



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.

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.



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

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

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:27:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emi Au	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Emi Au, from Kaimuki, support 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.

I 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.

I urge you to pass SB 677, Proposed SD1

Mahalo for your consideration.

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.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:10:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will keep dogs safe and healthy. It provides the humane approach for tethering. I urge you to vote yes.

Lynne Matusow

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 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.

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.

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

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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



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 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.

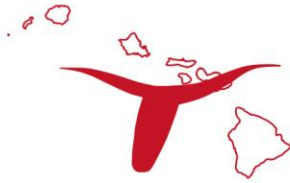
PETT believes that there are a multitude of great training tools and approaches in training pets and that each training situation presents a unique approach depending on the disposition of the dog and environment. Electronic training may not always be the right solution but in many cases is the best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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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 Nicole Galase and I am the Managing Director for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. We are writing to **oppose SB677**. HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Cattlemen and women care for the well-being of livestock and they also care for working hunting and stock dogs that aid in low-stress cattle handling. HCC advocates for the compassionate care of all animals. This can occur in different settings and is not determined by the housing or choice of training devices. While we support the well-being of all animals, we oppose SB677 as written. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.



SB-677

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:02:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Randolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I support SB677 because regulations like these are in the best interests of animals and eliminate any excuse by people who out of ignorance or lack of compassion use abusive teathering methods.

Passing this bill will allow Humane Society officers and representatives of other animal rights organizations to help animals, usually dogs, who are suffering from lack of water, an inability to move out of the sun or go to the bathroom and not have to lie in it etc. This is not about punishment but about teaching owners what is humane treatment. In those cases where abusive restraints are deliberate, it will allow animals to be rescued and police to take whatever seems to be the most appropriate action. Isn't it about time we put a stop to such basic and unnecessary abuse of innocent animals?

Thankyou

Martha E Randolph

2nd VP Kupuna Caucus of DPH

Treasurer Environmental Caucus of DPH

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 12:17:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Palomino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have personally seen so many dogs inappropriately tethered/tied for days, without proper access to food or water. Please, please protect them and support this bill. They can't advocate for themselves; we have to do it. I completely support this bill and believe it is a step in the right direction.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 8:09:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

i strongly support this measure which would help lessen the suffering of man's best friends.

my biggest request is that this legislation come with strong enforcement support.

There are no reasons NOT to support this bill. mahalo for voting in favor of it.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 3:35:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karin Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:25:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Not all Dogs can be allowed to be running Free they will go to the Neigbores House and empty the Garbge Cans Kill chickens and other small animals is the State willing to Be SUED every time this happens becuase of a Law the Stae Made and Passed.

We Oppose

This will be a big wast of money for the Tax Payer!!!

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 5:49:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:01:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:52:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalena Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-677

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

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Using compassion to support laws and treatment of the vulnerable.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:24:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and feel it is long overdue. I would support a complete ban on long term tethering but will be happy to see this bill become law. There are several dogs that live in my neighborhood who spend their ENTIRE lives on short chains. It is cruel. It is inhumane. I will be watching this vote closely and these votes will figure in greatly in my decision making during the next election.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:50:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is our responsibility to speak for those that cannot speak for themselves. It would be completely irresponsible not to pass this bill. It's up to us and I expect you to do the right thing. We must protect the innocents, the precedent has been set. It's up to us, you must pass SB677. Thank you!

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:40:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB677 regarding Dog Tethering. This bill would prohibit the most dangerous forms of dog tethering. It is possible for individuals to humanely tether or restrain dogs. And it is sad that there has to be a law for individuals to treat their animals humanely and with compassion.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 3:14:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ferol Kolons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 677 for obvious reasons.

It is cruel and inhumane to tether dogs

On ropes and chains. I know some people believe dogs don't have emotional feelings but that is completely false. Dogs by nature are social and curious beings. They require attention and affection as do all living beings. To tether them for a lengthy amount of time is inhumane

and can lead to a lonely neglected dog turning viscous and emotionally damaged.
Please pass SB 677 .

Sincerely, Ferol Kolons

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 4:17:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 8:31:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:13:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Another form of abuse that needs to stop!

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 5:28:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ilene Harrington	Testifying for Stop Hawaii Dog Abuse	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please pass this bill as confining dogs on a chain negatively impacts their lives both physically and psychologically as dogs are pack animals and for them to live in harmony they need to be able to interact untethered with their family. They often bark out of misery and frustration therefore causing conflicts with neighbors. Since this is a documented form of animal abuse, over 30 years of research has proven the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. If we can circumvent this issue at this level, it will also help by identifying potential domestic violence perpetrators before they hurt human family members.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:00:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in support of Senate Bill 677.

