for short term performance or exhibition in a circus, fair or carnival in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 4-71. The passing of these rules was a thorough and lengthy process that involved years of public testimony and meetings to determine its outcome. As such, we do not feel that passing any legislation is necessary.

Additionally, this bill would also prohibit the importation of wild animals for commercial filming which is currently allowed in the HAR. It has been determined that wild animals imported for commercial filming present a much lower risk to public health and safety than wild animal performance in a circus or carnival, because the wild animals used in commercial filming are heavily restricted, caged at all times except



when performing, they interact only with their handler, and the film set is highly controlled to exclude the public, so the public is not exposed to risk.

Finally, this bill may also be inadvertently excluding municipal zoos from importing dangerous wild animals, a purpose that is currently allowed in the HAR. The proposed definition of "Performance" states "any animals act, carnival, circus, display, exhibition . . . for the entertainment, amusement or benefit of a live audience." As such, the exhibition of a wild animal at a zoo is inherently a benefit to the public who go to the zoo to view these animals. The passing of this measure would create confusion regarding a municipal zoo's ability to legally import these animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 6, 2019

To: Chair Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Vice Chair Rep. Lynn DeCoite
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 716: Relating to Wild Animals
Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, 8:30 a.m., Capitol room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 716, which codifies a ban on the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival or other live animal act or performance.

When the state Board of Agriculture passed rules banning the importation of dangerous wild animals for circuses and fairs on Sept. 25, 2018, critics complained that the issue should have been decided by the state Legislature. The Society fully supports the intent of HB 716 to clarify that the Legislature also believes this ban to be sound public policy.

This change in our laws has been a long time coming. The tragic death of Tyke the elephant and her trainer in 1994 provided an all too vivid example of the danger posed to both animals and human beings when wild animals are kept in captivity solely for entertainment.

When Gov. David Ige signed the administrative rules in December, Hawaii became the second state in the country to ban wild animal acts. Please pass HB 716 to reaffirm the state's commitment to public safety and compassion for animals.

Mahalo for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of assistance.



Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Friday, February 8, 2019; 8:30 AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee,

Sea Life Park Hawaii appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony expressing concerns and requesting amendments to HB 716, which prohibits the importation of dangerous wild animals in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance.

We believe the bill, as written, could negatively impact Sea Life Park Hawaii and therefore, request the following amendments:

Page 4, line 6, delete “display, exhibition” and line 7, delete “presentation, public showing”.

Page 4, line 11, add (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting or intended to affect to interfere with the operation of government-affiliated aquariums or marine mammal facilities that are:

- (1) Licensed under the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and**
- (2) Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums or Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.**

Over the last 50 years, Sea Life Park Hawaii has educated and inspired thousands of people through its immersive and interactive programs and words such as “performance” simply don’t paint a full or accurate picture of what these encounters provide. The park enables visitors to better understand the importance of marine conservation and to see animals up close in a caring environment.

We ask for your consideration of our requested amendments to avoid unintended consequences.

Valerie King, General Manager
Sea Life Park Hawaii

WHERE THE HEART
Meets the Sea





Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. My partner Dr. Jay Sweeney and I founded Dolphin Quest over 30 years ago. As marine mammal veterinarians, our animals have always been our top priority, and we created Dolphin Quest to educate and inspire new generations to care about and help protect ocean wildlife. To date, Dolphin Quest has hosted over 105,000 school age children in experiential learning programs aligned with HI State and Ocean Literacy Standards, and revenue from our programs has generated over \$4,600,000 in support for vital marine mammal conservation and scientific study. Dolphin Quest is licensed and regulated by USDA, accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, and Humane Certified by American Humane, America's first humane organization.

HB 716 seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii. These rules took years to refine and provides the Department of Agriculture all the tools it needs to effectively address both animal welfare and public safety concerns. HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, Dolphin Quest is concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include cetaceans, which would penalize responsible and accredited aquaria, zoological institutions and marine life parks in Hawaii. It could also obstruct the movement of animals, in and out of Hawaii for reproduction and legitimate public display in highly regarded facilities accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, three of which are in the state of Hawaii, including two Dolphin Quest locations. As the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 is sufficient to address circuses and carnivals, HB 716 is entirely unnecessary and may have substantial negative consequences.

We appreciate your consideration of our position opposing HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 is deferred. However, if the committee chooses to pass the bill, Dolphin Quest requests that the bill be amended to clarify that the importation ban provide an exemption for facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquiriums or the Alliance of Marine Parks and Aquariums as these facilities are held to the highest standards of animal care and safety. Below is a proposed HD1 version of HB 716 for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in December 2018, Governor David Ige approved an administrative rule that prohibits the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii. That same month, New Jersey became the first state to pass a law that bans the use of wild animals in circuses. These historic measures recognize both the animal welfare concerns and public safety concerns of circuses that force endangered and threatened animals such as elephants, tigers, lions, and bears to perform.

The New Jersey law is known as "Nosey's Law," and was named after an abused African elephant with crippling arthritis that was forced to travel around the country to perform in circuses. Illinois and New York had already banned the use of elephants in traveling or entertainment acts, but Nosey's Law bans the use of all wild and exotic animals in circus acts.

The legislature also finds that the people of Hawaii will never forget the tragedy that occurred in 1994 when Tyke the elephant fatally crushed her trainer during a live performance at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center Arena. Tyke then rampaged through the streets of

Honolulu for nearly thirty minutes until police officers were finally able to stop her by shooting her eighty-seven times.

The legislature further finds that wild animals used in traveling shows are subjected to prolonged periods of extreme confinement in dark and poorly ventilated enclosures. These animals are routinely deprived of adequate exercise and veterinary care. This practice is especially inhumane for wild animals that are transported thousands of miles across the ocean to Hawaii.

The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance.

SECTION 2. Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§150A- Dangerous wild animal exhibition;

prohibited. (a) No person shall import to Hawaii a dangerous wild animal for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$25,000. Each animal imported in violation of this section constitutes a separate violation.

