



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

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 677, Proposed SD1: 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 677, Senate Draft 1, which would prohibit the use of specific tethering equipment and techniques that are injurious to dogs. It further prohibits the unsupervised tethering of dogs less than six months of age. Puppies lack the physical coordination to be safely left alone on a tether or pulley system. Crate training is preferable when puppies must be left alone.

Hawaiian Humane respects the importance of allowing pet owners options to keep their animals safe. We appreciate that SB 677, Proposed SD1, acknowledges that it is possible for individuals to humanely tether or restrain dogs. This bill simply insists on that humane approach. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement. Making simple changes should allow dog owners to comply with these rules and keep their pets safe.

Many bills have been proposed on this issue over the years. Tethering stirs strong passions in dog lovers who understand the human-animal bond. Dogs are social beings who do best when fully integrated into their human families. Improper or prolonged tethering is not only bad for dogs, it increases the risk of serious dog bites and the victims of such attacks are often children. This is a good, clean bill that will help animals and keep people safe. On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, I urge you to pass SB 677, Proposed SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE



2.6.20

Regarding Bill #677

Dear Friends,

We are in full favor for supporting laws and guidelines benefiting the health and welfare of our dogs here in Hawaii.

Regarding the use of electronic collars for dog training, we have trained over 4500 dogs and here in Hawaii and over 100,000 dogs Nationwide within our 130 Dog Training locations on the Mainland. We are opposed to the current proposal for banning the use of electronic collars for training.

Through the ingestion of a wide variety of training aids, we have saved literally thousands of dogs lives that otherwise would have been euthenized.

Please review these 2 short vidoes

A variety of dogs we have trained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YIZfEoo8Ls&list=PLePmLa1SsQYkxdblavW55MDJN5-OReZIV&index=2&t=0s>

Separation Anxiety dog we trained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmxj8vcPBOU>

We respectfully ask to work with you regarding setting paramiters for safe and helpful standards to continue our training and working with Familes State wide for the benefit of developing healthy relationships with families and their dogs.

Aloha,

Scott Sanchez

Sit MeansSit Hawaii Owner

Vice President of

Research & Development

www.SitMeansSit.com

Serving 124 Locations Nationwide

Tel # USA 001 808 283 6121

ScottSanchez@SitMeansSit.com

Animal Planet. The Outdoor Channel, ESPN, The Pet Hui, CNN, David Letterman, Parade Magazine and K-9 Cop

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Hawaii Office 808 283 DOGS



Sit Means Sit Corporate
6372 McLeod Dr. Suite 2
Las Vegas, NV 89120
tel: 702.877.4581
fax: 702.262.6588

LATE

2.6.20

Re: Bill# 677

To whom it may concern;

Sit Means Sit Dog Training Inc. Is the largest U.S based Dog training company, with over 130 individual franchises spanning across the United States and into Canada. Since we began franchising in 2009, Sit Means Sit has trained over 100,000 dogs, utilizing our remote dog training collar always with the mission to create happy, confident and obedient dogs, as well as happy, confident and satisfied owners.

We are opposed to Proposal Bill #677 for the banning of electronic collars.

SIT MEANS SIT
DOG TRAINING™

Alfredo Rivera

President - Sit Means Sit Corporate

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:15:16 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:

Dear Honorable Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members,

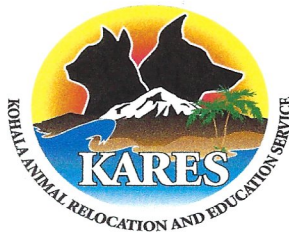
RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB677 Proposed SD 1

This important measure aims to limit the manner in which a dog is tethered to reduce the likelihood of entanglement or injury. Dogs are highly social animals who need interaction.

Tethered dogs are 3 times more likely to bite than non-tethered dogs and of those bites, children are 5 times more likely to be the victims. Limiting dog tethering not only improves the quality of life and care for the dog but protects public safety, by reducing the likelihood of dog bites and aggression.

We respectfully request that any tow or log chain not be allowed and that the bill instead state that the length and weight of the tether is proportionate to the individual dog. The only persons who chain their dogs using a tow or log chain are those who are conditioning their dog as part of an illegal dogfighting operation or those involved in weight pulling, but they would never leave a dog unsupervised on a tow or log chain.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

To Those Who Share a Concern for Our Hawaii Island Animals

February 6, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The Kohala Animal Relocation and Education Service (KARES) is in support of the use of an e-collar as a training aid. KARES has utilized this aid to teach dogs direction, not correction, and thus has saved many dogs from being euthanized because of behavioral issues, stabilized family pets and made teaching obedience training safe and accessible for everyone.

The mission of KARES is to rescue and relocate abused, abandoned and stray domestic animals, primarily dogs to provide temporary housing for them through our foster care network and to facilitate adoptions into caring permanent homes.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Cravatta
Founder and President

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

SB677

Friday, February 7, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Kristin Mack Almasin and I am the livestock manager at Ulupalakua Ranch on Maui. I am writing to **oppose SB 677** as written because it would negatively impact our ability to operate our livestock business and manage our pastures/land. As a ranch, we use herding dogs daily to handle our livestock in a low stress manner and this bill would limit our ability to effectively train our dogs. We utilize training collars as a tool in the education of our dogs on how to handle livestock in a quiet way, while giving the livestock the space and time they need to move effectively and calmly as a herd. We utilize rotational grazing to graze our pastures in a manner that is best for the health of the plants and soil, and the herding dogs really make this type of land management possible on the scale that we operate.

In addition, as a hunter, training collars are used to target the invasive species we want to hunt. An important example of this, is hunting the pigs living in the same pasture with cattle or sheep, and training the dogs to only hunt the pigs. With feral pigs being a such a big problem on our ranch, hunting with dogs is an important part of our control and eradication program.

We consider our dogs as part of the crew here and invest heavily in their health and well-being, as well as share a unique bond with them as partners. We understand and support the desire to protect dogs from inhumane and cruel handling and treatment and agree wholeheartedly that they should be treated in a way that does not negatively affect their physical or mental health. However, this bill, as written, would limit our ability to protect both the dogs and our livestock and for that reason we **oppose SB 677**.

Thank you,
Kristin Mack Almasin

LATE

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 677

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 SB 677.

The Pacific Pet Alliance agrees with the intent of this bill that provides for humane tethering and banning the use of electronic shock training collars for dogs.

The American Kennel Club's position on tethering is as follows:

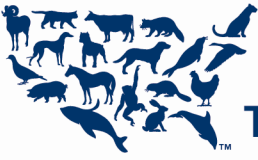
TETHERING

The American Kennel Club® recognizes that tethering is a practical and humane method for training and restraining dogs in a variety of circumstances. Dogs should never be tethered in a manner that could cause harm to them. Tethering is a common and responsible way to restrain dogs that do not respond well to other restraints (such as escape artists), or participate in activities that require acclimatization such as hunting, sledding and/or other obedience and performance events. Tethering may also be a responsible and appropriate option for handling dogs that are service dogs such as seeing eye dogs, dogs in training, and dogs that are being groomed or examined on a table. AKC® opposes arbitrary restrictions on tethering, which can undermine the wellbeing of dogs, responsible dog ownership, and safe training and recreational activities.

The Pacific Pet Alliance acknowledges and commends the perseverance of canine advocates on the big island for their efforts to improve the lives and living conditions for dogs in their community.

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

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

LATE

To: Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senate members of the Committee on Judiciary

In Support Of: SB 677

Date: February 6, 2020

Testimony By: Heather Carpenter, Western Regional Director, The Humane Society of the United States

Honorable members of the committee on judiciary,

My name is Heather Carpenter and I am the Western Regional Director for The Humane Society of the United States. I am writing to express support for SB 677, which would establish minimum standards for chaining dogs who live outdoors.

SB 677 offers the following common sense protections: a) ensures that dogs who are chained outdoors be provided proper and humane restraints, with collars that will not cause pain and tethers that are not egregiously heavy; and b) ensures chained dogs have access to proper sustenance in a sanitary living environment.

Constant, improper chaining puts a dog's health and safety at risk. Law enforcement often receives reports of chained dogs with necks rubbed raw and covered with sores, the result of cruelly heavy chains, poorly fitted collars and the dogs' straining to escape confinement. It is shockingly common for officers to find dogs with embedded collars, a horrible situation where the collar grows into the skin, typically requiring surgery. It is reasonable to require dogs who are tethered for long periods of time be in good health with access to a clean environment, food and water.

Like any good law, SB 677 is clear and enforceable, designed to solve a problem at hand, and reasonable for citizens to comply. It will protect dogs who live outdoors without creating an undue hardship for owners, and we look forward to its passage.

Thank you very much for your time and for your efforts to protect the dogs of Hawaii.

The Humane Society of the United States requests that SB 677 be reported favorably.