Strengthening our animal cruelty laws with this measure is justified. Our relationship with domestic animals gives us an enormous amount of power, and sadly lends itself to abuses that can be negligent or malicious. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Best,
Dylan P. Armstrong

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:57:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill, as I have supported all similar bills in the past. It is time for Hawaii to stop these cruel practices. Right now, I have property next door with 5 dogs on short chains attached to tiny dog houses (some are even pet carriers which let in rain). They bark most of the day and into the night. But I don't blame the dogs - they live a miserable life. Please, please don't let this bill fail as all previous attempts have. It's past time we change these old outdated and cruel practices - this is not the 3rd world.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 9:45:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this legislation!

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 9:55:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Heard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass SB677!!

Please enact legislation that will “start” protecting our beloved dogs and other animals.

Dogs can’t speak for themselves, they need us to do so. Animal neglect and abuse is

NOT a cultural practice of any kind.

I’ve seen too many dogs, too many times, tethered [24/7](#). Dogs are not trash. Would you want to be treated so cruelly?????

Please do what is right. Please make Hawaii a loving, progressive and humane place for dogs and other animals.

Please don’t make it so hard to implement these changes. We have such a long way to go.

Mahalo

Leslie

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:26:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 8:17:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

From: [Christin Greenland](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Pass SB 677
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:32:17 AM

Please pass SB677 limiting tethering 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

From: [Patricia Thomas](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 12:06:01 PM

Support SB677 SD1

From: [Kristina Ogilvie](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Please Please Support SB677 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:08:11 PM

"Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering

*Kindly & With Respect,
Kristina Ogilvie*

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

From: [marilyn.jacobe](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1 Dog Tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:39:22 PM

Aloha,
I am in support of SB677 SD1.

Mahalo,
Marilyn Hakkei

Sent from my iPhone

From: rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1 Dog tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:45:52 PM

I support SB677, which would prohibit the most dangerous forms of dog tethering, including chaining of dogs under 6 months.

People shouldn't have a dog if they chain it up.

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

From: [Hannah Mizuno](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1: Dog Tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:47:05 PM

Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering

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

Follow us on Instagram @alohaanimalsanctuary

Make a meaningful contribution through DAF Direct-

[https://www.dafdirect.org/DAFDirect/daflink?
_dafdirect_settings=ODMxOTQ3MTk3XzIxMTEfOTNjM2Q4YjQrMTcxZS00NzU5LWJjZWl0NTU2ZDRjN2UxZjk&designatedText=&amountValue=](https://www.dafdirect.org/DAFDirect/daflink?_dafdirect_settings=ODMxOTQ3MTk3XzIxMTEfOTNjM2Q4YjQrMTcxZS00NzU5LWJjZWl0NTU2ZDRjN2UxZjk&designatedText=&amountValue=)

From: [Viseth Ngauy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony; CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering. Support SB2512; Veterinary Care
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:25:13 PM

Stop cruelty to animals.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Gabrielle Kawasaki](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:07:44 PM

Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering

-Gabbi Kawasaki

Sent from my iPhone

From: briana_808@yahoo.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:53:53 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please let it be known that I support SB677 SD1. There is no reason for animals to be tethered, especially young animals. Tethering is no way to live a life.

Thank you,

Briana Schulte

From: [Erika Matsunaga](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 5:16:40 PM

Hi,
Please support this bill.
Thanks,
Erika Matsunaga

From: [Kelly Eaton](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:35:08 PM

Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering

From: [Gypsy Eaton](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:35:37 PM

Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering

From: [Deborah Kahanu](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:22:58 PM

I support SB677 SD1; dog tethering!

We are their voices!

Mahalo,

Deborah Kahanu

--

Mahalo,
Deborah Kahanu

From: [Jaclyn P](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; dog tethering
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:34:50 PM

Jaclyn Alvarez

95-275 Auhaele Loop

Mililani, HI 96789

Email: Jaclyn.s.pang@gmail.com

#510-882-4622

Dear Honor,

In relation to this bill, I ask that you please consider the role our ancestors played in cultivating the human canine relationship, and why it is thereby morally critical that we be the voice of the animals we have trained to become man's best friend.