(c) As used in this section:

"Dangerous wild animal" means a non-domestic animal that has been determined to be capable of causing significant risk to animal or public health and safety in the absence of adequate containment measures and safeguards. The following animals shall be considered dangerous wild animals: lion (panthera leo), tiger (panthera tigris), cheetah (acinonyx jubatus), jaguar (panthera onca), cougar (felis

concolor), leopard (panthera pardus), clouded leopard (panthera nebulosa), caracal (felis caracal and lynx caracal), ocelot (felis pardalis), margay (felis wiedii), serval (felis serval), bear (all species in the ursidae family), wolf (canis lupus and canis rufus), hyena (crocuta crocuta), aardwolf (proteles cristatus), elephant (all species in the elephantidae family), rhinoceros (all species in the rhinocerotidae family), hippopotamus (all species in the hippopotamidae family), non-human primate (all species in the primates order), crocodile (all species in the crocodylus genus), alligator (alligator mississippiensis), caiman (caiman crocodilus), and gharial or gavial (gavialis gangeticus).

"Performance" means any animal act, carnival, circus, exposition, fair, parade, petting zoo, race, ride, trade show, or similar undertaking in which animals perform tricks, give rides, or participate as accompaniments for the entertainment, amusement, or benefit of a live audience."

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting or intended to affect to interfere with the operation of:

- (1) government-affiliated zoos or aquariums; or
- (2) zoos or marine mammal facilities that are
 - (i) Licensed under USDA and
 - (ii) Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums or Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Report Title:

Dangerous Wild Animals; Circuses; Importation; Prohibitions

Description:

Prohibits the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent, with the exceptions noted in Section 2.(d) above.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:05:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marisa Goin	Dolphin Quest	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:15:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L. Haffner	Dolphin Quest	Oppose	No

Comments:

Accredited zoos aquariums and marine life parks like Dolphin Quest take great care of their animals, have strong safety protocols, and contribute to critical education and conservation efforts in Hawaii. Accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest have made critically important contributions to education, science, and conservation in Hawaii. The bill, as is, may interfere with the ability to continue to do such work.

The bill confuses the intent of the new rules that focus on circuses and carnivals to protect the safety of the animals and public by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present, or hold public showings of animals.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:31:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juliana Johnson	Dolphin Quest Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited zoological settings. As an animal lover and member of the professional zoological community I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals. This can necessitate moving animals to new environments including transport

in and out of the state of Hawaii in order to meet their individual needs. While I support restrictions aimed at ensuring the health of Hawaii residents, native species, and animals in human care, these laws should not inadvertently harm one group while attempting to uphold care for another. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Juliana Johnson

RE: HB 716 - Relating to Wild Animals

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee:

I stand in opposition of HB 716 which could negatively impact special places in our community.

Under the disguise of Tyke the Elephant's situation of "banning wild animal imports in order to protect people and animals", this measure goes on to ban animals in performance. This no longer is about protecting people from wild animals but the state making a decision on animals being exhibited for the benefit of a live audience.

I feel there are many holes in this bill. This bill says nothing about exemptions to import such as for research, medical, or scientific purposes as determined by the board; for exhibition in federally regulated or permitted facilities, government zoos or government-affiliated aquariums; or for commercial filming. Again, it is more centralized on animals performing in general. It is very general, leaves many holes and needs clarification. This leads the way to someone makes assumptions that all animals are dangerous. Who will determine if an animal is dangerous? How will this be classified? Are there any exemptions? The bill states animals "exhibited" "for the" "benefit of a live audience"-why is the government making a call about what people can enjoy or not enjoy and taking a stance on animals "being exhibited" at federally regulated facilities? These items need additional clarification.

Restricting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ability to issue permits to transfer animals to federally regulated institutions will only serve to limit the access the public has to see these animals in a dynamic learning environment. How about animals that are in need of rehabilitation or relocation through conservation programs such as the California Sea Lion crisis in the state of Oregon, which are listed as a federally endangered species?

The Oregon state Department of Fish and Wildlife are federally permitted to kill California sea lions to protect the trout fish population but before a sea lion is killed, the state must find out if there is a zoo or aquarium that wants the animal. If so, Oregon wildlife managers must hold the sea lion for 48 hours before killing it. Why potentially discontinue our states ability to assist with the exhibition of these animals to benefit a live audience through learning demonstrations at federally permitted institutions and facilities?

For all these reasons and more, I ask you to carefully weigh the unintended consequences of this bill. The good works of federally regulated and permitted places should not be punished because of ulterior agendas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Leos', with a long, sweeping underline.

Christina Leos

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:24:57 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:

LATE

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:51:58 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:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 11:51:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	West Hawaii Humane Society	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

RE: Strong Support for HB716; Relating to wild animals

This bill codifies a Board of Agriculture Administrative Rule that was recently signed by Governor Ige to prohibit the import of dangerous wild animals into Hawaii for circuses or other potentially dangerous entertainment acts.

The bill is limited to those animals who are more likely to cause harm to human health and public safety, such as lions, tigers, bears and elephants. The bill does not prohibit the continued import of many other wild animals and any domesticated animals.

This is a common sense measure to protect wild animals from the stress and poor conditions associated with long distance travel across both land and sea, and ultimately, to protect public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Inga Gibson

On behalf of West Hawaii Humane Society

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:25:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lilinoi Grace	Aloha MAP - Meritorious Achievement Program	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals.

I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, mother, and animal advocate. I am the Project Director for the Aloha MAP - Meritorious Achievement Program which helps thousands of Big Island students participate in experiential learning opportunities like those at Dolphin Quest. I fear that this bill, as written, could have negative, unintended consequences.

I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii. HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings.

As an animal lover and advocate I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I have seen the many benefits from the school programs held at Dolphin Quest and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. As a mother, I want to protect accredited, zoological facilities so that we can inspire the next generation and continue to enhance our understanding of animals. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Lilinoi K. Grace

Aloha MAP

Project Director

www.alohaproductions.org

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:00:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Myers	Windward Dog Park Hui	Support	No

Comments:

One only needs to look back on the horrifying situation years ago when Tyke, a terrified circus elephant, was driven to such an extreme that he killed his trainer and was shot dead by police in Honolulu. No wild animal or creature of any kind needs to endure a massively uncomfortable, frightening condition in which it is taken away from its natural habitat and, in many cases, its pack, and forced to travel great distances in fear and mistreatment. All this just to entertain clueless humans with no empathy whatsoever for our fellow living beings.