H Carpenter

Heather Carpenter
Western Regional Director
702-929-2999



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



LATE

Small Animal Veterinary Hospital and Mobile Services
1476 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753
P) 808.879.5777
F) 808.879.7245
jerob@yourvetmaui.com
www.yourvetmaui.com

Date February 6, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in opposition to SB677. As a veterinarian with over 10 years experience and over 4 years practising medicine in the state of Hawaii, I am well versed on all types of dog training, training aides, behavior and animal cruelty. While I typically support legislation that attempts to prevent cruelty, I feel that SB677 is misguided in its attempts.


While I have no issue with the attempts to limit or regulate the use of tethers and similar restraints, the part I take exception to is the complete prohibition of the sale, distribution, or use of electronic collars. Unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation that is spread around about the use of electronic collars. The first is found in the inflammatory term, 'shock,' listed right here in the legislation to invoke an emotional response. Over my years I have personally used and/or worked closely with trainers that use electronic collars. They are not 'shock' collars, that is not the purpose and when they are used properly, are in no way harmful.

Now just like with anything, in the wrong hands, of course, these can be misused. When you see terrible stories on the internet of shock collar injuries, these are at the hands of cruel people that will likely use whatever means necessary to harm animals. Because at the core of it, those people are animal abusers. I will tell you that in my experience, these instances are very few and far between.

What I have witnessed, time and time again are the use of these collars as a training aid to save dogs lives. Firstly it must be understood that this is not some cruel 'shock' given to the dog. There are small pulses that mimic more of a tapping than anything else. It is used as a way to tap and gain the attention of the dog being trained. When properly used the dogs are not scared, they are not harmed, it actually helps them to become balanced, happy canine citizens. These collars have helped save thousands of dogs from being euthanized, have created stabilized family pets and made teaching obedience training safe and accessible for everyone.

Personally I have dedicated my life to saving animals lives and have always vowed to ensure to eliminate animal cruelty. I take anything I address in the manner very seriously. While I understand and appreciate attempts to regulate possible animal cruelty, SB677 is not the way to do so.

Kind Regards,

DocuSigned by:

FDA9F26F623F485...

Dr. Jerob Leaper, BVSc
Owner/Veterinarian
YourVet Maui
jerob@yourvetmaui.com
808.879.5777

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:58:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Hart	Testifying for Partnership for Electronic Training Technology	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 6, 2020

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: S.B. #677

The electronics manufacturers' organization, the Partnership for Electronic Training Technology (PETT) is concerned about the Proposal S.B. #677 which is being put before the Hawaii State Legislature. We believe the proposed bill will result in a poorer quality of life for both pets and their pet parents.

The pending ruling could result in banning the use of training tools designed to give more freedom to dogs using electronic fence systems and remote training collars as well as outlawing bark control collars designed to curb excessive barking.

"Behavior issues are one of top reasons pets are relinquished to shelters" states Jason Hart, President of PETT. "The products that our members manufacture have proven to be great training tools and strengthen the relationship between pets and their parents and have aided in keeping hundreds of thousands of dogs in loving homes rather than sent to shelters and possibly euthanized."

Studies conducted by independent researchers have demonstrated that used correctly, these products do not cause long term negative impact on dogs. Additionally, the hundreds of thousands of dogs and their parents happily and effectively using the products show that these products can have a positive impact on dog's lives. Statements suggesting that electronic training products cause pain and distress to animals demonstrate a lack of awareness regarding the technology used in modern electronic training products available including their use and practical everyday value.

PETT believes that there are a multitude of great training tools and approaches in training pets and that each training situation presents a unique approach depending on the disposition of the dog and environment. Electronic training may not always be the right solution but in many cases is the best solution utilizing safe equipment and proper technique.

We strongly urge the Hawaii State Legislature not to pass S.B. #677 to allow pet owners to continue to use these training tools and allow more pets to stay with their families.

Sincerely,

Jason Hart

President, PETT

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:06:02 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-677

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:57:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angie Ali	Testifying for amaniek9	Support	No

Comments:

Chaining is inhumane and unsafe for dogs AND a safety hazard to people and community. USDA states that Animal welfare Act finds continuous confinement of dogs by tether inhumane. So for as the American Veterinary Medical association. AVMA states on Bite Prevention Week "Never tether or chain your dog because it causes aggressive behavior" .

here is what some of the animal control directors had to say about no chaining in their community -

N. Carolina - the ordinance has been "absolutely good" for the dogs in the community. Dogs that are chained without human contact and love become problems for the community.

Lawton, Oklahoma - "has seen a decrease in dogs dying from heat stroke and strangulation on chains. Chained dogs are bad for the community because they are Much more likely to bark and to bite.

this testimony goes on here Nationwide if you cared to read more

www.unchainyourdog.org/documents/Testimonials

to summarize, this is good social policy, animal welfare policy and bipartisan policy since it ultimately saves money and lives. Yes these problem animals are costing 2.1 MILLION dollars a year county contract hawaii county alone . Same sorry results. Tens of thousands of animals killed on big island alone, intake cages full of battered abused dogs. There is also a direct link between animal abuse, social and domestic violence. We demand better for our communities.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:51:04 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! The use of E-collars by responsible hunters and trainers should be considered totally opposite of Cruelty. Not only are these collars used by hunters and trainers but also ranchers and stockmen on there working dogs. Please do not waste any more time on this ridiculous bill!!

rhoads3 - Dennis

LATE

From: Rebecca Corby <rebeccacorby@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 7:24 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Please pass this and any bills aimed at reducing cruelty to animals. I'm a Puna District resident and I am so sick of seeing all the abused and neglected chained up dogs all over this beautiful island. It's cruel and unnecessary. People are lazy and don't want to house train their dogs so they tie them up 24/7, this is not acceptable, this is cruelty. These dogs are forced a life of solitary confinement, no access to water, attention, warmth and dry shelter from the rain and cold. It's sick.

Please help these poor dogs

Measure Title: RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY

Companion House Bill: HB633

Mahalo for caring about Dogs in Hawaii!

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Richard Corsano <rcjoshua62@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 1:22 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: PASS SB677

Let the Aloha state help lead the way for a more compassionate world.

Richard Corsano
Kapaau HI

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:48:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth crow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

please pass this bill.

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: kathy gedeon <kathydgedeon@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 3:18 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Please pass bill Pass SB677

Please have a heart and pass bill SB677

Kathy Gedeon

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:33:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:21:23 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Seen so many dogs tied to a pole in the sun with no water or shade close to them.

They need help.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:30:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please include tow chains in the ban.

rhoads3 - Dennis

LATE

From: Christin Greenland <christin.greenland@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:01 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB 677

Please pass SB677 limiting tethering, animal cruelty and electric shock collars of dogs. Hawaii is very behind the rest of the US in their animal cruelty laws and this is a step in the right direction.

Thank you,
Christin Greenland
Robert Mack Jr
[Volcano, HI 96785](#)

Sent from my iPhone

rhoads3 - Dennis

LATE

From: J H <justine.haltom@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:51 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

I'm writing to urge you to pass SB677. Hawaii needs to do better as a state to protect animals from abuse and neglect. Dogs of our islands suffer every day as they live their entire life chained outdoors. This is no exaggeration. I personally witness this type of animal abuse every day, as my neighbors treat their dog this way. The dog is chained 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This poor animal suffers because of human neglect. As a result, the dog is miserable and in very poor health. Furthermore, it's miserable state encourages it to bark and screech for hours at a time, which affects all of the neighborhood's ability to enjoy peace and quiet at their home. We need to encourage responsible dog ownership, and discourage inhumane practices.

Mahalo for your time,

Justine Haltom
Registered voter in Kaneohe, HI

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: dale <dale@hawaiiirconditioning.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 6:43 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass sb677

Please pass SB677
Dale Harrington
Kailua kona

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Ilene Harrington <ilenepch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 6:38 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Aloha,

I realize you are trying hard to do your best when passing Bills to Laws. However for some reason the Bills submitted over the years to improve conditions for tethered/chained dogs have not passed into Law.

Since the 1990's it has been proven that domestic violence and animal abuse are linked and if we can catch those that are abusing animals in the early stages, there is a good chance we can circumvent other violent family acts.

Besides these obvious situations, it is animal abuse to chain and/or tether dogs. Dogs are pack animals and suffer physical and psychological from being chained as it is normally done in a cruel manner with little or no shade and they are forced live where they defecate and urinate and often they knock over their food and/or water if they get any.

Let's upgrade our animal abuse laws and improve conditions for dogs.

Mahalo,

Ilene Harrington
Kailua-kona

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: lady06hawk@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 8:02 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

These animals suffer 24/7.

Please pass SB677

Dee Hawk

POBox 377351

Ocean View, HI

96737

IMPRISONED ANIMALS OF OCEAN VIEW NEED YOUR KOKUA

photos 8/26/15



let HIHS know (808)329-1175
IT'S NOT OK in any location

dog details @ 640-5468

Sent from my iPhone

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Jennifer Jo <jomama1012@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 12:23 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am asking you to pass the SB677. As a resident of Puna I see dogs tied up all day and all night looking helpless and wanting so much more for the life they have been given. Please stop this abuse and help give dogs a life free from being tied up.

