

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 JUDICIARY

FEBRUARY 19, 2019
2:05 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1162 HD1
RELATING TO PET BOARDING FACILITIES

Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 1162 HD1. This bill amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding a new chapter to title 11 regarding pet boarding facilities. This new proposed chapter details physical and operational requirements for pet boarding facilities, imposes penalties for violations, and directs the Board of Agriculture and Department to adopt rules and enforce the new chapter. The Department of Agriculture opposes this bill.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 5:46:13 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LYNN Y MURAMARU	Pacific Pet Alliance	Oppose	Yes

Comments:



Pacific Pet Alliance

February 19, 2019

In Opposition of HB 1162 HD 1

Representative Chris Lee and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

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

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

I was in attendance for Agriculture committee hearing on this bill on 2/8. There weren't any representatives from the pet boarding industry present and no written testimony submitted. This bill, if passed, has the potential to impact animals and small businesses across the state. The Agriculture committee set an effective date of July 2150 to encourage discussion of such an important matter. The Pacific Pet Alliance agrees with our legislators that meaningful and balanced discussion is needed before such legislation is passed.

We have reached out to 150 pet boarding businesses on every major island to inform them that this legislation was passing through the legislature. They were completely unaware.

The Pacific Pet Alliance opposes HB 1162 HD 1 for the following reasons:

- The law would not be applied fairly to all parties who currently board animals. We learned that the Kauai Humane Society boards animals for profit. Humane societies and veterinarians are exempt and yet almost every vet clinic has a boarding business separate from animals who need to be there for monitoring. Rescue groups are also affected as some of them board animals.
- It was brought to our attention that [rover.com](https://www.rover.com) exists? Rover.com is the AirB&B of the animal world. How would this be regulated when we don't where these businesses are and how many fit the definition of a pet boarding facility?
- The fire safety regulations are costly, onerous, and exceed what is used in adult residential care homes and condos. Facilities and buildings that house frail elderly, the disabled, and families with young children.
- A branch of government to provide oversight is not identified. There are also no provisions in the bill that address the cost of funding government oversight.
- The cost of implementing these standards would put small businesses out of business and create a burden on the ones who afford these changes. It has the potential to increase boarding fees, putting boarding animals out of the reach of many families who might be forced to see other alternatives of trying to care for their animals.
- This bill states that the rules would apply across the board no matter what species of animals are boarded. The industry has pointed out that physical requirements dogs, cats, birds, fish, and small mammals are all different and how these animals are cared for differs between species.
- The Pacific Pet Alliance also finds that HRS already addresses standards of care for all animals which boarding facilities in the state already adhere to.

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

Lynn Muramaru

Board Member

Pacific Pet Alliance

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 5:34:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 9:38:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leinani Cambra	Cozy Cat Lodge Kaneohe LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

I greatly appreciate you accepting testimonies via online. My name is Leinani Cambra and I am the owner/operator of the above business.

The Cozy Cat Lodge Entity started out in 2000 by my parents Janice and William Schmidt in the Olomana subdivision in Kailua. My parents went through the necessary process of obtaining a zoning permit and it was a success. I greatly thank those whom supported my parents vision to provide a very, much, needed service to the community.

I started working with my parents as an individual contractor with Cozy Cat Lodge in Kailua in 2001. Then in May of 2008, I launched the Cozy Cat Lodge Kaneohe location on the property where I reside with my family. Both facilities have served the community and surrounding areas for almost 19 years! We have hundreds of clients whom majority of them return to us on a regular basis.

I am strongly opposing HB1162 due to the proposal of requiring every boarding facility to have a fire alarm system AND a sprinkler system. Implementing these requirements would place small, home-based, business' such as myself, OUT of business.

I don't have enough capital to implement those specific proposed requirements. I DO strongly agree with the other proposed requirements on this Bill, because it's just common sense, period! I will mention that I have various water sources right next to my cat boarding facility.

There are major differences between a commercialized pet boarding facility and a home-based pet boarding facility. I agree that BOTH types of entities should abide by specific requirements for the well being of the animals being cared for.

Both my Mom and myself represent small, family owned, business' and we're humbly serving our community. I ask that you NOT pass this Bill. Even if you feel that this Bill is necessary, I understand but it should be revised to NOT require a fire alarm system and a sprinkler system in a home based business setting.

From: Vicky Doi <mocha13@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 8:25 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1162



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1162. As an owner of a dog care facility, I know well what is required to fulfill the physical and emotional health needs of dogs in our care. Today, our dogs are members of our family, they are like our children and we want the very best for them.

