

LATE

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thursday, February 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2512, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gregory Zambrano, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) prohibit an animal's owner, and the owner's employees, from performing any surgical procedure, including surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, or debarking, without being licensed as a veterinarian; (2) make it a class C felony to intentionally or knowingly perform any surgical procedure, including surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, or debarking, on a pet animal by any person who is not licensed as a veterinarian; and (3) specify that accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced shall not be considered cruelty to animals in the first degree if performed by a licensed veterinarian.

At its meeting on February 6, 2020, the Board discussed this bill and agreed that it would effectuate the protection of animals. The Board noted that there are serious dangers and risks to the animal when these procedures are performed by individuals who have not received the appropriate education and training. The Board noted further that performing these procedures without first obtaining a license by the Board constitutes unlicensed activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 10, 2020

To: Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Senator Stanley Chang
and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2512: Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m., Capitol Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 2512, which prohibits the owner of an animal, and the owner's employees, from performing any surgical procedure, including but not limited to surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, and debarking on the animal without being licensed as a veterinarian. It further makes intentionally or knowingly performing any surgical procedure on a pet animal by any person not licensed as a veterinarian guilty of a class C felony. And it specifies that accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced, shall not be considered cruelty to animals in the first degree if performed by a licensed veterinarian.

While this bill does not ban cosmetic surgery on animals, which the Hawaiian Humane Society opposes, it at least protects animal welfare by requiring that these procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian. It is a good step.

Surgical birth certainly should never be performed by anyone but a licensed veterinarian. Hawaiian Humane recently sent a bulldog mix out for specialized surgery on an enormous hernia that our chief veterinarian strongly suspects was the result of a backyard cesarean section. See photos on the next page. This animal was lucky enough to survive the mutilation and get the care she needed, but causing this sort of injury to an animal is unconscionable.

We urge the committee to pass SB 2512. Mahalo for your consideration.

Here are the before and after pictures of the approximately 3 year old bulldog mix that was brought into our care with a large ventral abdominal hernia, suspected to be secondary to a backyard C-section. She is a very sweet dog and is feeling much better. She will be going up for adoption soon. Note she also has very short cropped ears, which are usually an indication of amateur surgery.





HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

February 11, 2020

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2512, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, I would like to express our support of SB 2512 and its prohibitions on non-veterinarians performing surgery on pet animals.

This bill would prohibit anyone not licensed as a veterinarian from performing any surgical procedure on an animal, even the animal's owner or the owner's employees. "Surgical procedures" would include surgeries such as surgical birth, ear cropping, and tail docking.

SB 2512 would help protect animal welfare by ensuring that any surgical procedure would be performed in a sterile environment with sterile equipment, by an experienced and trained surgeon, and under the appropriate level of anesthesia and pain management to prevent undue animal suffering. These measures serve to prevent surgical complications such as infection, hemorrhage, or even death.

It is common knowledge within the veterinary community that these types of "backyard surgeries" are performed in Hawaii. Veterinarians are often called upon to treat problems that are caused by these situations, such as prescribing antibiotics for an infected surgery site resulting from a non-sterile procedure, repairing inadequate skin closure, or removing fishing line used to suture cropped ears. We are obligated to help treat and heal these animals, but often feel that by fixing these complications we are unintentionally enabling the inappropriate practice of surgery by non-veterinarians.

Please SUPPORT SB 2512 to protect animals from the harm and suffering that often result from surgical procedures being performed at a substandard level by non-veterinarians. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please contact me if I can answer any questions or be of further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo".

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

From: [Mary Kate Murray](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: AKC Opposes Senate Bill 2512
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10:51:44 AM

From: Nathan Makla <nathan.makla@akc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Nathan Makla <nathan.makla@akc.org>
Subject: AKC Opposes Senate Bill 2512

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Hawaii Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chairman Baker and members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

The American Kennel Club (AKC), which was established in 1884 and promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs, represents over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 42 clubs in Hawaii. The AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, protects the rights of dog owners, and promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership. The AKC and our affiliated clubs are both happy and proud to serve lawmakers and communities by sharing with them our animal care and responsible ownership principles. Today, we write to share our concerns with Senate Bill 2512 and respectfully request committee action in line with our recommendations.

