



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2513, RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY.

LATE

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, February 7, 2020

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Adrian Dhakhwa, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department offers the following comments on this bill: This bill amends section 711-1109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by creating a new paragraph (h) in subsection (1), to prohibit the use of a castration band to neuter a pet.

The current paragraph (h) prohibits “assist(ing) another in the commission of any act specified in subsections (1)(a) through (g)” and is being designated as (i).

Currently, section 711-1109(2) excludes the criminal conduct described in section 711-1109(1)(a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), and (h), if the conduct is part of accepted veterinary practices, scientific research, and licensed pest control operations. But the bill does not make an amendment to include newly designated paragraph (i) in section 711-1109(2).

As currently proposed in SB NO. 2513, an assistant could still be criminally liable for conduct even if the work done was part of accepted veterinary practices, scientific research, and/or licensed pest control operations, and the principal doing the same conduct would be exempt from criminal liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

SB-2513

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:28:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2513

February 7, 2020

Sen. Rhoads, Sen. Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

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 support of SB2513.

The Pacific Pet Alliance agrees with the intent of this bill. Castration bands may cause an animal much physical pain and suffering for a week or more. There are other more humane forms of neutering available in the state. The local humane societies and other animal organizations also offer low cost sterilization options in an effort to remove financial barriers to having pets sterilized.

The Pacific Pet Alliance requests that this committee pass this bill.

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

LATE

SB-2513

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:04:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Give Aloha!

SB-2513

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:15:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Pono Advocacy	Support	Yes

Comments:



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong support of SB 2513 - Relating to Animal Cruelty
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Friday, Feb. 7, 10:00 am, room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads 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 The Big Fix, a mobile spay/neuter and wellness vehicle on the island of Oahu which provides affordable services for low income pet owners in rural and at risk communities. We are in strong support of SB 2513 to ban the use of castration bands on pets.

In October 2019, PDP held a spay/neuter clinic at Nanakuli Beach Park. A dog owner brought a male black lab about 2 years old to be neutered. The owner had taken the dog from his brother who had used a castration band on the dog. It had been 2 months since the band was placed around the testicles. Because the bands are intended to be used on livestock – not smaller animals – the scrotum eventually fell off but the testes were left hanging. The dog smelled of infection and was suffering from the pain. The veterinary staff was shocked and angered and they immediately contacted me.

I called the owner of the animal and learned that this was not the first time that he has had to step in to try to save an animal from cruel and inhumane conditions. I asked if he would be willing to speak to an investigator because I planned on filing animal cruelty charges. He did not hesitate and indicated that he did not want to see this happen to another dog.

To this day – PDP has not been contacted by the Hawaiian Humane Society to follow up on our complaint. According to the owner of the dog, he received one phone call by HHS and was told that there was little for them to do without further evidence and that it was not elevated to animal cruelty because of refusal of the owner to provide veterinary care.

As the Big Fix continues to provide services around the island of Oahu, we would like to be able to rely on stronger laws that enable us to ensure the health and welfare and humane treatment of our pet animals. SB 2513 is an important tool to help us do that.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2513

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:48:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yup, sounds like animal cruelty to me...

SB-2513

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:16:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2513. Castration of our pets by unlicensed professionals is a form of torture.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

SB-2513

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:55:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

LATE

Date: Feb. 5, 2020

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2513: Relating to Animal Cruelty
Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, 10 a.m., Capitol Room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the passage of Senate Bill 2513, which includes use of a castration band to inhumanely neuter a dog, cat, or other domesticated pet under the offense of cruelty to animals in the second degree.

The only humane and effective method of sterilization for dogs, cats and other pet animals is spay/neuter surgery performed by a licensed veterinarian. Castration band sterilization is extremely dangerous for these animals, putting them at high risk of complications, including life-threatening infections.

We ask you to support the protections in SB 2513 and help keep our pet animals safe.

Mahalo for your consideration.