There are many alternative forms of entertainment available that don't cause pain and misery.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:51:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. HOWEVER, WE SPECIFICALLY REQUEST AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE BAN ON:

- 1. MANO (Sharks);**
- 2. Nai`a (Dolphins/Porpoises);**
- 3. KoholÄ• (humpbacked), palaoa (sperm whale);**
- 4. HÄ«hÄ«manu (Sting Ray)**

These sea life creatures have Cultural significance (Aumakua) to native Hawaiians, and must no longer be “harvested” for the express purpose of entertainment or captive display.

decoite3 - Richard

From: Jennifer Chiwa <jennifer.chiwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:08 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 716 for House Committee on Agriculture 2-8-19 8:30 am Hearing

Aloha, Members of the House Committee on Agriculture. My name is Jennifer Chiwa. I grew up in Aiea and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support House Bill 716 which would prohibit importation of dangerous wild animals for use in circuses, carnivals, and wild animal acts and performances. This rule change has already been made by the state Department of Agriculture. It's my understanding that passing House Bill 716 codifies this rule change, making it stronger and therefore, more beneficial for public safety and animal welfare.

Mahalo.

HB-716

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:46:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:31:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:40:22 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 hate animal abuse..i support this bill

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:01:20 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-716

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:37:16 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:

No more wild animals for entertainment in HI. Mahalo

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:09:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suhana Liedtke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB716**Relating to Wild Animals**

Hello, my name is Suhana Liedtke and I am a student currently attending Le Jardin Academy in Kailua, Oahu. I support HB716 and want this bill to pass and become official law. I'm representing myself in the support of this bill.

I support this bill because bringing wild animal's into Hawaii could endanger the people living here as well as animals. Bringing wild animals into Hawaii and forcing them to perform is just flat out wrong, and there was already an instance that proved it so. At the Neil S Blaisdell center in 1994, the elephant Tyke crushed her trainer during a live performance and went running through the city causing havoc for nearly 30 minutes before the police killed the elephant with 87 gunshots. Citizens in town were scared for their lives with this elephant rampaging through the city during rush hour. This cannot happen again and preventing wild animal's to come and perform in the circus would benefit.

Another reason why this bill should become law is how inhumane animal's in the circus are treated. These animals would be shipping from the mainland to Hawaii which is over 1000 miles away, and the animals are in dark and confined spaces with little ventilation. As well as the animal's exercise is taken away from them. This is abuse and cruel to force an animal to travel like this and force them to perform. For example, in New Jersey, they have already banned the use of the wild animal's in the circus and this is more known as Noseys Law named after an abused elephant with arthritis that was forced to travel and perform even with the elephant's bad condition.

For just those reason above I support this bill be passed as a law in order to ensure the protection of the people in Hawaii and the proper, humane treatment of these wild animal's.

Sincerely,

Suhana Liedtke

High School Student

Le Jardin Academy

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:36:19 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-716

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:47:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer schneider	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please support HB 716.

Wild animals do not belong in circuses or carnivals or in any performance. They are trained with whips & other forms of abusive behaviour in order to perform. This is NOT entertainment but CRUELTY.

It is our kuleana to practice compassion for these innocent creatures.

mahalo

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:11:00 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-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:42:43 AM

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

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill. I saw Tyke the circus elephant gunned down in the streets of Honolulu back in 1994. It caused much trauma to the school children that I have been teaching in Hawaii for the past 29 years. Wild animals should not be brought to Hawaii and used for entertainment or exhibition in a circus, carnival or other live animal act or performance. It threatens the safety of the public who watch the animals and it is cruel treatment of the wild animals who are forced to perform unnatural acts.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:45:22 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:

Please support HB716. Wild animals do not belong in exhibits, circuses, carnivals or other performance type situations. It's cruel and inhumane and we, as human beings in Hawaii, are better than that.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:02:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, I'm Jennifer Ho, animal owner and advocate. I support bill HB716 prohibiting the imporation of dangerous animals for exhibition. This practice of enclosing wild animals, and using them for entertainment purposes has proven to cause the animals anxiety-- and making them possibly threatening to others. Do not forget what happened with Tyke. San Diego zoo is changing their approach with whales. This is an unsafe practice and mistreats animals, even in the best of circumstances.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:45:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:58:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edith Guerrero	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

RE: HB 716 - Relating to Wild Animals

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee:

As a resident of Waimanalo for over 45 years, **I oppose HB 716.**

I feel this bill has holes that could negatively impact places in our community such as Sea Life Park. I have personally seen the positive impact Sea Life Park has had on our community for so many years, and believe this bill could be used to unfairly target and restrict the park and other family-friendly attractions.

Parents, teachers and researchers understand that entertainment and education often need to go hand-in-hand to engage keiki. Children want to learn more about animals and protecting our oceans when they are introduced to them through special places like the park. The bill's proposed limitations could deprive future generations from participating in these unique experiences.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Edith Guerrero

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:15:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 716 to prohibit the importation of wild and exotic animals for live acts in the state of Hawaii. There is no reason to put any animal through a life time of torture that is required to be used for circus or other entertainment acts or to support such an inhumane industry. People can find much better use of their time than watching animals being abused in circus, carnival or other live entertainment acts.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:00:04 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 Rep. Creagan and Members:

Please VOTE NO on HB 716.

I look to what will happen to our ZOO, to Sea Life Park, future venues which may be safe and humane but not available because of current political correctness about this issue.

I URGE caution and thoughtfulness..

Meantime, VOTE NO on HB 716

Mahalo,Susan Govier

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:29:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tori	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

RE: HB 716 - Relating to Wild Animals

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee:

I am born and raised in Kailua and **I stand in opposition of HB 716 which could negatively impact special places in our community** such as Sea Life Park.

Restricting the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s ability to issue permits to transfer animals to institutions like Sea Life Park will only serve to limit the access the public has to see these animals in a dynamic learning environment. All the animals at the park participate in stimulating activities with their human caretakers, who have their best interest at heart and would do nothing to compromise their well-being.

Sea Life Park provides a unique opportunity that offers knowledge and research for students, interns, educators and the scientific community to better comprehend how we can protect our marine environment. Sea Life Park is safe place for animals in need of rehabilitation, relocation and conservation programs. It charms visitors from around the world who contribute to our local economy. The Park has further provided decades of employment opportunities in the heart of the Waimanalo community, and enhanced educational opportunities for our keiki.

For all these reasons and more, I ask you to carefully weigh the unintended consequences of this bill. The good works of places like Sea Life Park should not be punished because of ulterior agendas.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:17:21 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-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:16:47 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelby Dailey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose HB 716. I believe that this bill is unnecessary and could create future ramifications for responsible facilities due to its broad language.

The Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 4-71 has recently finalized the necessary tools and protocols which address animal and human safety concerns related to transportation and has already banned the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in Hawaii.

Also, the way that this bill is written could create an unintended consequence in the future for accredited zoological facilities such as Dolphin Quest. While this bill speaks to specific animals, it could be expanded to include the prohibition of transporting animals to facilities who take great care of their animals and who have strong safety measures. Dolphin Quest and other marine facilities in Hawaii contribute significant amounts of funding for conservation efforts and provide educational opportunities for Hawaii school children to learn and care about their marine environment.

Thank you.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:05:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulia Ferguson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB 716. HB 716 is unnecessary since the recently approved administrative changes to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii. The bill confuses the intent of the new rules that focus on circuses and carnivals to protect the safety of the animals and public by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present, or hold public showings of animals. Accredited zoos aquariums and marine life parks like Dolphin Quest take great care of their animals, have strong safety protocols, and contribute to critical education and conservation efforts in Hawaii. Although the bill is currently tailored for specific species, there is concern the list may be expanded to include cetaceans. This would penalize responsible and accredited aquaria, zoological institutions and interactive parks in Hawaii. Accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest have made critically important contributions to education, science, and conservation in Hawaii. The bill, as is, may interfere with the ability to continue to do such work.

Thank you,

Tulia Ferguson

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:27:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please accept my respectful opposition to HB 716. I believe this bill is unnecessary. The recently passed changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-71 took years to finalize and give the Department of Agriculture all the necessary tools to address and manage any welfare and safety concerns for the animals and people related to animal transports. HB 716 is not as comprehensive and creates room for expanding the ban to include cetaceans and other marine animals.

The broad reaching language in HB 716 can have unintended consequences and negatively impact the important work done by accredited zoological facilities including Dolphin Quest which has two locations in the state of Hawaii. I've seen, first-hand the outstanding animal care and work done by Dolphin Quest, which is accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums and Humane Certified by American Humane. This organization and other accredited organizations contribute to critical marine mammal conservation, education and scientific study in Hawaii. Having the ability to responsibly move animal species safely for the purpose of animal health, publication education, conservation, and scientific study is critically important for accredited zoological institutions.

I urge you to please oppose HB 716.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:20:05 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:

Wild animals belong in the wild, not on display or used for entertainment. I fully support this bill and urge the committee to pass it.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:17:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Haffner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in Hawaii and I oppose HB716 on the grounds that it is unnecessary. The state's own department of Agriculture does not support this bill. This bill confuses the rules that focus on traveling circuses by expanding the prohibition to accredited display facilities. Doing so fails to recognize the quality of privately owned accredited institutions or organizations. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:49:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shusuke Aihara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:31:32 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylie Charice Alarcon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to support this bill and let us stop the introduction of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:09:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian Plowman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB 716 RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS.

AGR 312 Feb 8, 2019 8:30 AM

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

H.B. NO.716 OPPOSITION – Please do not approve this Bill for an Act!

Submitted By: Vivian Strolis Plowman on 2/6/219 via electronic submission

“THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance.”

There should be fear felt by the language of HB716 for the future of our children, grandchildren, and mother Earth. Not because the bill proports itself as looking to protect from the import of “wild animals” but because the proposed language opens this potential act to any “live animal act or performance” and threatens to harm the economy and our children’s education. So many underprivileged children do not have the opportunities to go to destinations to connect with the earth and the occupants of the earth (both human and animal) unless it is in a local zoo or aquarium or from the donations from the institutions that love and care for animals in zoos and aquariums.

Connection to our earth is vitally important to the conservation of it. If all importation of animals becomes defined to include animals in zoos and aquarium (even those that are certified as facilities that preserve life in the utmost quality ways), our future sustainability could be lost. It has been widely studied and publicized by renown Universities and other institutions that personal-point live interaction draws a much deeper connection than virtual introductions. Think of extinct animals, you see them in books, but do you have a connection to them, do they draw you to protect the earth? No! According to those studies, when you can meet and interact with animals you are much more likely to help protect them and their habitats in the future.

Additionally, there is no purpose for HB716. The recently passed changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-71 took years to finalize and gives the Department of Agriculture all the necessary tools to address and manage any welfare and safety

concerns for the animals and people related to animal transports. HB 716 is not as comprehensive and creates room for contradictions to existing rules, is misleading, and potentially dangerous if it then is used for expanding the ban to include other animals.

I am the financial Controller for Dolphin Quest & Quest Global Management and have an association with The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums (AMMPA). I have seen first-hand the amazement, awe, and inspired wonder on the faces of guests that come to Dolphin Quest and other Parks, Zoos, and Aquariums; and I have witnessed the personal behavior changes that occur when education on environmental concerns and the need for a "call to action" to protect wildlife happens during an interaction with animals and is sustained. The animals in facilities certified by American Humane (AH), AMMPA, and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) are well loved and well cared for; and these facilities should not be put at risk because of a reckless bill such as HB 716. This proposed Bill goes to the point of banning "canis lupus and canis rufus" does this also include the subspecies canis lupus familiaris (or our dogs)? You must stop this bill, if not, there will be much time and effort needed to clarify, follow, or simply duplicate what is already approved. We need to oppose HB716 to make sure we do not all fall down a slippery slope that could ultimately harm the environment.

The definition of "Performance" in HB 716 is simply unacceptable! As written, *"Performance" means any animal act, carnival, circus, display, exhibition, exposition, fair, parade, petting zoo, presentation, public showing, race, ride, trade show, or similar undertaking in which animals perform tricks, give rides, or participate as accompaniments for the entertainment, amusement, or benefit of a live audience.*" In this definition, if we have fun when we are being educated, it could qualify as "entertainment" and therefore inappropriate and would ban the potential import of any animal utilized in educational activities. Does this also mean that a stranded animal that has been saved from the threats imposed by human kind, like pollution/toxins and motor boats could also be banned from being well loved and cared for within a certified institution because it falls within the proposed definitions of this Bill?