Senate Bill 2512 seeks to limit the practices of surgical births, debarking, tail docking, and ear cropping by prohibiting an animal's owner, and the owner's employees, from performing these procedures. Under this definition, veterinarians who own animals may be prohibited from performing these practices on their personal animals. The language in the bill is vague and doesn't define which procedures can may be defined as surgical. Recently-introduced legislation prohibiting cropping and docking in New Hampshire was unanimously rejected by a legislative committee.

In our view, surgical births and debarking procedures should only be performed by a qualified, licensed veterinarian. Debarking is a viable veterinary procedure that may allow a dog owner to keep a dog that barks excessively in its loving home rather than to be forced to surrender it to a shelter. After other behavioral modification efforts to correct excessive barking have failed, the decision to debark a dog is best left to individual owners and their veterinarians.

The American Kennel Club recognizes that ear cropping, tail docking, and dewclaw removal, as described in certain breed standards, are acceptable practices integral to defining and preserving breed character and/or enhancing good health. Appropriate veterinary care should

be provided.

Tail docking refers to the removal of a portion of the tail, usually either by placement of a ligature or surgically. The length that is docked varies depending on the breed. Currently 62 breeds recognized by the AKC have docked tails, including Cocker Spaniels, Rottweilers, and Yorkshire Terriers. Some dogs, such as Old English Sheepdogs and Australian Shepherds may appear to be docked, but may have actually been born with a “bobtail”, or naturally short tail. Tail docking is performed shortly after birth, when the puppy’s nervous system is not fully developed. As a result, the puppy feels little to no pain, and there are no lasting negative health issues.

Ear cropping is a procedure by which a dog’s ears are trimmed, or “cropped”, so that they can stand erect rather than flop over. Common examples of dogs with cropped ears are Boston Terriers, Great Danes and Doberman Pinschers. The AKC currently recognizes 20 breeds with cropped ears.

Breed standards are established and maintained by national breed parent clubs, which are affiliated with the AKC and whose primary purpose is to protect the welfare of their breed and the function it was bred to perform. **The American Kennel Club opposes attempts by lawmakers to fundamentally change breed standards by way of limiting acceptable practices of animal husbandry that are provided with appropriate veterinary care.** For this reason, we recommend Senate Bill 2512 not be approved at this time.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns. We, along with our Hawaii federation of dog clubs, the Pacific Pet Alliance, are happy to further assist you in crafting reasonable and effective laws that respect Hawaii’s responsible dog owners and breeders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan A. Makla".

Nathan A. Makla
Administrator
American Kennel Club Government Relations

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:15:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a very important issue and SB2512 needs to be passed. However, we ask that you include farmed animals in the proposed protection. All animals are sentient beings- they deserve protection from cruel practices. We implore the Committee to include farmed animals. The exemption for "traditional farming practices" omits the largest number of animals who are subjected to this horrible cruelty.

CPH 2-13-20

Dear Honorable Chair Baker and CPH Committee Members

RE: Strong Support for SB2512: Relating to Veterinary Medicine

The majority of states explicitly prohibit any person, who is not a licensed veterinarian, from performing certain procedures such as ear-cropping/cutting, tail-docking/cutting and sterilization, due to the tremendous amount of pain and suffering that the animal will endure. Non-veterinarians do not have the necessary access to pain medication, pre-and post-operative care and antibiotics to prevent infection.

Sadly, “home” ear-cropping is common in Hawaii as demonstrated in the below pictures of dogs who were rescued, but subsequently died, due to infection and from other health issues that were not addressed.

In 2007, Hawaii passed its first felony animal cruelty law. If a person were to intentionally cut off a dogs toe or foot, it would without question be considered malicious cruelty. There is no reason that a person should be able to cut off a dogs ears’ or tail, and face no penalty.

Please support this important measure to protect pets from unnecessary suffering. Further these procedures may still be performed by a licensed veterinarian, if needed.