The relationship between us and dogs is 15,000 years long. Though there is no consensus of how the domestication officially began, what is certain is that the transition from wolves to the evolution of the domestic dogs we know today was completely of our making. It was our choice to keep them in or near our homes, to soften their behaviors, to follow their noses to lead us to meals for survival, to bring them into our packs from which codependency was born. As we fell in love with them, they followed suit as we made the deliberate decision to soften their appearance and traits to our liking: smaller frames, shorter snouts, passive, loyal, and most of all, *loving & dependent* behaviors.

Fast forward, a few things remains the absolute same. We've continued to customize these precious animals to our liking, the common thread built into each of them being loyalty and dependence on us. Another thing that remains the same is their lack of voice; that is, the inability to articulate confusion, sadness, hurt, despair in words to us. This disability paired with the dependence we have built into them for the past 15 years is why I would like to be a voice for them today.

As a voice for our friends, I am in support of the ban on the sale/distribution of electric shock collars. I support this given the myriad of psychological and physical harm it can cause a dog which I am sure much testimony will elaborate on.

I am additionally in support of the 24 hour time limit on tethering. Dogs are social creatures and need breaks from restraint, otherwise pent up energy that turns into aggression can result. And of course, when they display violence, the knee jerk reaction is to sentence them to death for cruelty that we fostered.

Section 3 is critical. Cruelty can be found daily on all the Hawaii rescue facebook pages: k9 kokua, kaawa k9, dog people of oahu, paws of hawaii, fur angel foundation. For example, the recent case/death of a pit who was bred/raped multiple times (probably within the confinement of a cold cage/being tethered), recently gave birth and as a cherry to her miserable existence, was thrown into a pit as a bait dog, leaving her paw bone exposed, and rotting for weeks, with these unspeakable humans' final act of cruelty being to leave her to die in a trash pile. After all, she was nothing more than trash to these evils throughout her existence.

I am tired of the horror stories. With the powers bestowed to you, I humbly ask that you consider supporting, enact and strengthen any law towards the betterment of animal welfare in consideration of our history with these loyal creatures.

Thank you for your time,

Jaclyn Alvarez

From: [Myra Hammonds](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:36:20 PM

Aloha,

My name is Myra Hammonds and I am a resident of Hawaii Island. I am supporting Bill SB677 SD1; Dog tethering. Dog tethering is dangerous and inhumane. I really appreciate your time. Your time is very valuable.

You can reach me by phone, general mail or email if you have any questions.

My contact information is:

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

Mahalo Nui Loa.
Myra

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Christine K \(The GRRRL\)](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677 SD1; NO Dog tethering
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:55:24 PM

Support SB677 SD1; NO Dog tethering. Prohibit the most dangerous forms of dog tethering, including chaining of dogs under 6 months.

From: mhussenbux@btinternet.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB677, SD1 proposed
Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020 9:28:03 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

The Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain would like to support the Hawaiian Humane Society's endorsement of 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.

This Bill simply insists on the humane approach. We understand that proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

Dogs are social beings who benefit from full integration into their human families, and they have the right to do so. 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 Bill that will help animals and will keep people safe.

We beg to support SB 677, Proposed SD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to help animals in Hawai'i.

Marian Hussenbux. Secretary International Campaigns

Animal Interfaith Alliance
www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com

Faiths Working Together for Animals

Member Organisations:

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals
Bhagvatinandji Education and Health Trust
Catholic Concern for Animals
Christian Vegetarian Association UK
Christian Vegetarian Association US
Dharma Voices for Animals UK
Institute of Jainology
Islamic Concern
Jewish Vegetarian Society UK
Mahavir Trust
Oshwal Association of the UK
www.panorthodoxconcernforanimals.org
Quaker Concern for Animals
Sadhu Vaswani Centre
Young Jains

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

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

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 2:18:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB677. Tethering dogs is cruel punishment for a dog. How would you like to be tied outside for the rest of your life?

Dogs must be trained and so does the owners. A perfectly social dog who is tied up and outside WILL become vicious and dangerous.

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

These animals are loving, caring, and very loyal when properly trained.

Don't be with part of the problem, just fix it and support this bill!

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 4:09:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Whitney Boteilho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/13/2020 7:47:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Senators of the JDC committee. I am in support of this measure. If any human proposes to be a caretaker of a canine, they are responsible to treat it humanely While tethering a dog outside may be necessary at times, like any other action is must be done in a reasoable manner.