Thank you,
Jennifer Jo

Sent from my iPhone

rhoads3 - Dennis

LATE

From: Deborah Kahanu <dkahanu@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:09 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Pass SB677

I am a registered voter in the Hawaii Island County, Kailua Kona.

Mahalo,
Deborah Kahanu

--

Mahalo,
Deborah Kahanu

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:04:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Lipka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii Revised Statutes 711-1109 and 711-1108.5 already address animal cruelty broadly enough to handle persons mistreating animals. The wording of this bill seems a bit vague in some areas while being overly specific in others. The areas where it is worded vaguely could be misused by persons who dislike their neighbors or dogs in general to make animal cruelty charges against others as a way to harass or force a neighbor to get rid of their dog. The areas that are overly specific create a problem where the law is trying to apply one solution to every conceivable problem that could arise, such as section (v)(A) where it says no chain or tether less than 10 feet. There could be instances for the safety of the dog due to the size of the yard and proximity to various things a shorter tether for brief periods would be both reasonable and not cruel but with this bill as law the dog owner would be guilty of cruelty. While I agree that the intent of the law is noble the ramifications of how it is worded could hurt more than it helps.

rhoads3 - Dennis

LATE

From: Ellen Lubrano <Inlubrano53@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:38 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: it's time and our chance to show our pets we care

Please Pass SB677 and stop animal cruelty, tethers, electric shock collars are unnecessary and actually make animals feel less safe and more anxious. This should be one of those no brainer decisions, as a loving caring human you must pass this bill.

Thank you,
Ellen Lubrano
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:14:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendell Morse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is totally misleading and has two completely different subjects lumped into one bill that should be separate.

The tethering section of this bill is valid to a point. There needs to be some attention paid to the many people that tie out dogs and leave them without shade or able to reach water. I feel that a lot of people have dogs that can escape their yard and tethering is the only option, however they need to have shade and water that will not be knocked over if the owner is gone all day. This issue is valid and needs to be addressed.

The last part of this bill has NOTHING to do with tethering and need to be removed from the bill. Banning the sale, distribution and use of e-collars (electric collars) should be removed from this bill. Only people that have no insight in to how these collars are used correctly would want this to pass. Some of the best trained dogs in the world are trained using e-collars. You are now attacking our military and law enforcement who use highly driven dogs to protect us in many different ways and all of them are trained using e-collars. Instead of throwing this under a tethering bill - I suggest you remove that section and actually go visit military or law enforcement when they are doing training with their K9's and see how these collars are used. Thank you.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:20:40 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 SB677, and include tow chains, which would provide more humane treatment for dogs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Keala Rhodes <keala13@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:22 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Please pass SB 677 so that Hawaii can show the world that they truly care about our animals, especially are dogs and that we as a people do not tolerate the cruelty exhibited across our State that exists today when dogs are mercilessly abused by chaining.

Your vote is critical!

Mahalo,
Moanikeala Rhodes
Kailua-Kona, HI. 96740

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Dr. Jana Levin DVM DAVDC <drjanalevin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:01 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Please pass SB677.

Mahalo,

Jana Levin-Strojny

Kailua Kona 96740

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Cindi Wilson <wilson.cindi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 6:48 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

Aloha,

Please pass SB677 to improve conditions for tethered dogs.

Mahalo,

Cindi Wilson
Kailua Kona

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:06:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as I've seen dogs in Kau, Hamakua, and Kona districts chained in the sun with no water source. it would appear this violates the new federal law against animal cruelty. the bill as written isn't perfect, but we have to start somewhere. I've been waiting years to see action on this issue.

Mahalo

James Ward

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: pauljanw@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:58 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Pass SB677

LATE

Pass SB677

Description: Limits the use of tethers and certain other types of restraints that are known to endanger dogs or prevent dogs from receiving necessary sustenance. Allows tethering for not more than twenty-four consecutive hours but only by means of a chest harness around a dog. Prohibits the sale, distribution, or use of electric shock dog collars. Specifies penalties.

Thank you!

Janis E. Woods registered voter in Kailua-Kona Hawaii.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 4:58:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Claspille	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Too many animals are subjected to terror from e collars compared to those using them properly, since it benefits the majority to no longer use them, they should be banned.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:15:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Stevens	Testifying for Seattle TTouch LLC	Support	No

Comments:

As a certified dog behavior consultant and trainer, I fully support a ban on the sale, distribution, and use of shock collars. Several countries have already banned their use based on the results of current studies. Research demonstrates the fallout and negative effects of using shock. A research article published in September 2014 concludes "there is no consistent benefit to be gained from e-collar (i.e. shock collar) training but [there are] greater welfare concerns compared with positive reward-based training. Science shows that we should be using positive reinforcement based training over punishment (shock/e-collar) based training. Please take a stand as a state and prohibit the use of a tool that has no place in the training of our beloved companion animals.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:18:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rebecca macdonald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Electronic dog collars are a safe and humane way to train dogs, despite rhetoric and their detractors falsely calling them "shock collars". A reputable and well made electronic collar delivers a gentle pulse in the same way a TENS unit does, the same TENS units we use on pregnant women to ease their back pain.

An electric collar delivers a small stimulus (not an electric shock) for a fraction of a second. Reputable ones have ranges of over a mile, and they allow you to communicate with your dog at great distances without a leash. Think of it as giving your dog a tap on the shoulder, telling him gently to come to you.

Yes, they have been banned in places such as Wales (they have not been banned in Scotland, despite what the proposal states) and there has been a massive uptick in sheep worried and killed by dogs.

The dog training world is divided, and well meaning legislators put their money behind the people who speak passionately about "humane" and "force free" utopian training. Unfortunately, not being active in the world of dogs, they don't get to see the dark side of these nice words. The dogs who can not be exercised, played with, enjoyed... The dogs who die because these trainers with the big words and impassioned speeches are missing a crucial component of the behavioural change formula.

These are the people who would rather see a dog die than tell the dog no. And it happens every single day. "Death before discomfort". Dogs who can be helped using electronic collars, dogs who have the potential to live long and happy lives, those who can still be rehabilitated if they haven't gotten the best start in life, are routinely killed because cookie pusher trainers with nice ideals and little real world experience couldn't fix them. Refused to fix them if it meant telling the dog it can't continue a dangerous behavior.

For the good of dogs and the people who love them, please reconsider this short sighted, potentially disasterous legislation. Every dog deserves a chance at life, and for many, electronic collars are part of the solution.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:25:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathaniel Liebermann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Nate Liebermann and I have been a professional dog trainer for six years. I am thirty eight years old and this is the first time I have ever written in to express my view on any public policy issue.

I cannot convey in strong enough terms the damage that criminalizing use of the electronic collar will do to the cause of dog welfare. Unlike the stories some would have you believe, the e-collar has been a transformative and absolutely humane tool in my training programs. I use it in the same way I use a regular leash and collar, to convey subtle pressure, and it has been absolutely transformative in the lives of my clients and their dogs.

Most people have such a warped view of this tool that I only bring up its use when I have it with me and can demonstrate it using the person as a test subject, at which point literally everyone goes "oh, that's nothing"

This tool has saved the lives of countless dogs who would otherwise been abandoned, neglected, or euthanized. I beg you to please not judge the use of this tool on the actions of a few headline grabbing abusive trainers, and to allow the rest of us to continue working on behalf of the dogs that need our help.

Nate Liebermann

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:28:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rebecca pess	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

URGENT: I AM DISABLED

Dear legislators, I am a disabled woman who controls both my service dog and my pet dog with electronic collars. Have you thought at all about how this short sighted and cruel legislation will affect the disabled community who rely on our medical devices (dogs) to survive? Will I become a criminal or will I have to become housebound?

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:35:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn kato	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Just a short note, including e-collars in the bill is a tragic mistake!

E-collars or other names for them are abused and used in incorrect manners, by bad owners and trainers!

I highly stress it should be removed, and persued, researched thoroughly in a separete bill.

I think first hand, hands on demonstations is necessary to the decision makers AND those bringing this forward.

That being said many dog owners should not own dogs.

Most are missusing the e-collar, for that they also misuse the leash!

Example, i buzz my dog at level 3 to 5, i can't feel this, whe she is 50 to 100 feet away doing whatever she is doing, she looks up and come running back, full run! or she'll look up and i'll say come, againn full run back tail wagging all happy!, safe from whatever may have been out there, car, dog, kid, again watever!

Plz call

Mahalo

Glenn

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:42:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary M Daniels	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Ecollars are a vital, life saving dog training tool and are not inhumane if used properly. I have seen these tools work to save dogs lives. Without ecollars many dogs will be untrainable and will be put down.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:44:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have witnessed first hand how incredible the e-collar can be when used properly. I have watched trainer, Larry Krohn, use on many different breeds of dogs, different locations, and different situations. I have 2 Pit Bulls myself and they have both had an e-collar on and have never reacted badly nor would anyone think they were being mistreated. The book that this man has written can be purchased on Amazon, Everything you Need to Know about E-Collar Training, it does an awesome job at explaining in detail how to use properly. Perhaps he could come do a live example with a dog that is totally uncontrollable. There are many situations that these collars are needed.