To sum up my opposition to BH716 and my plea to each who read this disapproval, I hope you take in to consideration:

- 1.) There is already approved Hawaiian regulation that provides clear and concise rules and regulations regarding this matter.
- 2.) Accredited zoos aquariums and marine life parks like Dolphin Quest take great care of their animals, have strong safety protocols, and contribute to critical education and conservation efforts in Hawaii.
- 3.) Although the bill is currently tailored for specific species, there is concern the list may be expanded to include cetaceans and other animals. This would penalize responsible and accredited aquaria, zoological institutions and interactive parks in Hawaii.

4.) Accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest have made critically important contributions to education, science, and conservation in Hawaii. The bill, as is, may interfere with the ability to continue to do such good work.

5.) Although I am not a resident of Hawaii, I am a visitor who supports the local hotels, restaurants, and local accredited zoos, aquariums, and/or marine life parks and I am not alone thinking that this ban could hurt the economy by reducing visitors and could eliminate funding for local educational and environmental support.

Thank you

Vivian Strolis Plowman

21717 Rolling Woods Place

Sterling, VA 20164

RNVFLOWMAN@AOL.COM

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:01:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexa Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 716. The language of this bill penalizes accredited zoos and aquariums that have the highest standards of care and the animals' welfare in-mind. Facilities that participate in educational presentations and vital research are needed to continue to teach people about these animals and ways to save their wild counterparts. Now more than ever we need to protect these species that are losing their homes to habitat destruction created by humans. Limiting or restricting certain animals to be allowed to come to the state would be detrimental to the successful breeding programs that are in place at accredited facilities. It would also impact the animals that are currently living in Hawaii to not be allowed to switch social groups when it would be in the animal's best interest. I am concerned that cetaceans will be added to this list and that would greatly impact facilities here in the islands.

Please oppose this bill. Thank You!

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:01:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NICOLE RODRIGUES	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate!

As an animal lover and animal advocate, I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love taking my family to the zoo, and aquariums. I understand and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:02:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caitlin Carrington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Esteemed Legislators,

My name is Caitlin Carrington. I am a registered voter in Hawaii, a Dolphin Quest Oahu employee, and a supporter of accredited zoos, aquariums and marine life parks. I have been working with and providing care for marine mammals at various facilities for 9 years. Because of my experience, I strongly oppose HB 716.

Accredited zoos, aquariums and marine life parks hold the care of their animals to the highest standard, have strong safety protocols for both the animals and humans, and are on the front lines of research and education efforts for conservation. Through working at Dolphin Quest, I take part in cutting edge veterinary care for the dolphins and work with many local children to educate and inspire them to care for marine animals and the ocean.

This bill holds multiple problems:

1. It is redundant. Administrative changes to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules already bans the import of dangerous or wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.
2. The intent of the rule that focus on circuses and carnivals to protect animal and public safety are confused by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals.
3. Though the bill states specific species, I am concerned the list may be expanded to include cetaceans, thereby penalizing responsible and accredited aquariums, zoos and interactive parks in Hawaii.
4. Dolphin Quest and other accredited facilities have made critically important contributions to education, science and conservation in Hawaii. HB 716 could impede this good work.

I urge you to stand up for scientific research, the education of our keiki, and the health of our oceans by opposing HB 716.

Thank you,

Caitlin Carrington

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:24:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Benedict	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in Hawaii and I oppose HB716 on the following grounds:

1. This bill is unnecessary. It is stated in the bill itself that Governor Ige already addressed the issue with an administrative rule in December 2018. There is no evidence that the administrative rule designation has been insufficient to regulate import of dangerous wild animals for circuses or carnivals.
2. The bill confuses the intent of the administrative rule, which focuses on circuses and carnivals with an intent to protect the safety of the public and the animals, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showing of animals. The Honolulu Zoo, which maintains a variety of "dangerous wild animals" has not been responsible for endangering the public, nor are their animals cared for improperly. This is a subversive attempt to slowly eliminate this education component of the zoo, and other organizations, and prevent Hawaii children and families from making a connection to these animals. Scientific studies have shown that encounters with animals in accredited facilities create an emotional connection which increases conservation mindedness. (Myers et al 2004; Bruni et al 2008; Skibbins et al 2013)

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Benedict, Palolo, Oahu

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:46:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Vojtko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm a registered voter in the state of Hawaii and

I strongly oppose the bill HB 716

I believe education, research and conservation is highly important here in hawaii and place like accredited zoo's aquariums and dolphin quest uphold these values.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:27:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerrit B Osborne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

At last count, at east 19 other countries, some of them still in the "third world," had made illegal the importing of wild animals for live performances. We should do so also, not just for our own safety, but **primarily** for the health and well being of the animals themselves: being confined on a ship across the Pacific Ocean with little exercise, water and nutrition has long-term harmful effects on animals and should not be allowed, *especially* when this confinement is solely for our entertainment.

"Tyke" not only killed his trainer and terrorized the neighborhood, he was killed for doing so. It is up to us to prevent this!

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:02:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laverne Salas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. As an animal lover and animal advocate, and I am also an employee at Dolphin Quest. I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love working for Dolphin Quest and taking my children to the zoo, and aquariums. I understand and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:54:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Rocho-Levine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to share my concerns with HB716. I feel like HB716 is unnecessary as Hawaii Administrative Rules bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

Although this bill is currently tailored for specific species, there is concern that the list may be expanded on. This would penalize responsible and accredited aquaria and zoological institutions in Hawaii and interfere with the amazing work they do. I believe the primary experience of connecting to nature and inspiration to care for our natural world is more important than ever and we must support the accredited institutions that facilitate this.

Thank you for reading,

Julie

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:03:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Wolden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB716.

1.

- 1. HB 716 is unnecessary – the recently approved administrative changes to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.*
- 2. The bill confuses the intent of the new rules that focus on circuses and carnivals to protect the safety of the animals and public by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present, or hold public showings of animals.*
- 3. Accredited zoos aquariums and marine life parks like Dolphin Quest take great care of their animals, have strong safety protocols, and contribute to critical education and conservation efforts in Hawaii.*
- 4. Although the bill is currently tailored for specific species, there is concern the list may be expanded to include cetaceans. This would penalize responsible and accredited aquaria, zoological institutions and interactive parks in Hawaii.*
- 5. Accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest have made critically important contributions to education, science, and conservation in Hawaii. The bill, as is, may interfere with the ability to continue to do such work.*

Thank you.