Mahalo

Mike Moran Kihei

From: [Jennifer Chiwa](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB677, SD1 Proposed for Hearing on 02-14-20 at 10:01 am
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 7:41:55 AM

Aloha, Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. Please support SB677 SD1 proposed which would prohibit tethering restraints that endanger dogs. It's my understanding that this bill in its current form is specific and enforceable.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa
Makiki

From: [Lynn Ishii](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB677 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 3:28:37 AM

Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering.

Lynn Ishii

From: [Joy Joy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT SB677 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 12:02:35 PM

Support SB677 SD1; Dog Tethering.

Please help save these voiceless, defenseless creatures from a lifetime of pain.

Aloha,
Joy N.

From: [Dr. Jana Levin DVM DAVDC](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Pass SB677
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:55:20 PM

Please pass SB677.

Mahalo,

Jana Levin-Strojny

Kailua Kona 96740

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.



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

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 ingeration of a wide variety of training aids, we have saved litterally 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

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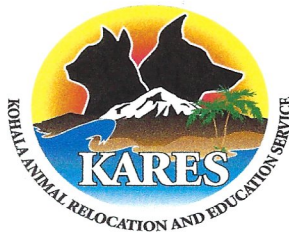
ScottSanchez@SitMeansSit.com

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

Our Mission ' Revolutionizing the quality of life with happy, obedient, and confident dogs. '

www.SitMeansSitHawaii.com

Hawaii Office 808 283 DOGS



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



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 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 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!!

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 5:59:18 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 6:55:34 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.

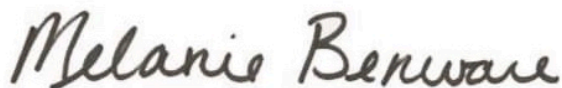
Continuing on with this ill informed legislation will make criminals out of thousands of pet owners, trainers upon the day it becomes law.

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

International Association of Canine Professionals

P: (512) 564-1011

E: melanie.benware@canineprofessionals.com

www.canineprofessionals.com

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
Pitch Black Printing Company
700 East 4th Street #A
Reno, NV 89512
(775) 476-2003
www.pitchblackprintingco.com

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.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 8:32:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Oehlsen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am not a good writer, please bear with me, I will try to be clear.

The fear that I have as a dog trainer, is that legislation that bans tools that I use for training will effect the outcome of a dogs life.

I am mostly a positive trainer. However, like children, not all dogs care about your delicious treats, they only care about fulfilling their desires. To add to the confusion, some dogs only need the e-collar a few sessions, so their bad behavior can be stopped when they are testing you and you are not right there to control them. Part of training is allowing the dog more freedom, within limits. The e-collar provides this.

What I see is a trend by animal rights people to bit by bit take away things they have deemed cruel. This would be ok if they had an experience and could prove that the e-collar is cruel, but they do not. Not only that, its sort of an insult to my character to say that the e-collar is cruel, because I do use it on occasion.

Please do not allow this ban to go through. The e-collar is a valueable tool for training dogs with behavioral issues as well as obedience.

THanks,

Jeff Oehlsen

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:05:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Oscar	Testifying for Advanced K-9's	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would ask that the people deciding this law concerning the use of e-collars consider the benefits for the animals. First compare the x-rays of dogs that have worn regular choke collars against those with an e-collar, there is physical evidence that choke collars do damage to the spine of the dogs, even with correct usage. E-collars, when used along with positive training methods are not harsh (try one on your own hand and feel the lower levels that most dogs use for training). It is just a tool, like a leash or anything else--not good or bad--but the person using this collar must know how to use it correctly--like with anything else! I have trained dogs with behavioral problems and also dogs for pets and show, for over 60 years, and yes--I thought e-collars were barbaric until I did the research! Not all tools are right for all dogs, but these tools are kinder than other options in a lot of situations. I have seen dogs that would have had to be put down, because of aggressive behaviors, be rehabilitated completely. This tool can save otherwise "really bad dogs". I have personally trained dogs that others had given up on, to become service dogs and therapy dogs. It is not the tools that are bad but the people behind the tool--no matter what that tool is--that decides how it is used. I would just like for you to consider this review before making a law. Perhaps a law that would require trainers be licensed, or have some form of certification, would be a better solution? Thanks for your consideration. Jodi Oscar