I am attaching a link to the book as well as his YouTube channel with many videos that are well worth watching. Everything you need to know about E Collar Training
https://www.amazon.com/dp/1521126550/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_apa_i_dUnpEb7N7NNZM

Larry Krohn PakMasters on youtube.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Sincerely

KIMBERLY

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:49:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Zakar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am the owner of a once highly dog aggressing German Shepherd. After multiple trainers, his aggression/reactivity was not different. I could not have him off lead and was nervous whenever I walked him. He is strong and had previously gotten away from me and attacked a Golden Retriever.

One day I came across the e-collar training book written by trainer Larry Khron. I learned how to use an e-collar and within a month I had my dog off lead at a park where other dogs go.

I conditioned my dog to low-level stimulation for approximately one week. He loved seeing the collar come out because he knew it meant food and fun. By the time I added the distraction of dogs at a distance he knew what the low-level stimulation meant (come to me). I could then go a bit higher when he didn't listen and he came back instantly. I only ever needed to go up (level 20/100) once or twice and have since never gone up again.

My dog is now reliable off lead whether he has the collar on or not and whether I have food or not. I don't allow him to play with other dogs due to his history, but he has little interest in interacting with them. On the odd occasion, an off-leash dog has approached him on the street or at a park he has been fine.

There is absolutely no way I could have done this without the e-collar. The use of the term 'Shock collar' is emotive and does not convey how they are used. Modern-day e-collars cause a muscle contraction not a 'burning' electric shock. They physically cannot cause any harm.

I implore you to look at the evidence from both sides. Those who are against the collars do not understand how to use them properly. They believe they are just thrown on a dog and the dog is punished as soon as it behaves in an undesirable fashion. I learned from Larry's book that this is NOT how they are meant to be used.

Please talk to those experienced trainers who use the tools properly. These tools save dogs from euthanasia every day. It saved my dog.

Kind regards

Jacqui Zakar

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:57:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam volz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern I've been training dogs for over 20 years and have studied animal behavior science the use of electronic collars is it necessary for behavior modifications for dogs we have saved countless rescues and have been able to help rehome these dogs by the use of electronic collars to to see a bill that is banning the use of electronic collars will only put more dogs to death with this being said you will have to ban underground invisible dog fences and so on and so on which will hurt people that can't keep their dogs in the yard that run off without the use of an electronic device it is very disheartening but you guys have tried to slip this bill in please reconsider your proposal and think about the dogs you're putting to death sincerely Adam volz expert dog trainer for 20 years

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:59:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Lisa Wood and I am a veterinarian on the Big Island. Our 40-year-old practice represents 4 veterinarians and we serve both large and small animals.

I am writing to oppose SB677.

In our area, dogs are often tied out or tethered. This prevents them from wandering, getting lost and possibly injured. We advocate for the compassionate care of all animals and recognize that this occurs under many different circumstances. SB677 is overly restrictive and we oppose SB677 as written.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:59:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alessandro Ferri	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have used the e-collar to help save countless dogs in rescues as well as saved dogs from running away off leash. The e-collar when properly used can give dogs more freedom, keep dogs safe from getting hit by cars or running off, and can save countless dogs and families. The e-collar is a tool used to communicate to the dog at a distance.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:22:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorie Tomlin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

In regards to proposal SB677 Animal Cruelty and specifically using prong collars and e-collars, which are valuable tools used in training dogs and helping dogs, who are fearful and show fear-based behaviors. I know this first-hand because one of my dogs is very fearful and she is also a dog who has a working dog mind. She was found on the side of a busy highway when she was still very young. Many fearful and stressful behaviors started to come to lite very soon after I adopted her. I had never had a dog with so many emotional and unstable issues. I tried training her and that didn't work, I hired Bark Busters to help me and that type of training didn't work. I was seriously considering sending her back to the women who rescued her or put her down because she was not living a happy life and it was only getting worse. I had a dog, who would not walk on a leash at all for 8 weeks, who whined and chased her tail for hours, who wouldn't sleep, who obsessed over non-existent opossums in the back yard, who didn't wag her tail even when she was excited. She was a mental and emotional time bomb and I didn't know what to do. I finally come across a trainer, who had experience with training dogs with these behavior issues and with many other behavior issues.

I didn't know how to communicate effectively with my dog and this trainer trained my dog on obedience then introduced the e-collar to help me communicate with my dog through distractions and to almost perfect the obedience she had been trained. This trainer also trained me on how to train my dog and how to work with my dog and provide her a stimulating, happy and loving home.

The e-collar used had levels of electrostatic stimulation from 0 - 100 and my dog responded positively to level 4. I put the collar on and I couldn't feel anything at level 4, in fact I didn't feel anything until level 23 and that was just a slight tinge feeling. This e-collar gave my dog freedom to act like a dog and when it was time to come back to me, if she didn't respond to a verbal command, I could call her back with the e-collar. She wasn't shocked, she didn't yelp or shut down. I pressed the button, she looked up and found me and came running back to me. She didn't do it out of fear of consequences, she didn't shut down or cower, she came running happily to me, she understood what that little strange feeling on her neck meant. It meant to find Mom and go to her. When she got to me she got praise, treats, and love and the dog was more stable than I could have ever imagined. She started wagging her tail, she was more respectful of our relationship and I was more respectful of her and we developed a strong bond.

Without obedience training and the e-collar training, this dog could have ended up in a shelter and possibly lost her life.

The technology used in quality e-collars is no different than the technology used in TENS units. It is not an electric shock and when used correctly, as this tool was meant to be used, it is one of the best training tools available.

I personally experienced how the e-collar helped a dog become a more confident, happy dog. I believe in it so much that I also had my other dog, who did not have those fearful issues, trained. It did not have a negative effect, it only made him better.

Please do not ban this tool, more and more dogs will end up in overcrowded shelters because of behavior issues, that could have been corrected by this tool.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:28:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Steffy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a lifelong animal lover, I cannot stand by to watch a bill like this be passed to only jeopardize the lives of SO many dogs in the future. A bill like this will be the direct cause of dogs being rehomed or euthanized because you have tied the hands of dog trainers and dog owners to provide proper training. I have countless photos and videos of my own personal dogs and client dogs using e-collars properly. There are trainers all over the world with photos and videos right there for everyone to see showing the proper use of e-collars. It's when tools are used improperly they become dangerous. How will banning these tools solve the problem? If anything you end up with more problems. You end up with dogs that can't be trained properly and in turn causing issues within the community. We need to EDUCATE. We need to TEACH. It is our responsibility as humans to provide the knowledge of proper tool usage so the dogs don't suffer. After all, it is the dog that will pay the price.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:28:37 PM

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

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

Comments:

I personally believe the e collar training saved my dogs life by the age of 5 my Shetland sheep dog named Aspen had been through multiple positive dog training classes and trainer even been thrown out of a few for being a bad dog, because she didn't learn in positive dog training atmosphere like take a cookie good dog classes'. She wasn't a bad dog never bitter and had never aggressive behavior at all! She was very driven and head strong she did what she wanted all the time! Using a e collar gave me a tool to communicate with her! So I could say "no jumping out the window to get a squirrel "this not a good choice or running into traffic after a car!! I truly believe that if she was saved by this toll! Because a great good dog trainer showing me the proper way to use a e collar, I could keep my Aspen safe loved for 15 years! E collar is a tool to help the dog in a lot of cases save the dog that has been let down by poor training or uninformed humans.E collar are not a weapon or animal cruelty! Thank you

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:34:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Houle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I as an individual with 3 loving dogs can attest to the benefit and life saving the e-collars have been for my fur babies and myself. As with any instrument/tool you do need to properly know how to use them. For that matter would you ban regular collars used on your pets as they can damage their larynx and cause choking if improperly used. Where as the e-collar does not require any pressure that can cause damage. Have any of you ever used a tens unit recommended for humans by doctors? Same system, for dogs at low frequency, it is like tapping someone on the shoulder to get their attention. When used properly it can save the life of your beloved pet if the chase after something and prevent them from getting hurt by running into traffic. This tool, the e-collar is a very valuable tool and should not be banned.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:36:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Trichter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Tiffany and I am reaching out to oppose this bill in support of banning the usage of electronic collars. I have personally seen hundreds of dogs rehabbed through their proper usage. Dogs overcome anxiety and aggression issues, become off-leash safe and become safe in just about any environment, regardless of the distraction level and it is ONLY because of the proper usage of electronic collars.

These tools when utilized correctly have the power to SAVE the lives of hundreds of thousands of dogs! And not just save their lives, it keeps the dogs from being dumped in shelters-or worse- because owners simply cannot get their dogs' behavioral challenges in check. The e-collar has personally changed my life with my own dogs. I can go ANYWHERE on this earth with them on or off leash-it doesn't matter. Why? Because of the e-collar.