William Wolden

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:43:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Breanne Cory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover and animal advocate I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I know this personally because I am a marine mammal specialist employed at Dolphin Quest Hawaii. Every day I see the impact of these animals on not only my life but on other's lives as well and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Breanne Cory

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:49:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Mercer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover and animal advocate I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love going to all zoos,

aquariums, and interactive facilities and working for Dolphin Quest and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Samantha Mercer

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:51:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DAVEEN BONDALLIAN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate!

As an animal lover and animal advocate, I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love taking my family to the zoo, and aquariums. I understand and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies.

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:55:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cameron Dabney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, mother, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings.

As an animal lover and advocate I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love going to zoos and aquariums and am the Education Manager at Dolphin Quest, I know how important our facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. As a mother, I too want to protect accredited, zoological facilities so that we can inspire the next generation and continue to enhance our understanding of animals. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Cameron Dabney

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:17:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:46:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Chamberlain	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am an active community member here in Hawaii and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover, advocate, and employee of Dolphin Quest, I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love going to places like

Dolphin Quest to learn about animals and working with this incredible species and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Rachel Chamberlain

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 4:21:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Cummings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: Opposition to HB-716 - Relating to Wild Animals

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 - Relating to Wild Animals. I am Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover, animal advocate, and employee at Dolphin Quest I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. My passion and love for animals began as a little girl going to the zoos and aquariums. I have two daughters who we have taken to several zoos and aquariums all over the United States since they were very young. Because of the connections that they have made with these different animals in the zoos and aquariums, they too have a love and passion for animals. I know how important these facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-7 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Cummings

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:09:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Kuhn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover, animal advocate and Dolphin Quest crew member I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move

forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Erin Kuhn

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:26:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:19:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Richardson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, and a animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover and animal advocate and a marine mammal specialist who works for Dolphin Quest Oahu. I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love going to the zoo every since I was a child and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Kelsey Poppen

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:31:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Poppen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Alex Poppen and I am a resident and registered voter in the state of Hawaii. I am in strong opposition to bill HB 716 for the simple and obvious reason that it limits the ability of organizations to care for and protect their animals. If an animal required transportation off island, it would not be allowed to return. If an animal from the mainland was being relocated to provide a better home and habitat it would not be able to. If an animal was sick or ill and it was in their best interest to be treated in Hawaii (or vice versa) this law would prohibit this action and would put animals in harms way.

For the clear and straightforward reason that this bil would impede organizations in their ability to provide the highest quality care possible, I strongly oppose HB 716.

Thank you for your time,

Alex Poppen

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:25:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We don't need to put these animals through such trauma. We can see them on the internet and in books.

February 6, 2019

To the Honorable Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Opposition to H.R. NO. 716 (02-08-19 at 8:30AM in conference room 312 (State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Oahu, Hawaii))

In our roles as active scientists in the fields of dolphin behavior, physiology and social cognition we offer first-hand and background scientific testimony in opposition to HR 716. Our concerns stem from the vaguely written nature of this legislation that could be used to hamper legitimate scientific inquiry that has, in the past, helped improve the lives of wild dolphins, and will likely further benefit animals both under human care as well as those on their own. We have both conducted research in Hawaii with animals at Dolphin Quest. Dr. Bruck has published research related to the profound nature of dolphin memory with animals under the care of this organization (Bruck, 2013). Dr. Fahlman has been able to develop a diagnostic tool for respiratory disease in cetaceans, allowing for rapid health assessments in dolphin mass stranding events, assessments of the impact of environmental change on dolphin survival and tools to mitigate the effect of whale entanglement (Cature et al., 2019; A. Fahlman et al., 2019; A. Fahlman et al., 2018; Andreas Fahlman et al., 2015; A. Fahlman, Moore, & Garcia-Parraga, 2017; A. Fahlman et al., 2016; J. Van der Hoop et al., 2018; J. M. van der Hoop et al., 2014). Current work at Dolphin Quest facilities involves continued study of lung function in dolphins as well as the development of drone-based stress hormone collection techniques for assessing the health and well-being of vulnerable wild dolphins. Furthermore, Dolphin Quest Hawaii and Dolphin Quest Oahu have both participated in studies that have facilitated the identification of chemoreceptive capacities in dolphins. This has conservation implications as chemical runoff and certain wastes may be having more of an impact of dolphin health than previously known. Finally, Dolphin Quest is also participating in a study evaluating the attentional cognitive effects of human-made noise on marine mammals to help us assess how the public should interact safely with wild animals as to not impair or distract them from their day-to-day survival tasks. All these studies would be impossible without the support of facilities in Hawaii like Dolphin Quest who have taken on the roles of formal research centers, as federal funding for designated marine mammal scientific institutes are no longer available.

The bill, as written, could very easily be either amended or interpreted to include cetaceans. In the case of bottlenose dolphins, the provisions of this bill could lead to disastrous consequences for the animals under human care, as well as the research done with them. Dolphins must move from facility to facility to simulate their natural population dynamics because they exhibit a fission-fusion social structure where individuals will break-up and reform social pairings based on age and social status (Connor, Wells, Mann, & Read, 2000). Yet this bill (or a slightly amended version of it) could expressly prevent Hawaiian institutions like Dolphin Quest from moving animals between facilities, which will hinder the expression of natural social dynamics in dolphins. This will lead to an **increase** in undesired behavior. This will cause unnatural social pairings between dominant males in groups and will likely lead to an **increase** in stress and aggression especially for mixed-age male groups with juveniles present (Stanton & Mann, 2012), which would make our studies in stress physiology impossible, which will negatively affect wild animals. Males at the age of three and older often do move off on their own into bachelor pods and it is important that a wild animal transport ban not prevent this (Connor et al., 2000).