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:32:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Huey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michelle Huey. I am a certified professional dog trainer. I hold three certifications: Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner (KPA CTP), Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA), and CATCH Certified Dog Trainer (CCDT). My understanding was that the original bill included "Prohibits the sale, distribution, or use of the electric shock dog collars" and today I've noticed that this portion has been removed from today's hearing. I'd like it to go on record that I strongly support the banning of all shock collars in the state of Hawaii. Please consider reading the following articles: <http://petprofessionalguild.com/shockcollars>, <https://topdogtips.com/dog-shock-collars-science/>, and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4153538/#!po=0.510204>. My hope is that banning shock collars will be put back into this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Michelle Huey

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:32:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Ley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

E collars are not torture devices. they humanly keep dogs under control. most devices have either beep tone and or vibrate mode . plus they have adjustable settings depending on the dog. the new GPS tracking collars would be illegal under this ruling. I don't know how many times the E collar kept my young pup from taking off and chasing pigs while we are bird hunting, until she figured out to leave pigs alone

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:54:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The proposed prohibition on sport dog training collars is misguided. The collar that I use for upland game bird hunting has several functions in addition to an electrical stimulation. It has a tone that I use to recall (come command) my dog. It has a vibration mode that I use to stop (whoa command) my dog. I test the shock function on myself and adjust it to a mild tingle before putting it on my dog. It is unpleasant but not painful to her, and is a reminder to obey the other commands. I only need to use it around once every other hunt. It also has a GPS function that I can use to locate her with if she gets lost in the field. She gets excited every time I take the collar out because she knows we're going into the field. This is hardly abuse.

I'm sure there are people who abuse their dogs with shock collars. I haven't run into any among the hunters that I know. The abusers should be prosecuted for their actions, rather than penalize the rest of us who rely on these collars to communicate with our dogs in the field.

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:12:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rebbeckah Adele reagan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I worked with the trainer who taught me how to use the collar in a more positive manner as a way to communicate to my dog other than just using it as a corrective tool. With the e-collar we have gone from having zero recall and game of chase to my dog listening when off leash. It is also done wonders for leash manners when no other techniques worked whether they were positive with food or corrective bases with the prong collar. My dog works on the lowest level where I can't even feel it on my hand and when I pull out the collar he gets excited because he knows that we are going for an adventure and he's going to have off leash freedom! This tool has been so helpful when everything else wasn't working to communicate with my dog.

From: [Nate Tuffanelli](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 667
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:05:11 PM

Hello

We rescued a Lab German Shepherd 6 years ago. He was very dog aggressive and flat out human nasty meaning he was a mess but I know there was a good dog in there. We went through all the training options like treats, harness, prong, clicker nothing worked until we found e-collar.

It's nothing more than communication which is the key to training. Establish the rules, the expectations and praise the work. Minimal dose to get the effect. E-collar are not shock collars so let's get that straight. I see people everyday dragging or jerking dogs around around while my dog is well behaved. That same dog aggressive and stubborn and aggressive dog can be taken anywhere, around anything and is 100% obedience!!

It's a communication tool nothing more.

Nate Tuffanelli

From: [Alisha Fagan](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:16:23 PM

My name is Alisha Fagan, my husband and I have had a great experience with the e-collar through the company sit means sit.

We adopted our girl "Sofia" through Mutual friends and she was great the first few days. She was in North Carolina so we drove back down to Florida with her. The first day we left her we didn't have a crate so we left her in our living room and left a huge mess of papers, pee etc. We then purchased a crate and that only lasted a few weeks until she found out how to get out of it and cut herself really bad. Every time we took her outside she tug at the leash. She got out of the house a few times because anytime we would open the door she bolted out. It was not a happy time. We heard of sit means sit and she took her in, the moment we walked in to get her back it was like we had a new dog! She stayed by our side, she wanted to please us and we knew she loved us. Walking her on a leash is so much easier. She will walk right by my side waiting for something to happen. She is always listening and waiting. I can not say enough about this training and what the e-commerce has done for her!! If used right it is the best training tool that is available.

Thank you for listening to our experience. We are so happy and proud to use the e-collar.

Alisha Fagan

From: [Off Leash K9 Training Hawaii](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:05:14 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today in regards to the proposal of banning electronic training collars for dogs.

My business is run solely on this amazing training tool that has saved many dogs lives and saved many dogs from going back to the shelter. This is a tool, when used appropriately, is the ultimate communicator between person and canine. To take this tool away would surely be a death sentence on so many dogs in Hawaii which would be an absolute disgrace. We have over 3000+ before/after videos of every kind of breed and every kind of behavioral issue a dog can have, trained on an e-collar and make amazing progress. Did I mention how happy the dogs are too? You cant fake a happy dog in a video.