It enhanced our relationship and as a result I can trust them and they can be trusted to have a lot of freedom.

It comes down to this: Do you want the dogs and their owners to FAIL? No?

By banning e-collars you are saying: "Yes, you do want to see the dogs fail, and yes, you do want to see the owners fail."

I have personally worked with and seen hundreds of dogs lives SAVED from proper usage of this tool. I have personally seen and worked with hundreds of owners who became empowered through proper usage of the e-collar.

I have personally successfully trained numerous dogs, many breeds, ages, temperments and behavioral challenges imaginable that has resulted in happy confident and obedient dogs and happy confident and satisfied owners. All of my clients have found freedom and a better relationship through proper usage of the e-collar.

This ban is no different from trying to ban guns. Claiming that guns are the problem. Guns like e-collars are NOT the problem. In the right hands, they SAVE LIVES. In the wrong hands, used irresponsibly, the consequences have the potential to be dire. It is our responsibility to educate the public on it's proper usage. The tools aren't the problem. Irresponsible ownership is.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:38:14 PM

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

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

Comments:

In respect to SB677, I oppose to this bill. While I am against animal cruelty, I am not against using tools that have been known to save dogs lives. The use of electronic collars by trained individuals are not akin to electric shock. The mention of this in the bill immediately shows how little research has been done before proclaiming it as abusive.

Ecollar technology is in line with devices such as a tens unit. It provides a low level stimulation to redirect a dog sometimes where other methods have failed. Dogs with severe aggression who would otherwise be euthanized have subsequently been trained using ecollars, thus providing them with the redirection and control needed to live peacefully.

As a service dog handler I have certain protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act. As such, I am able to allow my dog to task off leash while under control. Words will only go so far in a life or death situation. Having an ecollar on my working dog is like having car insurance on your vehicle. You hope you will never run into a situation where you need it, but you have it just in case you ever do. I have had off leash dogs with bad recall run up to my actively working dog. While ecollars do not replace other methods of training, they could virtually eliminate the chance that my dog encounters a loose dog with no verbal recall, so long as the owner is present.

It allows me to be in compliance with the ADA while my dog is taking off leash.

ANY tool, be it food, choker, head halti, can be abusive if not used properly. I have personally witnessed animal abuse with just a regular flat collar and leash. I have seen dogs abused by the kick of its human, and at the hands of its human.

These people are not the ones spending hundreds of dollars on quality made ecollars, and thousands of dollars with a trainer learning to use them correctly. Where do we draw the line? I'll tell you my suggestion. Stronger legislation for those known to abuse and neglect animals. A ban on tool used to teach and train animals is not the answer. The people abusing animals regardless of the method need to be dealt with swiftly, firmly, and hard enough they will think twice before doing it again.

Leave the tools free for those that need or wish to use them. Will you ban clickers for all of the obese dogs? Obesity is a form of abuse. My dogs have the freedom to hike,

swim, run and play fetch in the park without worry they will run off, approach other people or animals, engage in dog sports and dog friendly events. If giving my dogs the freedom to be a dogs while maintaining control on or off leash is abuse, then I challenge you to tell me what you call a dog living its life chained up to a kennel for its whole life is called. It is impossible to place them in the same category. However, this is what you are doing. Ban abuse, not tool and technology. Have any of the decision makers worked with a legitimate trainer to learn about this tool before proposing a ban? I wish you never have the hard luck of owning a dog that has a reactivity or aggression issue.

Thank you,

Lisa Carter

Waipahu

LATE



To whom it may concern,

My name is Marie G Selarque and I am a dog trainer on Oahu. I have practiced for 18 years. I came with in contact, and still deal with many dogs that have gone through e-collar training and came out severely emotionally damaged with problems of severe aggression towards people and other dogs. It can take many months to rehabilitate them and sometimes the abuse has broken their mind. The dog then pays with their life for the mistakes and cruelty performed by the humans. They are euthanized and then forgotten.

The use of force and shock collar has been closely correlated to increasing the animal's fear and thus increasing the aggressive behaviors that the animal will display in an attempt to communicate their discomfort, anxiety and sometime panic.

These animals are traumatized and they sometimes do not recover. It is an abomination to subject young puppies to e-collar training (as young as 4 months old). What can be accomplished with a good sound educational approach does not need to be taught by means of coercion and pain.

On top of the harshness of the method, dog owners are not adequately taught how to use the collars and therefore "zap" their dogs without discrimination, furthering the damages to the animal.

Therefore, I would like to see shock collars banned from Hawaii and the use of them fined. Dogs are sentient animals with the same emotions as we, humans, have.

Best regards

Marie G Selarque

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:50:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB677 as a devoted e-collar end-user. My 1 ½ year-old German Shepherd was first introduced to e-collar during his attendance of K-9 training school at a local business. I have seen an immense change in him since we began using one approximately 6 months ago in his behavior. Prior to the first-time use, my entire family was provided familiarization training on how the e-collar functions, to include stimulation on our own hand so that we could experience what he would feel when in use. The staff ensured we understood how it functioned, proper use, proper fitting, and proper employment. In fact, each family member was required to demonstrate an understanding and proper use of the e-collar before we were permitted to leave the facility. Safety and welfare in the use of e-collar was continuously stressed and reinforced during the 2-week training period.

If properly utilized, the e-collar is an excellent tool to reinforce the training concepts that he was trained on during his schooling and the continued emphasis at home. Prior to attending training that utilized e-collar, we were worried about his excessive barking, running off and potentially being injured by a vehicle, jumping up on new people, possible conflicts with other animals, and many other misbehaviors we have experienced with other dogs in our lives and those we have observed over the years. There are many advantages to using the e-collar. One of the first advantages is that it teaches your dog boundaries. This may include door manners and prevention of running out of the home when the door is open, escaping from our yard or even taking off when on leash while out for a walk. A remote e-collar provides that sense of security that I can prevent these actions that may cause our beloved family grave harm. Instead of trying to prevent a disastrous situation like running out in front of a car that can put both of our lives in danger, this can be activated immediately to prevent a potential fast evolving situation that can result in irreputable harm. Dogs are known to block out auditory stimulus when they are fixated on something and the use of an e-collar that utilizes a vibration is a great solution to this. Another advantage of e-collars is the better communication through use of commands and alerting him through the use of the e-collar that he is not exhibiting proper behavior. This allows us to use normal voices without having to raise our voices and when using the e-collar it reminds him to stop the action that required us to use the e-collar. He is so much more tempered now because of the use of this remote training device. Other advantages include prevention of him jumping on guests when they enter our home and provides an overall less stressful environment.

We continue to use it daily to reinforce his training and he has not experienced any adverse effects. Since his training and the introduction of the e-collar his attention to commands, mentality around others including other animals, mannerisms, and overall demeanor has changed drastically. If properly employed this is an effective tool; however, it must be used responsibly. This may not be a training device for everyone, but once conditioned my sweet boy understands what the stimulation means and immediately stops the action that required me to use the e-collar. It does not shock him like many believe and I have had to educate others when I talk about the device. I don't think he feels as if it is a punishment because he has grown accustomed to wearing it daily. There are those that will strongly oppose the use of e-collars, but I have found that it is very useful as long as it's not used as a punishment tool and is used responsibly. Some may draw conclusions that because it provides an electrical stimulation that it is inhuman; however, I believe some of this may be derived from a lack of understanding of how they function and how safe they actually are and can save your family member's life.

My sweet boy has not experienced any harmful effects as a result of using this system and I fear that if this legislation is passed and becomes disallowed, he will regress in his training and puts his life in danger. I strongly oppose this bill and implore all to vote no on SB677.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:21:20 PM

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

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

Comments:

Shock collars not only cause dogs physical pain, injury (ranging from burns to cardiac fibrillation), and psychological stress, they can induce severe anxiety and displaced aggression. They are a cruel tool that have no place in training.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:31:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Selene Florez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe that this bill has very good intentions and that most of the working of this bill is in the best interest of the dog and their safety, I however do not believe that any of the wording that includes the use of an e collar should not be included in this bill. The lack of the education behind how an e collar can and has been used to help dogs and their owner I believe in not being taken into consideration of this bill. I believe that with my knowledge of how the collar had and will continue to be a great tool for dog and their owners to use. I have personally been witness to many owners who have and will continue to use this tool for the dogs. The dogs are living their best happy life and can enjoy an active lifestyle that their owners love doing with them. I believe that this tool has saved more dogs than harmed them. I am asking that the banning of e collars be removed from this bill.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:45:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of prohibiting the sale, distribution and use of shock collars.

We have a unique position to take a stand in the care and treatment of our dogs. Hawaii has already banned the use of animals in circuses and performances. There is an obvious concern for the welfare of exotics that needs to be extended to our own pets. Time and time again science has shown the negative effects of the use of shock. The fact is, there is nothing that shock teaches, that cannot be taught using positive progressive methods. We live in a quick fix society and shock plays into that. It is often described as a "tap" or attention getter.. why is an electric current or vibration needed when the same thing can be accomplished with positive reinforcement. The short answer is laziness.