We oppose HB 1162 for the following reasons:

- In regards to fire safety, we are located in a site that is equipped with sprinklers so we would meet the proposed requirements. However, we agree with others that have testified that the requirements are unrealistic. As others have noted, the fire safety requirements exceed that required for our elders living in Adult Residential Care Homes.
- Without a state department committed to oversight and enforcement, the law would be ineffective in stopping or minimizing injury or illness in boarding pets. It would likely penalize those that are diligently providing care with additional burdens to meet while allowing those operating on periphery to continue to function unchanged.

Vicky Doi
Laughing Dogs Daycare Owner

From: Lynn Muramaru <pacificpetalliance@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 5:48 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 1162 Pet Boarding. House Judiciary 2/19/2019

LATE



Pacific Pet Alliance

February 19, 2019

In Opposition of HB 1162 HD 1

Representative Chris Lee and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

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

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

I was in attendance for Agriculture committee hearing on this bill on 2/8. There weren't any representatives from the pet boarding industry present and no written testimony submitted. This bill, if passed, has the potential to impact animals and small businesses across the state. The Agriculture committee set an effective date of July 2150 to encourage discussion of such an important matter. The Pacific Pet Alliance agrees with our legislators that meaningful and balanced discussion is needed before such legislation is passed.

We have reached out to 150 pet boarding businesses on every major island to inform them that this legislation was passing through the legislature. They were completely unaware.

The Pacific Pet Alliance opposes HB 1162 HD 1 for the following reasons:

- The law would not be applied fairly to all parties who currently board animals. We learned that the Kauai Humane Society boards animals for profit. Humane societies and veterinarians are exempt and yet almost every vet clinic has a boarding business separate from animals who need to be there for monitoring. Rescue groups are also affected as some of them board animals.

- It was brought to our attention that [rover.com](https://www.rover.com) exists? Rover.com is the AirB&B of the animal world. How would this be regulated when we don't where these businesses are and how many fit the definition of a pet boarding facility?
- The fire safety regulations are costly, onerous, and exceed what is used in adult residential care homes and condos. Facilities and buildings that house frail elderly, the disabled, and families with young children.
- A branch of government to provide oversight is not identified. There are also no provisions in the bill that address the cost of funding government oversight.
- The cost of implementing these standards would put small businesses out of business and create a burden on the ones who afford these changes. It has the potential to increase boarding fees, putting boarding animals out of the reach of many families who might be forced to see other alternatives of trying to care for their animals.
- This bill states that the rules would apply across the board no matter what species of animals are boarded. The industry has pointed out that physical requirements dogs, cats, birds, fish, and small mammals are all different and how these animals are cared for differs between species.
- The Pacific Pet Alliance also finds that HRS already addresses standards of care for all animals which boarding facilities in the state already adhere to.

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

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 11:50:44 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RICKY BAKER	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Chair Lee
Vice Chair San Buenaventura
Committee Members

Please accept my testimony in opposition of HB 1162 HD 1

Each time we hear of a tragedy involving pets, whether it be a death due to neglect, or hoarding, or cruelty, we can be certain to see new measures being introduced to address it.

I am an animal lover. I am saddened by the acts of those involved in animal cruelty, but it is not new laws that should be introduced when these events occur, but a focus on how better to enforce the laws that we already have.

The Animal Welfare Act of 1966, with amendments, details the acceptable minimum standard for the treatment and care of animals, including cats and dogs. Burdening lawmakers, and taxpayers who have to take the time to submit testimony and appear at the Capitol to testify, is a waste of time and money. The AWA is enforceable as is, and addresses the concerns contained in this bill.

As written, HB 1132 HD 1 is too broad, contains ambiguous and subjective verbiage (good repair, comfortable, suitable, humane) and allows the "Department" too much over site and control of Hawaii small business owners.

I would also ask why shelters and veterinarians would be exempt from the requirements imposed by this measure? If only to clarify these entities are not being "boarding facilities", then pet stores should also be added to this list.

I oppose this measure in its current form, as we already have enforceable laws in place as stated above. Should the committee recommend this measure be passed, I would ask that clarification be made that HB 1132 HD 1 does not apply to pet stores housing animals for sale, as this does not conform to the definition of a boarding facility.

Respectfully,

Ricky Baker
The Pet Hale

LATE

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Lea Hollingsworth-Ramsey
808-261-1534

Tuesday, February 19th 2019, 2:00pm

OPPOSE HB1162

I OPPOSE HB 1162 RELATING TO PET BOARDING FACILITIES which would regulate the operation of pet boarding facilities within the State.