If this tool is banned, you're going to see a rise in dog related injuries, a rise in dogs in shelters and a rise in euthanized dogs. It will be giving a lot of dogs a death sentence because of people who are not fully educated on this amazing training tool and what it can accomplish.

Respectfully,
Ciarra Weghorst

From: [Donna](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677 to ban E-collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:05:52 PM

To whom it may concern,

I was skeptical at first about the use of e-collars when I got my puppy last June. We started training him immediately the traditional way for about 6 weeks. Then we began using the e-collars, which are NOT electricity, merely vibration, that feels like a tickle that you have to scratch. We have seen exponential results with this in the 6 months we've been using it. Our puppy is completely crazy without it. With it he is a perfect gentleman. He does NOT fear us because of this collar. He wants to please us. We are training him to be a model canine citizen, then for personal therapy use. We are not training him to do tricks or exploitative things.

To ban this "tool" would do a disservice to many who have had success. Please re-consider the (research?) you have done on this bill.

Thank you,

Donna Gaier
18539 Pequeno Court
Reno, NV 89508

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Debbie Bader](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-training Collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:10:45 PM

I'm writing this to let people know that training a dog with an e-collar is not cruel. My dog had anxiety issues and we've had great results with her using the collar. She is a well behaved dog and not a frustrated one any more. She is much more happy and relaxed. The collar was and is helpful with communication and training her to have learned basic commands. The hospital, Hines VA, was very impressed with her when I brought her to see my husband before he passed away at the Hospice there. These e-collars are a great tool in helping dogs become better canine citizens. Please do not ban them.

From: [Psychology Hacker](#) on behalf of [Adam Lyons](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Re: Proposal Bill#677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:32:03 PM

To who this may concern

My room mate had a dog that would constantly bite people.

We tried positive reinforcement only and it only made the situation worse.

We then hired a professional who suggested using an Ecollar.

Not only did it work.

The dog was able to be social with others and after a while we could remove the ecollar and the more social behavior stayed.

It would be irresponsible and dangerous to ban the use of these collars.

Adam

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:26:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill and help puppies from suffering at the end of chain.

From: [Deborah Spangler](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Electronic dog collars bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:45:40 PM

Aloha,

As a dog lover and responsible dog owner I urge you to not pass a bill that bans the use of Electronic dog collars. Used responsibly these collars are an excellent training device, the benefits outweigh the consequences of dogs who are not well controlled and trained.

Thank you,

Deborah Spangler

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Flo Bayer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:13:39 PM

Thank you for looking out for the welfare of dogs. I agree with some aspects of this bill such as the unsupervised tethering of dogs with dangerous collars. No dog deserves to have it's safety at risk by uneducated or irresponsible owners.

The proposal seems to go to far when banning the use of E-collars. I rescued a 2 year old German Shepherd/Husky mix who had many issues when I first received her. We went to reward based training classes where she learned her basic commands and started to earn our trust. She still had problems bolting and running away whenever she could. I did some research and found "Dog's Best Friend" who used the Sports Dog E-collar as their training method. At first I was a bit hesitant about using an E-collar. I was desperate to find a solution to improve Gypsy's and our quality of life. She had to be on a leash/chain at all times to prevent her from running away. I signed up for the class to learn how to use the E-collar. I learned that the stimulation of the E-collar is meant to get their attention and not hurt them. At the lowest setting I can not even feel it on my finger. We used the lowest setting necessary for her to learn commands. She loves her collar so much, she licks it when we put it on her. She knows it's time to play when it's put on. After the training we continued to work at home. After a few months of work, I am very pleased that she has responded well and no longer bolts out of the yard. It's been over a year since our original class and she responds to commands without the e-collar now. I'm not sure where we would be at without this training, it has been a life saver for our dog and family.

Please continue to learn about how E-Collars can actually help our pets. The E-collars of today are so much improved over the ones from years past.

Respectfully,

Florine Bayer

From: [Falk, Jamie L](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill#677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:39:05 PM

Hello,

My name is Jamie and I have 2 dogs. One of my dogs, a young female mixed breed, is extremely fear reactive. I took her through a training program that uses Ecollars as away to keep a dogs attention, and NOT as a punishment. Over the last year I have seen an amazing change in her! She is much more confident and has amazing recall. I enjoy her so much. The confidence and focus the Ecollar has helped give her has provided her with an amazing quality of life with out putting her on anxiety medications. Prior to the training I could not take her for walks without her barking and lunging at people and other dogs. This method of training ultimate saved her life and gave me a great dog. She gets excited every time I take out the ecollar. I would appreciate if you would take this into consideration before passing your bill.