Inga Gibson
Animal Welfare Institute

The [Animal Welfare Institute](http://www.awionline.org) (www.awionline.org) is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1951 and dedicated to reducing animal suffering caused by people. AWI engages policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public to achieve better treatment of animals everywhere – in the laboratory, on the farm, in commerce, at home, and in the wild. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and other important animal protection news.





improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President, Poi Dogs & Popoki
In support of SB 2512 – Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 9:30 am, Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We operate a mobile spay/neuter and wellness clinic on the island of Oahu and provide affordable services for pet owners and caregivers in rural and underserved communities.

We are in support of SB 2512. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes and they encourage the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards. It's an archaic, unnecessary practice.

Operating a mobile spay/neuter and wellness clinic on the island of Oahu, we provide veterinary care to pet owners and rescuers in rural and underserved areas from Waianae to Waialua to Waimanalo. We routinely see and treat rescued animals with botched ear cropping often with severe infections. It's apparent to our staff that these procedures were performed by unlicensed people and PDP has first-hand knowledge of one in particular from Pearl City. The neighbors have even complained about the horrible cries from puppies because of their failure and inability to properly sedate the animal.

Proposed Amendments

For both the licensing requirement and the criminal penalty, we propose that the language specifically address both the pet owner seeking services from unlicensed individuals as well as the individuals providing the unlicensed activity. This would appropriately hold the owners liable and accountable for the illegal activity as well as the people performing the surgery. This "underground" activity is perpetuated by "bully" breed owners looking for a quick and cheap chop job and it is based on referrals. We would like to end this practice.

Mahalo for your compassion for Hawaii animals.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:27:35 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Monden	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

My name is Nancy Monden I oppose the specific parts of the bill of tail docking and dew claws. A puppie of 3-5 days old could have tails docked by using a rubber band to slowly decrease circulation and the tails fall off. The veterinarian at this age cuts the tail and the poor pups are away from their mothers and are whimpering from the pain. No pain medication is given to pups.

i believe if an animal is older than 6 months or older a veterinarian would need to use anesthesia and give pain pills to protect the animal. Thereby a small puppy 3-5 days old tail docking can be done with minimal pain to the puppy.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:52:50 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:40:41 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm sorry but "debarking"? i agree with all else but debarking should not be performed and is absolutely cruelty!

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 9:44:39 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Spitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this legislation. Veterinary surgical procedures should ONLY be performed by licensed veterinarians. Mahalo.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:28:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have seen first hand the butchery that occurs when people do their own tail and ear cropping on their dogs. I personally see no reason to ever have these procedures done on an animal. However, if it is going to be done, it should certinnly ONLY be done by a qualified, licensed vveterinarian. In addition, this law would provide another opportunity to charge and punish people involved with dog fighting. Many people who fight dogs do their own cropping and it is horiffic.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:47:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janian K Thurman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is our responsibility to protect those that have no voice. This bill is absolutely necessary. You must pass this measure, it would be irresponsible not to. I absolutely support this measure!

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:31:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 2512; Veterinary Care. Ear cropping and other surgical procedures should only be performed on animals by veterinarians. No one who cares about their animals would put them through such suffering.

Mahalo for your time on this important issue.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:41:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2512. Medical procedures performed on pets by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian constitutes a form of torture.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 4:18:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Dombrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 7:53:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Kentris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is common sense. Animals anatomy is no different than humans. They feel pain and are susceptible to infection. Only licensed veterinarians should be cutting anything off an animal or providing any kind of surgery. Animals cannot speak. They need this law in place so law enforcement can protect the animals and be sure they are getting the medical attention the need even if it is elective surgery.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:12:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is in fact abuse to animals, it needs to stop. I support this bill.

From: [Kristina Ogilvie](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Please Please Please Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:09:10 PM

Please Please Please Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

*Kindly & With Respect,
Kristina Ogilvie*

*You are the person who has to decide.
Whether you'll do it or toss it aside;
You are the person who makes up your mind.
Whether you'll lead or will linger behind.
Whether you'll try for the goal that's afar.
Or just be contented to stay where you are.
Edgar A. Guest*

From: [Christine K \(The GRRRL\)](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:53:46 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care: NO ONE WHO CARES ABOUT THEIR ANIMALS would put them thru such suffering!