There is also the argument that aggressive or "red zone" dogs need stronger methods. This is as far from the truth as it gets. Using shock for aggression supresses the behaviors, it doesn't change how the animal feels. for example.. If a dog growls or lunges at kids because he is uncomfortable with them and a shock is used to stop the lunging it may stop the behavior of acting out but it is not helping the dog feel any more comfortable. It is actually counterproductive because now the dog associates kids with discomfort and pain. So on the outside it may seem fixed, but internally you have a ticking time bomb.

There is mounting evidence that supports prohibiting the use of shock. Several countries have banned it and there are states in the US starting to follow suit. Let Hawaii be a leader in this movement.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:53:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Nadeau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

When we adopted our adult dog 2+ years ago he was out of control, fear aggression and separation anxiety. Clearly why he was surrendered. We could not take him out in public or leave him home alone with any confidence. We eventually elected to send him to a trainer who specializes in crate training and e-collar training and it changed the dog's life (and ours) for the better. The collar can barely be felt, I know, I've tried it. The dog is now confident, happy, eager to meet strangers and other dogs. The e-collar has saved him from a highly restrictive lifestyle of no contact with the outside world. He is the sweetest boy now and we would never have achieved this happy relationship without the e-collar.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:11:58 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grant D Noble	Testifying for The Noble Dogs	Oppose	No

Comments:

If you have ever felt a remote collar or trained with one you would find that is the most gentle and fun way to train. You never have to yank on your dogs neck and they are able to be off the leash. I have found that from the business end it is the only way for clients to have long term results. The collar is always consistent and non emotional, something many pet dog owners struggle with. Have you ever heard the saying that the dog only listens when the trainer or husband is there? The e-collar allows the client to always have the "trainer there." When the dog wears the collar it remembers the training and makes it so regular people can have an amazing time with there dog. I have been training dogs for 5 years and wouldn't not want to own a dog if I couldn't use a remote collar. It makes life so much more fun for the dog and the human. People who are against e-collars and people who have never experienced them. If you ban remote collars more dogs will be in the shelters, people will feel helpless, and more people will be arrested for non violent offenses. Please keep our ability to help dogs!

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:35:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Harrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been a professional dog trainer for 5.5 years. I have trained hundreds of dogs, from easy dogs to incredibly difficult dogs. I have used a superior quality electronic collar on every single dog. Low level e collar training, where the dog had been conditioned to the collar properly (the dog actually learns the concept behind the collar, pressure and release, is not painful or stressful to the dog and is the BEST way for owners to communicate to their dogs. I never recommend it is used as punishment only and either do the many colleagues I have relationships with.. Corrections can be given if needed after the dog fully understands what is expected of them but corrections still doesn't mean pain. It can mean a increase in pressure. i have seen e collars transform the lives of dogs and their owners every. Single. Time. Please read my success stories and watch my videos on my website. [Www.dynamicdogtrainingaz.com](http://www.dynamicdogtrainingaz.com). Removing these tools would be a disservice and Likely a life sentence to countless dogs. Any tool, even a leash can be used negatively in the wrong hands.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:59:05 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doug	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to write my testimony in support of prohibiting the sale, distribution and use of electric shock collars. Call them what you want (referred to as a stim, tens unit like, "tap"), the bottom line is they work off of discomfort. Do this behavior "or else". Citing a variety of studies, Ziv (2017) concludes that "even when experienced trainers operate [shock] collars, the welfare of the dogs could be compromised," and states it to be "likely that the threat to dogs' welfare would be even greater in the hands of unskilled dog owners, who might lack the timing and consistency needed for this type of training to be successful...due to the aversive nature of these devices and the likelihood of training ineffectiveness, their use can be abusive.

If you were to argue that professional trainers can teach people to use them, keep in mind there is NO regulation in the dog training field. A massage therapist needs a license, a nail tech needs one, your plumber or electrician need one. All to ensure they are up to date on current codes and educated in their given field. There is no such regulation in the dog training field. With that in mind, how do you know that "trainer" showing you how to use a shock collar knows the effects they are having? It may look like it is working while creating a shut down dog that will tolerate until they do not tolerate any more. It is dangerous.

Ask ANY educated professional with a degree in behavior that has educated themselves in the modern field of dog training and you will see not one of them recommends shock. As a matter of fact, the Association of Veterinary Behaviorists has a statement against the use of shock and punishment.

I beg of you to consider the well being of our island dogs. Stop advocating quick fixes with no regard to the emotional well being of our beloved pets.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:00:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
hoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a owner of a dog and I use prong and e-collar to train my dog and I have the help of a reputable dog trainer and she has helped us tremendously with my pup's behaviors. I can't even express the amount of distaste I have for this ban of e-collars. These tools are not meant to harm animals but to save their lives. You look at the amount animals that are placed in shelters because owners do not take the time to properly train their pets. We hear stories of animals being brought back to shelter 2-3 times in their short life time. Ridiculous how people can seem these training tools dangerous. My pup who I am training to be a service animal needs these tools so I can live with knowing she will be right there and is safe and focused on me. These training tools are used with positive reinforcement and praise. Don't take away such good things from the best of the dog trainers who use these tools properly who can help many families keep their pets and not be succumbed to their own home. Take all these testimonies with great acceptance!

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:16:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrienne Mau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

my name is Adrienne Mau, I am a Dog Trainer and have been Using an E-Collar for about four years for all my personal dogs and also training dogs. There 2 different kinds of e-collar, there's a electrical collar and a tens unit e-collar. I have never in my life used a Electric e-collar because those are horrible for any dog to use, I have only used tens unit e-collar and I was properly trained by specialist to use that type of e-collar.

I got this from a web site.

Shock Collars VS E-Collars

Electric **collars** are designed to get your dog's attention, not as a form of punishment. When used in combination with positive reinforcement, **E-collars provide** the feedback that dogs need to learn when to pay attention to the handler. **E-collars do** not burn or cause lasting damage to a dog.

<https://www.ecollar.com/>

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:19:54 PM

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

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern.

Shock collars that use a negative and positive prongs are cruel. There are e collars that do not use negative and positive prongs. Some e collars use a system that uses a tens unit. A tens unit is similar to what sports uses for rehab. The bill should say that shock collars are cruel, and tens or e collars that do not shock can be used. My background is in health and safety for the DOD for more than ten years. I have been using an e collar and not a shock collar for about 3 years. If there were any chance of hurting any of my dogs, I would not use that type of collars. There are no other means to communicate with my dogs that work. Using this system keeps my dogs safe and secure. This law would hurt more than trying to ban all collars. Instead of banning all types of e collars only ban shock collars.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Kurtis Mau

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:03:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Valmoja	Testifying for Off Leash K9 Training	Oppose	No

Comments:

Electronic collar training has successfully helped to save many dogs from euthanasia and allows families to keep them in their homes instead of sent to shelters that are over capacity. When families run out of options, dogs also stand the risk of being abandoned to the streets.

Our company has successfully E Collar trained and graduated literally thousands of dogs who are now a happy permanent family member in their homes. We have 234 locations nationwide and UK. We are one of the biggest E Collar Training companies helping many dogs and owners in the State of Hawai'i.

Links to videos and testimonials of E Collar trained happy dogs and happy owners:

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCXt6piosiOjUZjo5Gco4E9Q>

<https://m.youtube.com/user/OffLeashK9Training>

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:29:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald J. Lombardi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

ALOHA,

I am a retired U.S. Navy military working dog handler. I have trained with the e-collar system and it is in **NO WAY CRUEL** in any way shape or form. Before I started utilizing this method of triaing I put it on my own neck and wrist areas. I have trained my own dog Prince who is 21 lbs with no problems. The e-collar once introduced directly blends into Classical Training also known as Pavlovian. It becomes associated with corrected behavior. My dogs and the dogs I have worked with have **NEVER BEEN HURT** by this excellent training method. It is also utilized by City and State agencies as well. Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:02:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Porter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Banning E-Collars (they are not called 'shock collars') is something myself and many dog owners oppose. An e-collar is just another tool, and when used properly, can have a tremendous impact on the dogs behavior and training. The use of an e-collar has saved thousands of dogs from being euthanized due to behavior problems. If you have ever used an e-collar, you will see there are many different settings that range from just sound, vibration, to the equivalent to a static shock. When used properly, there is absolutely no harm to the dog. If you ban e-collars, you might as well ban leashes and flat collars, as those are tools that, when used improperly, can cause more harm than an e-collar. I implore you to research this tool and talk to balanced dog trainers before making this decision. Thank you.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 3:35:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in response to the proposed legislation to ban e collars or use of any e collars. Recently, I adopted a dog from the animal shelter who needed training. Without training, this dog would knock people over, scratch people, and was generally just out of control. We signed up for an e collar training and it has been a lifesaver. Our dog attends one private training class per week, and we work with him 5 days a week. This dog is now on track to be a therapy dog, living his best life with beds throughout the house, nothing but pure love from every person he meets, and it's all because we had the tool of an e-collar. This e-collar has never been used as a punishment, and has ever been used as a training tool. The majority of the time the e-collar is on zero and there is no sensation felt because the dog understands the command. Please do not pass this legislation. There are too many dogs out there that would die without a training tool like an e-collar.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 3:55:09 AM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlotte Stormer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the ban of shock collars, electronic training collars. I have personal negative experience with these devices. Upon getting my 1.5 year old dog, she tore her ACL. She needed to be confined to a crate in order to rest. My dog did not like this, so she barked all the time. An idea we were given was to use a shock collar to make her stop barking. She would receive a shock if she started barking again, so she would learn not to. We ordered one online and it arrived the next day. The shock collar did make her stop barking, but I was totally unaware of what she was feeling. Her barking was expressing discomfort, and just because she was no longer barking this did not mean she was any less uncomfortable. We ended up creating severe anxiety in our dog.