The focused purpose of the legislation as a public safety bill versus an animal welfare bill is unclear. However, we have personally observed the animals at Dolphin Quest Hawaii and Dolphin Quest Oahu and found the animals to be in good physical and mental health. The dolphins are not listless or subdued and they engage in species typical behavior including affiliative swimming, play, acoustic communication and exploration, general curiosity with novel stimuli and appropriate parental care. Social groups are well managed, and Dr. Bruck can report anecdotally that aggression in Dolphin Quest animals seems far less than for the wild populations he has surveyed in Scotland and Costa Rica. Dr. Bruck has seen no signs of injury or deformity and, compared to wild dolphins, Dolphin Quest animals are pristine in body appearance and condition. They have access to natural seawater and, for all intents and purposes, are currently housed in conditions that are no different than proposed seaside sanctuaries championed by opponents of cetacean captivity. In health measures dolphins under human care do quite well relative to their wild counterparts. Scientists have estimated the average lifespan for wild bottlenose dolphins to be around 20-25 years by using the .961 survival rate to back-calculate longevity (Wells & Scott, 1990). The AP recently conducted a survey at a non-Hawaiian facility and found that average lifespans among animals under human care were closer to 45 years (Schneider, 2014). The two Dolphin Quest facilities alone house eight individuals who are at, or beyond average life expectancy for wild bottlenose dolphins. Furthermore, animals under human care have less taxed immune systems, as they do not need to fight off the myriad of diseases and bio-toxic compounds wild animals do (Fair et al., 2017). As far as the potential safety concerns, again, we cannot find any reason to support the application of this vaguely worded legislation to cetaceans

in Hawaii, as the animals are well managed under very safe conditions both for the animals and the public.

This bill has the rare potential to cause the very problems it is meant to address. Instead of increasing the quality of these animals' lives it could decrease it, as H.R. 716 will likely lead to shorter lifespans as well as increased stress and aggression if it is applied to cetaceans. These animals communicate normally (King & Janik, 2013; King, Sayigh, Wells, Fellner, & Janik, 2013), socialize normally (Bruck, 2013; Samuels & Gifford, 1997) and these particular dolphins teach us a great deal about their wild counterparts (Bruck & Janik, 2019a, 2019b; Samuels & Tyack, 2000). There is no scientific, ethical or moral reason to pursue this legislation and we urge this body to vote no on H.R. 716.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason N. Bruck
Teaching Assistant Professor
Curatorial Associate: Collection of Vertebrates
Oklahoma State University
Department of Integrative Biology
Office: 501 Life Sciences West,
Stillwater OK, 74074. Room 514D

* OSU, as a state agency, does not endorse this testimony.
The views expressed here represent the professional opinions
of the signatories of this letter only.

Dr. Andreas Fahlman
Senior Researcher
Fundación Oceanogràfic de Comunitat
Valenciana,
Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias,
46013 Valencia, Spain

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HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:32:06 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 HB716 against importing wild animals in circuses.

Circuses use cruel, brutal and inhumane tactics to make wild animals animals perform unnatural tricks, which is why even countries like India have banned them. If you heard about what they do to elephants with bullhooks, for example, you would probably agree that it's the saddest show on Earth.

Remember Tyke.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:57:36 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-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:36:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Prutow McKenna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover and animal advocate I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit,

including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love going to Dolphin Quest and I know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Lauren Prutow McKenna

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:51:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antonella Scolpini	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this Bill!

Thanks Antonella Scolpini-Heisel

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:43:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Weil	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair

Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an animal lover and animal advocate, I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I personally love going to the Hilo zoo and Dolphin Quest Hawaii and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. I find the administrative rule

set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Natalie

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:59:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Snook	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 as it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. As an advocate for animal welfare, I believe that accredited institutions should absolutely possess the ability to care for animals such as those mentioned in the proposed legislation. Not only do these institutions provide the highest quality of care for these animals, they serve to educate the public on the importance of ocean and wild conservation work. As an animal care professional, I have worked and visited several accredited zoos and aquariums – such as Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park - and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies, especially for the next generation of this island. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary, especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Erica Snook

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:19:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Shearer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom It May Concern:

I would like to voice my **opposition** to HB 716 because I feel that it is unnecessary as well as potentially harmful to the operation of accredited zoos, aquariums and marine life parks.

1. This bill is unnecessary because the administrative changes to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules already ban the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii. These changes, which were well thought out and discussed over years give the Department of Agriculture the necessary tools to manage welfare and safety concerns for both animals and people in relation to animal transport. HB 716 however, is not as comprehensive and therefore unnecessary.
2. HB 716 could be harmful to the operation of accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine life parks which provide direct benefits to Hawaii in terms of conservation, education, and tourism. This bill expands the prohibition of animals to include other facilities that display animals, beyond circuses and carnivals. However, zoos, aquariums and marine life parks which are accredited make critically important contributions to education, science, and conservation. These facilities already hold extremely high welfare and safety standards. This bill would not improve the welfare of animals or the safety of humans, but instead provides the potential for zoos and aquariums to be limited in their ability to continue their conservation, research, and educational contributions.

Therefore, as the beneficial aspects of HB 716 are already provided for under rule changes to Chapter 4-71, rendering this bill unnecessary, and as the loopholes in this bill provide opportunities to limit the ability of accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine life parks to carry out their research, conservation, and educational work, I ask you to vote **against** HB 716.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Shearer

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:26:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austin Allen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to oppose HB 716 because 1) it seems that the recently approved changes to Chapter 4-71 Hawaii Administrative Rules already adequately address this issue, and 2) as a scientist, I am concerned that certain groups that want to shut down all zoos and aquariums, may use this bill to expand its coverage to cetaceans (dolphins and whales). As a PhD student in Marine Science at Duke University, I conduct research at Dolphin Quest Oahu. The physiological data that can only be collected at zoological facilities like Dolphin Quest, allow us to better quantify the impacts of human disturbance on wild cetaceans, and ultimately determine the extent that these threats are affecting their populations.

I have conducted three research expeditions to Dolphin Quest, each time with an international team of researchers. We are all studying different questions, but they all involve data that requires skilled animals and skilled trainers to collect, and has direct applications to wild populations. Specifically, I am developing tag-based tools that measure how many calories dolphins burn at different swimming speeds, so that we can determine how boats and industry are causing behavior changes in wild populations, and how behavior changes result in changes in population level parameters (i.e. survival and reproductive rate). These data are necessary to inform effective policy decisions surrounding whether certain marine mammal populations need additional protections.

Much of the current marine mammal knowledge is based on physiological and cognitive research conducted at zoological facilities. During my time working with Dolphin Quest, I've seen first hand the quality of animal care they provide. I have also witnessed stranding response networks conduct training workshops at Dolphin Quest. For four years they have allowed stranding response officials and volunteers to learn what to do in case of a stranding: how to restrain dolphins safely, take heart rates, call out respiration rates, keep animals shaded and cool, use stretchers, etc. This is just one example of the many educational benefits Dolphin Quest provides, to locals and visitors in the State of Hawaii.