From: [Erika Matsunaga](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB5215; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 5:13:55 PM

I am requesting that you please support this bill on 2/13/2020.

Thank you,

Erika Matsunaga

From: rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512 Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:43:22 PM

I support SB2512, which would prohibit ear cropping and other surgical procedures by NON-veterinarians.

I know that backyard breeders perform C-sections themselves (not using a vet) on pregnant Chihuahuas so the puppies don't die.

Rosemary Karlsson
16-1885 Uilani Drive
Keaau, HI 96749
808-966-6589

baker8 - Jessica

From: briana_808@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:50 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

To whom it may concern,
Please let it be known for my support of SB2512. Veterinary care such as ear cropping and castration towards animals should only be performed by veterinarians.
Thank you,
Briana Schulte

From: [Gabrielle Kawasaki](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:06:24 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

-Gabbi Kawasaki

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hannah Mizuno](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512: Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:46:22 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Hannah Mizuno
Aloha Animal Sanctuary
Co-founder & Director of Development

Follow us on Instagram @alohaanimalsanctuary

Make a meaningful contribution through DAF Direct-

[https://www.dafdirect.org/DAFDirect/daflink?
_dafdirect_settings=ODMxOTQ3MTk3XzIxMTEfOTNjM2Q4YjQrMTcxZS00NzU5LWJjZWItNTU2ZDRjN2UxZjk&designatedText=&amountValue=](https://www.dafdirect.org/DAFDirect/daflink?_dafdirect_settings=ODMxOTQ3MTk3XzIxMTEfOTNjM2Q4YjQrMTcxZS00NzU5LWJjZWItNTU2ZDRjN2UxZjk&designatedText=&amountValue=)

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:49:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherrell Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I whole-heartedly support this bill. No one should be allowed to perform surgery on a living being without the proper education, tools, and anaesthesia. Anything else is just cruel. Please move this forward so it can become law.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

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Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thursday, February 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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Date: Feb. 10, 2020

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and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health

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

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Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m., Capitol Room 229

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P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

February 11, 2020

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

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It is common knowledge within the veterinary community that these types of "backyard surgeries" are performed in Hawaii. Veterinarians are often called upon to treat problems that are caused by these situations, such as prescribing antibiotics for an infected surgery site resulting from a non-sterile procedure, repairing inadequate skin closure, or removing fishing line used to suture cropped ears. We are obligated to help treat and heal these animals, but often feel that by fixing these complications we are unintentionally enabling the inappropriate practice of surgery by non-veterinarians.

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Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

LATE

From: [Mary Kate Murray](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: AKC Opposes Senate Bill 2512
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10:51:44 AM

From: Nathan Makla <nathan.makla@akc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Nathan Makla <nathan.makla@akc.org>
Subject: AKC Opposes Senate Bill 2512

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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Chairman, Hawaii Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Tail docking refers to the removal of a portion of the tail, usually either by placement of a ligature or surgically. The length that is docked varies depending on the breed. Currently 62 breeds recognized by the AKC have docked tails, including Cocker Spaniels, Rottweilers, and Yorkshire Terriers. Some dogs, such as Old English Sheepdogs and Australian Shepherds may appear to be docked, but may have actually been born with a “bobtail”, or naturally short tail. Tail docking is performed shortly after birth, when the puppy’s nervous system is not fully developed. As a result, the puppy feels little to no pain, and there are no lasting negative health issues.

Ear cropping is a procedure by which a dog’s ears are trimmed, or “cropped”, so that they can stand erect rather than flop over. Common examples of dogs with cropped ears are Boston Terriers, Great Danes and Doberman Pinschers. The AKC currently recognizes 20 breeds with cropped ears.

Breed standards are established and maintained by national breed parent clubs, which are affiliated with the AKC and whose primary purpose is to protect the welfare of their breed and the function it was bred to perform. **The American Kennel Club opposes attempts by lawmakers to fundamentally change breed standards by way of limiting acceptable practices of animal husbandry that are provided with appropriate veterinary care.** For this reason, we recommend Senate Bill 2512 not be approved at this time.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns. We, along with our Hawaii federation of dog clubs, the Pacific Pet Alliance, are happy to further assist you in crafting reasonable and effective laws that respect Hawaii’s responsible dog owners and breeders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan A. Makla".