Had a shock collar not been an option, we would have been forced to find a more humane approach to helping our dog, one that would have actually eased her discomfort.

An argument the court will likely hear in support of not banning the devices is that if they are used correctly, they will not physically or emotionally harm the dog. The problem is that the devices are widely available and can be used without the slightest idea of what it is doing to the dog emotionally. This makes them incredibly dangerous. In addition, the more research I've done, the more I've found that if a dog trainer is well educated, there is no need for a shock collar to modify your dog's behavior.

Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:32:39 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Lyon	Testifying for Mutts and Manners Dog Training	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a concerned professional dog trainer, I would like to submit the following testimonial regarding the use of remote training, or "shock" collars. I have been using remote collars in my dog training for 14 years. Modern remote collars are designed to be fully adjustable for each individual dog. The levels that dogs respond to cannot be detected by humans!

I would like to say, that as a professional, I do agree completely with the other components of this bill regarding tethering. I do consider that cruel and abusive, however, the use of remote training collars to give dogs freedom and a better quality of life through training, are an invaluable tool. I'm able to use and instruct my clients in the correct and humane use of remote collars to be able to effectively communicate with their dogs. Any "tool" can be misused! Flat collars, harnesses, and treats can all be abused! Overweight dogs is a much worse problem today, and causes cancers and many other health problems than the proper use of electronic training collars.

I would like to also submit the following testimonials from two of my clients regarding the use of remote training collars:

"Greg worked with us and our 1-year old border collie/whippet mix who we adopted from the Lawrence Humane Society. Within the first training session, Bella was responding to the e-collar, and she continued to progress through every session. Bella is a much calmer dog now, a pleasure to walk, and with very few negative behavior episodes—all within only four weeks. The e-collar helps us communicate our expectations to Bella in a positive, consistent way. We have been very pleased and are happy to recommend Greg and Mutts and Manners to all dog owners.

Mary and Mel Baskett"

"Training with Greg Lyon with Mutts and Manners has been a productive and positive experience for us and our rescue dog that is dog reactive. We are protective of our dog, especially because of the neglectful environment she came from, and so had questions about training with a remote collar. We learned that the collar is not harmful at

all. Greg's training with the collar is all about it being used as a guide and NOT discipline. We saw immediate results with our dog following basic commands. The group dog trainings are an excellent opportunity for ongoing consultation, learning and play. Even though our dog continues to struggle with fear of other dogs and is reactive, Greg incorporates strategies for her to work towards positive interactions with the other dogs in the group trainings. It's amazing how we have made it to the point of our dog sitting just a few feet away from the other dogs and not reacting. Our dog is making progress that we initially didn't imagine was possible. We still have a ways to go but our dog loves the training and is a much happier dog because of this training. By the way, Greg's calm demeanor and approach in the training has been reassuring for us to know that we can provide the right structure to meet our dogs' needs. Thanks Greg!

Lyle and Stacy...Lawrence,KS"

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter of SB 677 regarding the proposed ban of electronic training collars. In my opinion, these are valuable tools for dog training and behavior modification.

Greg Lyon, IACP Professional Member

Mutts and Manners Dog Training

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 5:17:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Valenti	Testifying for Woof Gang Rehab & Rescue	Oppose	No

Comments:

I founded a non profit dog rehab and rescue. we take dogs from the high kill shelters who have been flagged for behavior issues that no one will take and will be killed. we use ecollars HUMANELY AT EXTREMELY LOW LEVELS to the point where we cannot even feel the stimulation on human skin! even for very large dogs! in our process of desensitization we have saved countless dogs by giving them the training they desperately need when positive reinforcement only trainers have failed them time and time again. the research against ecollars is based on MISUSE not proper use. a more effective way to help is to ban improper use and force companies to make collars that do not have such high settings that can hurt your dog. or ban the poorly made ones sold in petco and pet smart. most collars go up to 100-120, and i have been training dogs for 10 years and never once gone above 20. which most people can still barely feel on their skin. without the ability to properly train these dogs they will be killed. how about we ban that? stop the murdering innocent lives not take away the tools that can save them. my personal dog gets picked on by other dogs and has been bruttally attacked 5 times by irresponsible people taking their dogs to the park. if they were ecollar trained this would not have happened. being that my dog is now ecollar trained i can sucessfully recall him 100% of the time (without ecollar it is 30% of the time because stubbornness is a part of his breed standard). the ecollar has allowed me to recall him and keep him by my side so i can have him avoid dogs that are displaying aggressive behavior. this has saved his life on more than one occassion. additionally another one of my dogs is a herding breed and she chases cars. without the use of an ecollar she would surely have been run over by now. please please please think again. signing this bill will sign the death sentence for over half the dogs in existence. this is an abomination.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 5:44:09 AM
Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Tolodziecki	Testifying for Bark! Bark! BackYard	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I am very much in favor of protecting our dogs, the scope and wording and demonization of certain tools mentioned in this bill is just wrong. Incorrectly used, these tools can certainly be harmful to a dog. But used correctly, these same tools work beautifully to help thousands of people who have dogs who are difficult to manage. Just as a hammer is a perfect tool to put a nail in a wall and hang a picture - a hammer can also be used to hit someone on the head and seriously injure them. Are we going to ban the hammer because of the potential of the user to wield it for some nefarious purpose?

I have worked with hundreds of clients, who - after trying many different methods - utilized the electronic collar in the manner intended -- and got fantastic, dogsaving results. Dogs who would have been removed from a home for excessive barking, for chasing neighbors livestock or going after our indigenous species - were quickly (AND humanely) taught to leave their targets alone. This saved the lives of those dogs (and their targets!)

Not every electronic collar is created equally - and there are cheap brands that are not consistent with the impulse it delivers to the animal. Which is why, like with anything, people need training and we need to focus on education not eradication.

This bill's wording is oversimplification and will make criminals of good people. And will have the consequence of creating more dogs given over to shelters.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:19:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Reeve	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please DO NOT PASS this. Responsible people use e-collars to train dogs. We have a german shepherd that we trained using the e-collar and it was very successful. It is a very light buzz on his neck to let him know to come back or to get down, etc. Do not take away our rights to be able to train our dogs the way that is successful because of some idiots who abuse their pets. This won't stop those people. They will continue to do so without these. They are the same people that chain their dogs to trees with no food or water 24/7 and use them just to deter people from coming into their yard. Those kind of people don't consider their dogs pets. You can't stop stupidity!!

So please don't punish the people that are responsible!

Linda Reeve

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:31:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Van Curen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been using electronic shock dog training devices for many years and have loved the freedom and safety they have provided for my dogs. Please do not ban them, make cruelty a crime which would cover the misuse of these wonderful and life saving tools.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:50:21 AM
Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I opposed SB 677 as written. I SUPPORT SB677 SD1 which EXCLUDES electronic training collars. These collars are a valuable training tool and should be allowed for use in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:55:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Lang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While I am not a resident of Hawaii, I want to applaud you for taking the steps necessary to ban the use of shock collars on dogs. It is well established in the scientific literature that the use of shock collar is detrimental to a dog's overall health and well being. As a professional dog trainer I have see the emotinal and physical fallout as a result of the use of these devices. They are currently outlawed in several European countries.

Please please pass this bill! It gives hope that the rest of the country will follow!

Sincerely, Laura

[Shock Training Session Video Analysis - eileenanddogseileenanddogs](#)

[The Pet Professional Guild - The Use of Shock in Animal Training](#)

[Study outlines reasons to ban electronic collars for dogs](#)

["I Will Never Use the Shock Collar Again!" - eileenanddogseileenanddogs](#)

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:33:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Rolph	Testifying for PawsitivePalsPlus	Support	No

Comments:

As a Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Fear Free Certified Training Professional that uses positive science based methodology to train dogs without the use of force, I highly support the passage of SB677.

As stated in the bill, the sale and use of shock collars has been banned in many countries.

- Shock collars may cease a behavior in the moment, but the severe anxiety , fear, and stress they cause can lead to agression in the future and can create entirely new behavioral problems.

Why Should You Say NO to Shock Collars?