This last month, as I have been studying for my preliminary exams, I have been amazed by the 150+ peer-reviewed studies I have seen that acknowledge Dolphin Quest's role in making the research possible. I urge you to take note of the benefits accredited zoological facilities like Dolphin Quest provide, not just to Hawaii residents, but to the

global marine mammal scientific and conservation communities. I hope you will work to make sure that any version of HB 716 doesn't end up hindering the research and conservation of marine mammal populations.

Sincerely,
Austin Allen, MEM

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:27:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Murphy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals. I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, and animal advocate. I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,

Timothy Murphy

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 716 – RELATING TO WILD ANIMALS

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 716 – Relating to Wild Animals.

I am a Hawaii state resident, registered voter, active community member, animal advocate, and teacher at Ke Kula 'o 'Ehunuikaimalino. I fear that this bill, as written, could have negative, unintended consequences for zoological facilities like Dolphin Quest. As a teacher who brings her student to Dolphin Quest, I want to ensure that accredited zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal parks have the opportunity to manage the health and well-being of their animals as they see fit, including the transport in and out of Hawaii. I have seen the many benefits from the school programs held at Dolphin Quest and know how important those facilities are to making a difference in education, conservation, and scientific studies. My students learned about the different marine mammals of Hawaii to help them expand their ocean knowledge and voyaging experience. They strengthen their observation skills, their relationship and social skills not only by learning by these Dolphin Quest teachers, but by interacting with the nai'a (dolphin) themselves. I have been bringing my students for the past 5 years and we have always left feeling that these dolphins are cared and loved and safe there. I want to protect accredited, zoological facilities so that we can inspire the next generation and continue to enhance our understanding of animals.

I oppose HB 716 because it unnecessarily seeks to codify the recently approved administrative rule changes set forth in Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules which bans the import of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals in Hawaii. HB 716 confuses the intent of the rules, to protect the safety and welfare of animals in circuses and carnivals and public safety associated with these activities, by expanding the prohibition to include facilities that display, exhibit, present or hold public showings of animals. Although the bill is currently intended for specific species, I am concerned that as written this precedent may be misused and expanded to include other animals in accredited, zoological settings. I find the administrative rule set forth in Chapter 4-71 sufficient to address circuses and carnivals thus making HB 716 entirely unnecessary especially given it may have substantial negative consequences.

I appreciate your consideration of my position opposition of HB 716 for its redundancy to recent rule changes and respectfully request that HB 716 be deferred. Should it move forth, I hope that the committee will consider amendments that exclude accredited zoological facilities.

Mahalo,
Hōkūlani Reyes

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:37:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yadrianna Cruz-Rivera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

decoite2 - Sara

From: Marian Hussenbux <mhussenbux@btinternet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:12 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimonies HB681, HB200, HB930, HB24, HB716, HB127

Dear Officers of the House Agriculture Committee of the State of Hawai'i – aloha!

I write, in reference to the debates in the Legislature this coming Friday, on behalf of *The Animal Interfaith Alliance*, an international alliance of faith groups founded in Britain concerned about the welfare of animals. Our member organisations and individual members include Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs. We are all united by our common concern for animals, based on our various faiths. Our member organisations are listed below.

May we please submit the following:

“Testimony in support of **HB681**”

We would like to support HB681. Allowing companion dogs in restaurants, at the restaurant owners' discretion, will create a more compassionate society in that it will normalise the affectionate links we have with our animal companions.

“Testimony in support of **HB200**”

We would like to support HB200 which would prohibit the use of certain restraints and tethers that endanger, or deny sustenance, to a dog. To be restrained in often inadequate conditions and sometimes for all their lives, is cruel and disrespectful.

“Testimony in support of **HB930**”

We would like to support HB930 which would prohibit pet store operators from selling a dog, cat or rabbit unless the animals were obtained from certain humane sources such as a shelter or rescue and, importantly to keep records showing the sources of the animals for sale. There can be much neglect and even cruelty in this trade and it fosters breeding when the rescues are full of animals needing good homes.

“Testimony in support of **HB24**”

We would like to support HB24 which establishes the criminal offence of sexual assault of an animal. We understand that the state's existing animal cruelty laws could be used to prosecute cases where there is evidence of physical harm to the animal, but these are not sufficient, and, in any case, to allow sexual assault goes against all norms of civilised society, which we believe Hawai'i to be.

“Testimony in support of **HB716**”

We would like to support HB716 which would prohibit the importation of wild animals for exhibition in a circus, carnival, or other live animal act or performance. We were delighted to be informed that this bill would codify last year's hard-won rule change at the state Department of Agriculture on the same subject.

“Testimony in opposition to **HB127**”

We would like to oppose HB127 which would create a littering penalty that would apply to anyone caring for an animal who leaves faecal waste on public or private property.

Of course, we support the requiring of guardians to clean up after their animals, but this measure could be used to punish the volunteers who care for Free-Roaming cats. This would be wholly unacceptable, as it would make it impossible to care for these needy cats, which is a duty on all societies.

Mahalo to you all!

Kindest regards,

Marian Hussenbux. Secretary International Campaigns

Animal Interfaith Alliance

www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com

Faiths Working Together for Animals

Member Organisations:

[Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals](#)

[Bhagvatinandji Education and Health Trust](#)

[Catholic Concern for Animals](#)

[Christian Vegetarian Association UK](#)

[Christian Vegetarian Association US](#)

[Dharma Voices for Animals UK](#)

[Institute of Jainology](#)

[Islamic Concern](#)

[Jewish Vegetarian Society UK](#)

[Mahavir Trust](#)

[Oshwal Association of the UK](#)

www.panorthodoxconcernforanimals.org

Quaker Concern for Animals

Sadhu Vaswani Centre

Young Jains

President - Dr Richard D. Ryder. **Vice President** - Dr Deborah Jones.

Patrons (in alphabetical order) - Rev. Christa Blanke, Joyce D'Silva, Kay, Duchess of Hamilton, Satish Kumar, Nitin Mehta MBE, Dr Andre Menache, Dr Alpesh Patel, Dr Matthieu Ricard, Anant Shah, Ajit Singh MBE, Charanjit Singh, Mohammad Safa.

LATE

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:59:33 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:

It is time we acknowledge how cruel, dangerous, and inappropriate it is to bring animals to the state for entertainment purposes. Please pass this bill.

LATE

HB-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:45:54 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-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:30:53 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-716

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:16:16 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