This language in this law is geared toward specific types of animal boarding facilities (i.e. cats and dogs). **However, there are other types of animals (such as birds, parrots, fish, turtles/tortoises and other amphibians) that are regularly boarded and fostered. The rules that are proposed are not suitable to “other pet” animals.**

Parrots require specialized care and an experienced handler. **Specifying time limits for how long an animal can be in a temporary enclosure, and the minimum time they can be outside of their enclosure is not feasible when it comes to dealing with a wild rescue parrot that has been severely abused.** Some do not want to come out of their cage. Others are so traumatized and fearful of humans, it would place the boarder in danger to take the animal out of the cage. Yet, following the letter of the law would REQUIRE the boarder to take the animal out of their enclosure. What about boarded fish? Do you take the fish out of their tank? There are places that board fish (when the owner’s house is being tented, fumigated or undergoing construction that produces harmful fumes).

The fire safety regulations as specified in the bill are wholly unreasonable. As it stands, many people who offer animal boarding services do not have fire sprinkler systems, nor do they have fire alarms that notify the Fire Department in the case of a

fire. If they live in an older condo, they realistically can't just install a sprinkler system in their unit. This law would put those people out of business or subject them to receiving violations and incurring fines. Yet, veterinarian offices and humane societies would be exempt from this law, even though they offer pet boarding services. Even our parrot club members who board birds would be forced to out of business by this bill.

Our state is struggling financially as it is. Adding another law on the books that requires additional manpower to enforce the laws, when the state is already having financial troubles, is not wisely using our taxpayer dollars.

This bill has not been well thought out and is not well written. It contains rules and regulations that are completely unsuitable for many types of animals that are boarded in the state.

I URGE YOU TO OPPOSE HB 1162 RELATING TO PET BOARDING FACILITIES.

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 4:23:18 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Pet boarding facilities should be inspected and regulated in order to prevent those who do this illegally from doing so. AND, more importantly, 1) to protect the pets from any abuse or mishandling by those facility operators who view a boarding facility as nothing more than a money-making operation, and, 2) to protect innocent pet owners who use these facilities from being scammed by illegal operators.

Thank you on behalf of the animals!

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 3:39:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2019 7:28:02 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Ramsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Bark! Bark! <info@barkbarkbackyard.com>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2019 5:51 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1162 - Testimony Opposed

Aloha

My name is Karen Tolodziecki, myself and my husband Randall own and operate the Kauai business that has apparently sparked this bill. I have read the testimony of the owners of the dogs that got sick (one ultimately dying).

What is never provided is proof of the contention that the boarding facility was the cause of the death. Unlike a dog getting out of the premises, where the cause or fault is more obvious - an allegation such as presented by the Conant's should have a bit more 'evidence' other than what their perspectives are.

Losing a beloved family pet is devastating - especially a sudden illness and protracted veterinary intervention. I understand their heartache and then anger. However, that doesn't mean their conclusion as to whose fault it is factual.

The 2 dogs were at our facility for a short stay -- 4 nights. They were next to each other in 4'L x 4'W x 6'H kennels that were around and beside 13 other kennels with dogs. These are the kennels you can get at Home Depot. Our floors are sealed cement. We're in a 5000 sf warehouse. Thick cement walls, roll down garage doors, 30' ceilings.

We walk dogs outside to go potty about 5x/day - every 3 hours. We walk them on our treadmills for additional exercise. These particular dogs were not very good at dog to dog socializing so we let them play only with each other in their own separate social.

I learned of the illness 2 days after dogs left, female owner called to say something was wrong with the boy dog. Said husband saw bloody stool in the back of the truck when they drove home from us. I asked how the dog was acting, woman said 'not good'. I told them to go to the vet.

Several days later, I checked in with them and learned the female dog was at death's door, and the boy was also not well.

Few days later learned female dog had died, and boy looked like he'd pull through.

Woman thought they'd contracted whatever at our place and said we should quarantine. I told her I'd talk to the vet.

Spoke to vet - and I'll just summarize: Dogs were found to have among other things spirochetes. But the female had such a low white blood count, there was another pre-existing infection going on. They couldn't pull her out of that. Boy was bad, but finally responded to drugs. I asked the vet if the dogs picked it up from us. The vet said determining where the dogs picked up the parasite is hard to do.

On Kauai, there is no place that spirochetes are not. We have plenty wild chickens, and they have it and if dogs ingest the poop they can contract it. The island is very wet - and rivers and streams and standing water can also contain the parasites. In fact, the area the dog owners live were devastated by horrendous floods in May 2018. Those floods changed the landscape of our Northshore. So much water can unearth parasites and move them around. Lots of standing water. Our vet has said, the only way for your dog never to get spirochetes is to move off the island. However, it is not (usually) a death sentence. You give the dogs pills for a week, and that takes care of everything.