Sincerely a very happy dog owner,

Jamie.

From: [Julie Bafus](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:18:06 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a citizen, residing in Washington State. It has come to my attention that Hawaii may ban the use of electronic dog collars. Properly used, the e-collar is a wonderful, safe training tool, one that I have had personal experience using.

I have a wonderful, loving Staffordshire Terrier mix that is now 8 years old. When she was 1yr, I enrolled her in a purely positive dog training class where she earned her Canine Good Citizen certificate. She listened (when it suited her), but pulled on leash and chased squirrels in the park and birds on the Columbia River. I tried several other trainers, but she "had a mind of her own" and it was a coin toss as to if she would mind me.

One of her favorite activities is swimming, but I nearly lost her in the river twice as her prey drive overpowered her training. She swam after geese and they lured her out further and further to the middle of the river. No amount of calling her seemed to matter until she got tired and returned on her own. That was when I called Sit Means Sit and learned how to properly use an e-collar. It took some time to learn the technique, but it was never used as punishment. It is more like a tap on the shoulder to remind her that she needs to listen to me.

Now I can take my dog to the river or a park with confidence, knowing she will "listen" to me. Never again will I have to fear losing her to the current or a boat because she always has perfect recall.

It would be a mistake to ban the use of this tool for the few people who abuse the intended usage. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Julie Bafus
Sent from my iPad

From: [Kaylea Crawford](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: ECollar Ban: Please Dont
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:23:58 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am a firm believer in Electronic Training Collars and here's why: they have saved dogs lives. I can't tell you how many clients have come to my training classes as a "last ditch effort" before they had to put down their dogs or give them up. Sometimes for aggression and sometimes because the dog is so unruly that other training methods won't work. I've had clients who have firmly believed in positive only training methods their entire dog-owning lives until they get THAT ONE dog who they can't train.

There has been so much fear mongering with Ecollar use and a huge lack of research done by people who don't understand how Ecollars are used today. Ecollars are NOT used how they were used in the 70's & 80's.

My dogs come wagging for theirs to be put on and they're so excited when we're getting ready to leave to go somewhere fun! I love my dogs more than anything and I use ECollars. They have never had injuries and they are never afraid to wear them! I beg you to reconsider a ban on Ecollars. They are misunderstood tools and help tremendously with training and building bonds with our dogs.

Kaylea Crawford

From: [Kerry Omerza](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill # 677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:16:26 PM

Link to testimonials from people who have experience and have learned the proper use of e-collars.

<https://g.co/kgs/6AVdak>

Kerry Omerza
708-582-0434

From: [Laurie](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill#677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:49:24 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please reconsider this ridiculous bill, that will endanger pets and people, lengthen their training as well as increasing the likelihood of euthanasia for many stubborn animals.

I agree that there is always a risk of abuse when an ignorant owner gets a hold of a training tool, however those same owners would more than likely use even more questionable tactics if not allowed to use these valuable tools.

My dogs were both rescued as high risk breeds; a pit bull mix and a chihuahua. I have been properly trained to use, and have used e-collars on both dogs. They are happy, spoiled, well behaved dogs whom may have otherwise been euthanized due to their breeds stubborn tendencies.

The e-collar helps me as a pet owner keep my pet safe from traffic, and other aggressive animals, by getting their attention in order to be reminded of their training.

Please be wise and allow e-collars to be used on the pets who require training.

Thank you for your consideration
Laurie Craver
3369 Tupelo Street

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lindsey Sower](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:19:33 PM

Hi,

My name is Lindsey and I am a dog trainer in Kentucky. I think bill #677 to ban the use of remote collars is a mistake. Every dog is different, just like every person is different, and I have had great success using remote collars on not only my own pets that I love dearly, but also my clients pets that I love like my own. I have encountered dogs that the owners and myself both have tried many other avenues of training and this type of tool suited the dog best. Not one size fits all and that applies to dog training as well. A remote collar has saved my own dogs life to prevent him from running across a road. I have used a remote collar on many occasions to provide pets the freedom to be exactly what they are - dogs; to be able to engage in what they're biologically driven to do: run, bark, and play. Dogs do not belong confined to a leash every day of their life. Remote collar work is an art and when administered correctly does not have any different affects on than a flat collar and leash. It's the fool not the tool and banning a tool is not the solution. Education to the public and professionals in the pet industry on the proper and humane use of remote collars is the solution.