Nathan A. Makla
Administrator
American Kennel Club Government Relations

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:15:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a very important issue and SB2512 needs to be passed. However, we ask that you include farmed animals in the proposed protection. All animals are sentient beings- they deserve protection from cruel practices. We implore the Committee to include farmed animals. The exemption for "traditional farming practices" omits the largest number of animals who are subjected to this horrible cruelty.

CPH 2-13-20

Dear Honorable Chair Baker and CPH Committee Members

RE: Strong Support for SB2512: Relating to Veterinary Medicine

The majority of states explicitly prohibit any person, who is not a licensed veterinarian, from performing certain procedures such as ear-cropping/cutting, tail-docking/cutting and sterilization, due to the tremendous amount of pain and suffering that the animal will endure. Non-veterinarians do not have the necessary access to pain medication, pre-and post-operative care and antibiotics to prevent infection.

Sadly, “home” ear-cropping is common in Hawaii as demonstrated in the below pictures of dogs who were rescued, but subsequently died, due to infection and from other health issues that were not addressed.

In 2007, Hawaii passed its first felony animal cruelty law. If a person were to intentionally cut off a dogs toe or foot, it would without question be considered malicious cruelty. There is no reason that a person should be able to cut off a dogs ears’ or tail, and face no penalty.

Please support this important measure to protect pets from unnecessary suffering. Further these procedures may still be performed by a licensed veterinarian, if needed.

Inga Gibson
Animal Welfare Institute

The [Animal Welfare Institute](http://www.awionline.org) (www.awionline.org) is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1951 and dedicated to reducing animal suffering caused by people. AWI engages policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public to achieve better treatment of animals everywhere – in the laboratory, on the farm, in commerce, at home, and in the wild. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and other important animal protection news.





improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President, Poi Dogs & Popoki
In support of SB 2512 – Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 9:30 am, Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We operate a mobile spay/neuter and wellness clinic on the island of Oahu and provide affordable services for pet owners and caregivers in rural and underserved communities.

We are in support of SB 2512. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes and they encourage the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards. It's an archaic, unnecessary practice.

Operating a mobile spay/neuter and wellness clinic on the island of Oahu, we provide veterinary care to pet owners and rescuers in rural and underserved areas from Waianae to Waialua to Waimanalo. We routinely see and treat rescued animals with botched ear cropping often with severe infections. It's apparent to our staff that these procedures were performed by unlicensed people and PDP has first-hand knowledge of one in particular from Pearl City. The neighbors have even complained about the horrible cries from puppies because of their failure and inability to properly sedate the animal.

Proposed Amendments

For both the licensing requirement and the criminal penalty, we propose that the language specifically address both the pet owner seeking services from unlicensed individuals as well as the individuals providing the unlicensed activity. This would appropriately hold the owners liable and accountable for the illegal activity as well as the people performing the surgery. This "underground" activity is perpetuated by "bully" breed owners looking for a quick and cheap chop job and it is based on referrals. We would like to end this practice.

Mahalo for your compassion for Hawaii animals.

LATE

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 5:06:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen MacKinnon	Testifying for Maui Humane Society	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this proposed legislation. From personal experience as a law enforcement officer, Chief of Humane Law Enforcement with the San Diego Humane Society (the largest shelter in the United States), and my current role as CEO with the Maui Humane Society I have too often overseen investigations that were the result of improper medical treatment on animals. This causes undue suffering at the hands of unqualified persons whose motives never are for the best treatment of animals.

The Maui Humane Society endorses the proper and appropriate medical treatment for animals conducted by trained and certified veterinary medical staff. This is the only way we can assure the animals and reassure the public that humane treatment will occur.

Thank you for your consideration for a positive vote.

Stephen MacKinnon, Chief Executive Officer

Maui Humane Society

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:27:35 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Monden	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

My name is Nancy Monden I oppose the specific parts of the bill of tail docking and dew claws. A puppie of 3-5 days old could have tails docked by using a rubber band to slowly decrease circulation and the tails fall off. The veterinarian at this age cuts the tail and the poor pups are away from their mothers and are whimpering from the pain. No pain medication is given to pups.

i believe if an animal is older than 6 months or older a veterinarian would need to use anesthesia and give pain pills to protect the animal. Thereby a small puppy 3-5 days old tail docking can be done with minimal pain to the puppy.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:52:50 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:40:41 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm sorry but "debarking"? i agree with all else but debarking should not be performed and is absolutely cruelty!