The dog owners have a large backyard which their dogs use for bathrooming, playing, exercise. Why the owners decided that their backyard could not be the place where the dogs picked up the parasites is not understood by me. Unmonitored dogs get into stuff - eat stuff they shouldn't.

I asked to vet what to do - and they told us to clean and disinfect - especially anything and anywhere those dogs would have been in contact. This was already done as it is protocol whenever any dog leaves after boarding. We did what the vet instructed. The vet NEVER said shut down the area.

Reading the owners testimony - she says when we were contacted we got defensive. Owner thought we should shut down and quarantine the building. Untrue - again, according to the vet this was an infection gone wrong - not a plague (as the Conants testimony would have you believe).

When we heard of the death, I emailed all our clients (700+) and told them about the dog's death. Some of those clients had their dogs checked with their vet if they were with us at the time. No issues with them. We had easily hundreds of different points of contact with the same yard those dogs were in, we had dogs in the same kennels that those 2 dogs stayed in, and not one of the other dogs in our care got sick.

We clean after a dog checks out of boarding. We clean out the kennel, remove the raised bed, wash any blankets that were ours that they used. Each dog has a water bucket in their kennel, so there's no sharing of community bowls. We use all natural cleaners that clean and disinfect. When we walk dogs out to the yard, we walk them to potty -- not letting them lay in the grass or eat things off the lawn.

Just doing the math;

- We had around 100 dogs in our care around the time these dogs got sick. Of those dogs 2 got sick (2%).
- Because of their temperament they were not put in large group socials - so again, any infection was not obtained by another dog already in our care.
- The dogs were only with us for 4 nights.
- The Conant's had 2 dogs - both got sick.

These numbers speaks volumes if you were to conduct a study and come to a conclusion.

This bill that they are spearheading needs work. No legislation should be based upon the emotions of grieving dog owners.

As it was, we did have 2 sick dogs that were asymptomatic in our boarding facility. And yet - NO OTHER DOG GOT SICK.

As a business owner and dog lover and dog owner - the protocols to keep dogs safe and healthy are in place already. If not, in a free market enterprise, I would have no business.

If regulations are going to be started for my business, then it needs to be thought out with the input of those in the industry. Not just on the emotional hit of the grieving.

The bill as it stands needs lots of work before it passes. Otherwise it becomes a way to collect money by those who know nothing about the business. That is an unfair financial hardship on the small business owner.

Thank you for your time.

Karen & RJ Tolodziecki

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To Representative Creagan and Members of the House Committee on
Agriculture: I OPPOSE HB 1162

1. I am in strong opposition to any agency just showing up for inspections without proper notification.
2. The suggested criteria for fire alarm connectivity exceeds reasonable requirements required by other human/animal care businesses in the State of Hawaii.
3. The suggested criteria for handling sick or injured animals needs revision. The Boarding Facility is not a Veterinary Hospital that is equipped to deal with these matters.
4. There is nothing mentioned about Humane Societies and Veterinary Hospitals that board animals being subjected to this Bill.

The suggested Bill is flawed and the author did not to my knowledge reach out to existing businesses for input. The Bill exceeds the rights of those already in business and is a clear example of unreasonable overreach.

I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

Please VOTE NO on HB 1162 thank you, Allen N. Daniels, JR

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Eleni Aikau <luckydog96795@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2019 1:28 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1162

Dear Chairman and Judiciary Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony against HB 1162 for the following reasons:

1) This bill singles out businesses that care for more than four animals at a time of any species but does not address the individuals that keep pets in their private home for money i.e. Rover.com and Wags.com. Why would these basic care rules not apply to all who care for pets? Shelters, vets offices, groomers should all be subject to these same standards as all of them keep pets for extended periods of time. If the Department of Agriculture adopts these standards they should be enforced across the board throughout the pet industry.

2) Lost or missing pets should be reported to the Department of Agriculture immediately yet the he DOA has no means to identify, track or return a pet. If someone found a pet they would not report it to the DOA. It would be reported to The Hawaiian Humane Society. How often does the HHS report to DOA currently?

3) The fire safety regulations exceed those in place for high rise buildings, care home operators and many other businesses that have human occupants.

4) The Department of Agriculture currently does not employ a licensed veterinarian that could oversee any of this unless the quarantine veterinarians would assume the job.

5) This bill is based on one couples emotional experience. In reality pets are NOT family members by law. They are personal property. We purchase and hold ownership of them. This bill would regulate personal property and would have to extend to every pet owner.