- Shock controls a dog without allowing that dog to make choices and solve problems, which often results in 'learned helplessness' – the dog effectively learns to give up.
- Shock forces a dog to 'behave' with little concern for the root cause of the negative behavior.
- E-collar training essentially cripples an animal's true learning ability.
- Shocking a dog can actually exacerbate aggressive behavior in the future.

The other section of the bill relates to the use of tethers to tie out dogs. Many of these dogs are tethered to a collar or a choke collar. There are many problems with this also. I recommend that my clients use harnesses insted of collars. If a dog pulls or receives any sudden jerk to their sensitive neck area- it can and does result in physical damage. The cervical neck area protects nerves going throught the area which can be easily damaged. There are other organs affected including the thyroid and it's important bodily functions.

I respectfully ask that you consider passage of this bill to improve conditions of our dogs in Hawaii

Teri Rolph

PawsitivePalsPlus

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:53:53 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elissa Weimer	Testifying for Paw & Order Dog Training	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please think of the ramifications that a bill like this will bring. I train hundreds of dogs a year. Not all of them need an e-collar or electric fence, but it can save so many dogs' lives. Passing something like this is extremely irresponsible and has an agenda! This will only put hardship on responsible dog owners and will result in so many dogs being euthanized for simple behavior problems such as owners having no control over their dog(s) unless a leash is attached. Some owners are old or disabled and NEED this option. My 7 dogs are all trained with an e-collar and they are HAPPY and free. They are not afraid of the collar or myself for using the collar. You are being fed a bunch of lies from a group with a seriously bad agenda.

LATE

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:55:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pati DeSoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please re-think banning e-collars. Yes, they can be cruel as can almost anything in cruel hands, however, it is instrumental in humanely training very large breeds of dogs. There are degrees of signals given prior to actual shock.

I have trained and loved dogs my entire life and recently discovered e-collars. Like choke or prong collars they can be harsh if an abusive person uses them, but they can make a huge difference in saving dog lives. Many vicious dogs have been rehabilitated with the use of e-collars. I urge you to consult military and police trainers before banning them.

respectfully submitted

Pati DeSoto

808-554-4224



LATE

February 6, 2020

Dear Senators Wildberger, Brower, Creagan, Eli, Ichiyama, C. Lee, Mizuno, Perruso, Takumi, Thielen, Hashimoto, Kitagawa, and Yamashita,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Association of Canine Professionals to introduce our organization and state our opposition to Senate Bill and hopefully work with you to bring realistic legislation surrounding the issues to the citizens of Hawaii.

The IACP is an association of canine professionals across North America, and Internationally, consisting primarily of dog training and behavior professionals, as well as veterinarians, kennel owners, groomers, etc.

A number of our members who reside in Hawaii and practice their craft in a humane, effective manner as well as our colleagues in the pet containment field and will be impacted by Senate Bill 677. I know our members want their voices heard during the shaping of any legislation that will impact their livelihood and in this case the daily lives of thousands of pet owners and service providers in Hawaii.

The IACP has a history of working with various levels of government on the passage or amending of legislation relating to the canine industry.

The legislation proposed below reads...

The legislature further finds that electric shock dog collars deliver an aversive stimulus to dogs, have a negative impact on dog welfare, and are banned in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Scotland, Sweden, Wales, and some parts of Australia.

The purpose of this Act is to improve the health, safety, and welfare of dogs and protect the public, as well, by:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2020, prohibiting the sale, distribution, or use of electric shock dog collars in Hawaii;

SECTION 2. Chapter 711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§711- Sale, distribution, and use of electric shock dog collars; prohibition. (a) Beginning January 1, 2020, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or use in the State any electric shock dog collar.

(b) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

(c) For the purpose of this section:

"Electric shock dog collar" means any e-collar or electric collar meant to be used around a dog's neck to deliver an electric shock to the dog."

The reality is hundreds of trainers in the state of Hawaii use electronic collars to humanely train their dogs and thousands of residents in the state of Hawaii use electronic fences to manage their pets.

Additionally, in "Do aversive-based training methods actually compromise dog welfare?: A literature review", a study published in the Journal of Applied Animal Behaviour Science in 2017, the researchers discovered inconsistencies and proposed a number of questions surrounding the studies cited in the outlawing of the electronic collar in the countries listed above.

In addition to our organization, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviorists, the Certifying Council of Professional Dog Trainers, and many more pet professional organizations provide guidance on how to effectively and humanely use the electronic collar.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

The modern electronic collar is not the “shock collar” many imagine. It is a tool that similar to any other tool can be misused.

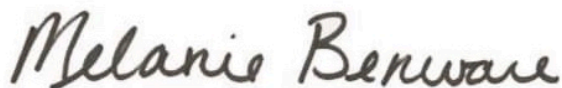
Continuing on with this ill informed legislation will make criminals out of thousands of pet owners, trainers upon the day it becomes law.

In reality, if you were to ask any veterinarian, pet obesity is a far more serious issue directly impacting the everyday health and welfare of pets. It is something that should be addressed first if the legislators truly want to work for the benefit of the pet owner.

Senators, our motto is “In Safe Hands”. We are professionals who feed our families and want nothing more than to be able to effectively train the dogs in our care. With certain provisions in this bill, you will make criminals out of thousands of your constituents, our members and everyday pet owners trying to simply keep their pets in their yards when a physical fence is not practical.

We look forward to working with you to help draft legislation that is practical and will truly help your constituents and our members in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie Benware, IACP CDT, CDTA/PDTI

President

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From: Megan O'Reilly <megan@pitchblackprintingco.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:46 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Bill#677 RE: e-collar training

Good evening,

I recently became aware of the proposal to ban e-collar use in Hawaii, and I wanted to send over my thoughts. I have a service dog that provides me seizure assistance, and I have trained her using e-collar practices. Before the e-collar, my dog was frightened and struggled to focus on commands, which sometimes got us into precarious situations (in one instance she got spooked and ran out into a large street unaware of oncoming traffic). We began positive e-collar training after a particular incident in which my dog no longer became able to assist me, and the results have been incredible for both myself and my dog. Her confidence level has risen tremendously and she's much more able to focus and execute her tasks as required. Both she and I are far more safe as a result of her positive e-collar training.

I do hope that stories like mine (as I know I am not alone in my success with positive e-collar training) help to inform your decision on this matter.

Have a wonderful evening,

--

Megan O'Reilly
Co-Owner
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700 East 4th Street #A
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We have moved! Please visit us at 700 East 4th Street #A, Reno, NV 89512.



From: Kerry Omerza <southchicagolandsms@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:54 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Proposal to ban e-collars

My name is Kerry Omerza. In 2010, my dog was recommended to be euthanized by trainers whose skills were inadequate for saving his life. He bit a stranger out of fear during training with a treat trainer. I was uneducated and didn't know how great electronic collars were to help dogs build skills to help build their confidence around things that scare them. After I did training with the use of an e-collar my dog has never even attempted to bite anyone ever again. He has learned that humans are not here to harm him by being able to guide him through the process of meeting new people. He learned to trust humans after he was abandoned as a puppy and now loves meeting new people. Banning electronic collars as a training tool would be a grave mistake. Dogs that have the ability to be off leash are far less likely to bite another dog or human and are also less likely to get missing from their homes and running around at large. Bill #677 will be a huge mistake and cost dogs their lives and potentially hurt other people and other dogs in more danger by not being able to effectively control dogs by the use of an e-collar. My dog is so happy and has many freedoms now because of electronic collars. Other training methods failed him. I can't imagine my life without my best friend.

Kerry Omerza
708-582-0434

rhoads3 - Dennis

LATE

From: Amy Kirlin <kirlin0809@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:44 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: E-Collar Use

My German Shepard spent time in training with a qualified trainer, in which an e-collar was introduced. We continued use of the collar not only during her training at home but even when she's not in training. We use it to take her to parks and fields to play. Something we could never had done before for fear that she would run away. The collar gives us the option of giving her long range free play and knowing we can bring her back to us on demand. We use the collar when she goes to the groomer, pet stores, vet etc. Majority of the time the collar doesn't even need to be activated as she simply is a much better behaved dog just knowing it's on. If we do activate the collar it's on an extremely low setting which does nothing more than get her attention. When used properly and under supervision of trained trainers the e-collar is a most amazing tool. It has given us endless amounts of freedom with our dog and allowed her to go places she could never go before.

Thank you!
Amy Kirlin

Sent from my iPhone

LATE

From: Brian Pepper <bpepper@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:14 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Bill 677

The proposed bill to ban e-collar use is ridiculous. With proper training this tool is instruments in building a very happy and confident yet obedient dog. Training for well over 2 decades I 15 years ago was against them To as they weren't built good. They weren't lower levels like proper units have now. When used with a professional trainer and taught how to use it the fun and relationship you build with the dog is amazing. I can show you dogs that used to be nightly aggressive with people and dogs now social and having fun with complete strangers. One of these being my own that put me in the hospital multiple times before I started training and using an e collar properly. Consult professionals on this bill with experience not just how people think they are used as most peoples thinking is so far off.