LATE

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 9:44:39 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Spitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this legislation. Veterinary surgical procedures should ONLY be performed by licensed veterinarians. Mahalo.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:28:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have seen first hand the butchery that occurs when people do their own tail and ear cropping on their dogs. I personally see no reason to ever have these procedures done on an animal. However, if it is going to be done, it should certinnly ONLY be done by a qualified, licensed vveterinarian. In addition, this law would provide another opportunity to charge and punish people involved with dog fighting. Many people who fight dogs do their own cropping and it is horiffic.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:47:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janian K Thurman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is our responsibility to protect those that have no voice. This bill is absolutely necessary. You must pass this measure, it would be irresponsible not to. I absolutely support this measure!

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:31:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 2512; Veterinary Care. Ear cropping and other surgical procedures should only be performed on animals by veterinarians. No one who cares about their animals would put them through such suffering.

Mahalo for your time on this important issue.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:41:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2512. Medical procedures performed on pets by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian constitutes a form of torture.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 4:18:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Dombrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 7:53:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Kentris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is common sense. Animals anatomy is no different than humans. They feel pain and are susceptible to infection. Only licensed veterinarians should be cutting anything off an animal or providing any kind of surgery. Animals cannot speak. They need this law in place so law enforcement can protect the animals and be sure they are getting the medical attention the need even if it is elective surgery.

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:12:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is in fact abuse to animals, it needs to stop. I support this bill.

From: [Kristina Ogilvie](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Please Please Please Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:09:10 PM

Please Please Please Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

*Kindly & With Respect,
Kristina Ogilvie*

*You are the person who has to decide.
Whether you'll do it or toss it aside;
You are the person who makes up your mind.
Whether you'll lead or will linger behind.
Whether you'll try for the goal that's afar.
Or just be contented to stay where you are.
Edgar A. Guest*

From: [Christine K \(The GRRRL\)](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:53:46 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care: NO ONE WHO CARES ABOUT THEIR ANIMALS would put them thru such suffering!

From: [Erika Matsunaga](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB5215; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 5:13:55 PM

I am requesting that you please support this bill on 2/13/2020.

Thank you,

Erika Matsunaga

From: rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512 Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:43:22 PM

I support SB2512, which would prohibit ear cropping and other surgical procedures by NON-veterinarians.

I know that backyard breeders perform C-sections themselves (not using a vet) on pregnant Chihuahuas so the puppies don't die.

Rosemary Karlsson
16-1885 Uilani Drive
Keaau, HI 96749
808-966-6589

baker8 - Jessica

From: briana_808@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:50 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

To whom it may concern,

Please let it be known for my support of SB2512. Veterinary care such as ear cropping and castration towards animals should only be performed by veterinarians.

Thank you,

Briana Schulte

From: [Gabrielle Kawasaki](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:06:24 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

-Gabbi Kawasaki

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hannah Mizuno](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2512: Veterinary Care
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:46:22 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Hannah Mizuno
Aloha Animal Sanctuary
Co-founder & Director of Development

Follow us on Instagram @alohaanimalsanctuary

Make a meaningful contribution through DAF Direct-

[https://www.dafdirect.org/DAFDirect/daflink?
_dafdirect_settings=ODMxOTQ3MTk3XzIxMTEfOTNjM2Q4YjQrMTcxZS00NzU5LWJjZWItNTU2ZDRjN2UxZjk&designatedText=&amountValue=](https://www.dafdirect.org/DAFDirect/daflink?_dafdirect_settings=ODMxOTQ3MTk3XzIxMTEfOTNjM2Q4YjQrMTcxZS00NzU5LWJjZWItNTU2ZDRjN2UxZjk&designatedText=&amountValue=)

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:49:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherrell Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I whole-heartedly support this bill. No one should be allowed to perform surgery on a living being without the proper education, tools, and anaesthesia. Anything else is just cruel. Please move this forward so it can become law.