Rep. Lee, Committee Members this bill is seriously flawed. The state Department of Agriculture is not equipped to regulate or enforce the measures this bill puts forth. In my opinion HB 1162 should not be passed as it is written.

Thank you
Eleni Aikau

Sent from my iPhone

February 18, 2019

Dear Representative Onishi, the House Agricultural Committee and the Judiciary Committee:

I respectfully oppose H.B. NO 1162. I currently volunteer on a Hawaii County Commission, was President of a licensed Pest Control Firm in Hawaii for 13 years, and am the owner/operator of a small K9 boarding and day care facility in Hilo, HI for the past 9 years.

Though well intentioned, without the law being applied to all of those providing *Boarding Services*, including many of the 1,056 licensed VE (Veterinarians licensed by the DCCA), and 23 Animal Rescue organizations (listed by NoKillNetwork.org and the SPCA), Island Pet Movers (advertising boarding), the Humane Society and the State run Quarantine facilities, it is not reasonable and comprehensive legislature. This legislature excludes the 1,081 (ONE THOUSAND EIGHTY ONE) providers, many of whom advertise Boarding Services for a fee.

In effect, it is an additional expense to each and every taxpayer (with or without Pets) to “police” approximately 150 (ONE HUNDRED & FIFTY) Pet care providers (according to Yahoo.com listing 76 facilities on Oahu, 37 on Big Island, 21 on Maui and 16 on Kauai), with nothing to support the premise that it will stop the human error that can usually be directly linked to loss of one’s Pet while in the care of others.

My reasons for opposing Bill 1162 are as follows:

- It is not clear or specified what the financial burden (COST) is to the tax payers of this State.
- Many of the recommendations are addressed in other statute, code and/or law, such as: “sound structure”, “pests in harmful numbers”, “clean and sanitize”, “sufficient size” and “temperature”. Refer to the Building Codes and Animal Cruelty laws currently in effect.
- Consequences to the private business owner are often immediate and well advertised via social media outlets, when tragic incidences occur, including the loss or death of a pet in their care.
- Lack of supervision is the leading cause of Pet loss or death, following obesity, cancer and kidney disease.
- How enthusiastic is the Department of Agriculture in support of adding the vaguely defined parameters of HB 1162 (define “enrichment”, define “healthy food”) to their Departments’ inspection staff workload?
- Will the cost of this legislation close all of the smaller Pet boarding facilities for lack of a sprinkler system or emergency response contract in place? ... and how will this impact the communities who depend on them?

- There is no mention of a requirement for vaccines (or Titer test for immunities), to protect Pets in close proximity to others; Air quality requirements in the enclosed space; Requiring owner to have Pets chipped and licensed in order to secure boarding; Type/height/material composition of fencing necessary to contain pets; Amount of clean water required; Number of employees required per number of Pets; Etc.
- The number of Pets that “run away” from home in Hawaii is substantially higher than the number of Pets that escape private Pet boarding facilities. Thunder, lightening, a nearby female in heat, a gate left open, a pet that “usually returns”, a neighbor or relative asked to care for a Pet (but fails), are all substantially more significant factors in Pet loss than the rare, poorly managed private facility.

In conclusion, I would ask that you consider the overall benefit vs cost to every citizen of Hawaii. Legislature must be carefully weighed and not passed based on a single event or personal tragedy.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of my testimony today.

Jenipher Jones
PO Box 7012
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 895-9453

jj:cc file

LATE

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 7:17:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support pono businesses, not those who are not trustworthy

LATE

HB-1162-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:01:43 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/19/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Ramsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I just want to say that I oppose this bill. I feel that it was very unfortunate what happened to the owner's dog. However, this being an isolated incident I do not feel we should start a new bill. I feel that a lot of this bill is not clear enough, and while I agree that with the provisions required minus the fire regulations, I feel this bill is written very suggestively. I feel that many if not all boarding facilities have a protocol that covers much of this bill. Furthermore, as a person who has worked at a vet clinic that provided boarding care I can say firsthand that soft stool doesn't automatically mean a pet is sick. It could just be very scared or due to a change in diet.

I am also more concerned with smaller places that may not have the space that this bill is suggesting. It also states that this bill would take effect immediately which definitely doesn't allow time for these facilities to change their policies/ protocols/ and equipment.

LATE

TESTIMONY IS SUPPORT OF HB1162 RELATING TO PET BOARDING FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: Kati Conant
2/6/19

Aloha Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Kati Conant



Nalu Conant



Nalu & Piko Conant