LATE

From: [Patricia Thomas](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 12:02:12 PM

Support SB2512; Veterinary Care.

LATE

baker8 - Jessica

From: Myra Hammonds <myra_hammonds@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:28 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Support SB2512; Veterinary Care

Aloha,

My name is Myra Hammonds I a resident of Hawaii Island. I am supporting Bill SB2512 prohibiting ear cropping and other procedures by Non-Veterinarians.

I can be reached by phone, general mail, or email if you have any questions.

My contact information is:

Myra Hammonds
75-6040 Alii Drive #303
Kailua Kona, HI. 96740
Cell: (808)785-7508

Mahalo Nui Loa. I appreciate your time.

Myra

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

LATE

baker8 - Jessica

From: Deborah Kahanu <dkahanu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:19 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: support SB2512 Veterinary Care

I support bill SB2512

Please stop these inhumane surgical non-veterinarian procedures to animals.

We are their voices!

Mahalo,

Deborah Kahanu

--

Mahalo,
Deborah Kahanu

SB-2512

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 2:41:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/13/2020 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHNNY KELLY	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB2512

People who are not vets and perform surgery on animals must be stopped! This practice must be punished with jail time and classified as a Felony!

Dogs and other animals need our protection from these evil butchers! To me, this would be similar to a person practicing abortion on a pregnant women.

Please don't think "well so what, it's just a dog."

Don't be with part of the problem, support this bill AND make violations of this bill a Felony!

LATE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SB2512

Wednesday, February 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

We are writing to **comment on SB2512**. Like many animal welfare bills, this bill has good intent. HCC supports prohibiting the surgical birth, ear cropping and debarking of pets. However, this bill leaves open the potential to severely limit accepted livestock veterinary practices that are commonly performed by trained lay individuals in the field. We respectfully encourage the authors to resubmit with more specific language that will not impinge upon accepted livestock veterinary practices. Specifically, that “any animal” is replaced by “any pet animal as defined in 711-1100.”

HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council
Managing Director

LATE

Testimony in OPPOSITION of SB 2512

February 13, 2020

Sen. Baker, Sen. Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawaii based non-profit that focuses on promoting animal welfare through education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of SB 2512.

The Pacific Pet Alliance agrees with the intent of this bill, to protect animals, particularly dogs, from being harmed by surgical procedures being performed by non-veterinarians. However, we also recognize it is common practice for breeders to perform simple procedures that are done **without the use of anesthesia**, often done under the guidance of their veterinarian with whom they have a strong relationship with. These procedures include but are not limited to tail docking, dew claw removal, and non-anesthesia teeth scaling. **The Pacific Pet Alliance is requesting that all procedures that do not require anesthesia be excluded from this measure.**

Tail docking and dew claw removal are procedures that are done on puppies that just several days old. At this age, the bone has not grown into the flap of skin that will become a tail or dew claw. The nervous system is not fully developed and there is little or no blood when the skin flap is removed. The window of opportunity to perform these procedures is very short. If done when the puppies are older and the bone has grown in, this procedure would no longer be considered a “docking” but instead an amputation which would require anesthesia.

There are dog breeders who live in rural areas where veterinary care is located hours away. **To transport puppies who are just a few days old and unnecessarily exposing them to diseases in a veterinary clinic is too much of a risk.** Farmers and ranchers have been doing these procedures for generations and continue to do so on their livestock and dogs.

The Pacific Pet Alliance also finds that **not every veterinary practice in Hawaii will perform these procedures.** We have discussed this concern with a Hawaii resident who is currently attending the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Iowa. He states that **graduates of this veterinary college will receive minimal to no education on how to perform these procedures (tail docking, dew claw removal, ear cropping).**

The American Kennel currently recognizes 62 breeds with docked tails and 20 breeds with cropped ears. Breed standards are established and maintained by AKC parent clubs whose primary purpose is to protect the welfare of their breed and the function it was bred to perform.

The Pacific Pet Alliance also finds the language of the bill to be vague and fails to define which procedures to be “surgical”.

The Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully requests that this committee not pass this bill.

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