Sincerely, Lindsey Sower

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nick Ren](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: e-Collar Ban Proposal
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:20:42 PM

I recently heard about an e-collar ban proposal. Without e-collar training, I would be at a complete loss with my dog, Maker. He is a 3 year old Border Collie with high prey drive, and is reactive to other dogs (due to being a herding breed).

I was able to find an amazing trainer that was in Hawaii that showed me how to utilize this tool humanely and effectively! Now, Maker is fully controllable, happy, more confident, and has learned to completely ignore other dogs!

I literally would hate to think where Maker and I would be without proper training the the proper use of this training tool. I would have probably had to put him down or give him up.

I have referred MANY of my friends to this training, as well. Many have similar stories (or even WORSE) than my own.

Thank you for listening.

Nick Reynolds

From: [Nicole Sanchez](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: 677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:51:48 PM

Aloha,

I understand you're trying to pass a bill that would ban Electronic collar sales in Hawaii. Both my animals have been trained by sit means sit and sit and at first I did not believe they should be used however, I am now a firm believer in using the collar. I have 2 big German shepherds and if it were not for the collars being used on our daily walks I would not be getting so many compliments on how well behaved my animals are. I see people struggling being pulled by their dogs, dogs being aggressive towards people and/or other animals as I walk my dog and if everybody would be I'm bored with training their animals using the e collar I would definitely feel safer taking my dogs for walks.

Do not ban these collars.

Thank you,

Nicole

From: [Olivia Meitner](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:25:37 PM

I was told Bill#677 is being proposed in the morning to ban the sale and use of electronic collars in Hawaii. My dogs life was saved because of electronic collars due to her aggression towards dogs and people. She is now able to live in our house with our children and able to be around other people and dogs who come to visit us. If it wasn't for E collar training she would have been surrendered. Please do not ban electronic collars or dogs lives will be in danger

Thank you for your time

From: rnitz@tampabay.rr.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677 to ban E-Collars in Hawaii
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:14:57 PM

To whom it concerns,

Thank you for giving me my best friend back!

I strongly recommend Sit Means Sit Orlando because of the following: My dog and I had spent hours of rewarding & fun time together playing, training practical skills, tricks, agility and even attending therapy dog training. ...And then Hurricane Irma pounded our solar panels against our roof for hours... After the storm, my little buddy became high strung and would bark incessantly. We got kicked out of therapy dog school, exhausted our trainer's ideas and at agility we were always asked to set up at the far end of the field. I would literally have headaches within 10 minutes of starting any activity. We stopped doing things together; the fun was gone. Nothing we tried help him or stopped his barking. In April of 2019, I came across a Sit Means Sit business card I got at a home show. On a desperate whim, I called. Am I happy I did!!! The methods, techniques and tools taught me how to "talk" to my dog. He stopped the incessant barking within a few weeks. The eCollar is so misunderstood. They are not a disciplinary device. They simply signal the dog that it's time to pay attention. Training with an e-collar has literally given me my best friend back! My buddy and I are doing things again and having fun! Banning this device, means more people will give up training their dogs. Subsequently, more dogs will be neglected, abandoned, abused, and surrendered, given up as bad dogs. Please do not put more dogs in peril because of a negative perception associated with the e-collar training device.

Rick Nitz
RNitz@tampabay.rr.com

From: [Will Forbes](#)
To: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677 Proposal to Ban e-collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:29:43 PM

This bill, if passed, would do more harm than good. On the proposal of using a harness only for tethering, it is well known that a majority of dogs can easily escape a harness. A properly fitted collar would be a safer option. As for e-collars, when used properly they are a wonderful tool. I have a large breed dog and travel full time. I do not have access daily to a fenced area for my dog to run. He is well trained but I have the added security of knowing my dog can feel tactically when I call him from afar. If I did not have this tool I feel it would be a lot less safe for my dog to run free to get the proper exercise he needs as a 130# dog. I also tether him as he loves to sunbathe, again I do not have my own yard. He is an escape artist and would not be secured by a harness, but a well fitted wide flat collar provides comfort and security to him. If these measures passed it would greatly hinder my dogs freedom to run and exercise as he needs to do. He would also not be able to just lie outside and get sunshine. These measures will do nothing to make any dogs healthier or safer. Instead, why not propose harsher penalties for owners whose dogs show evidence of collars too tight, malnutrition, and other evidence of abuse. Do not succumb to the emotions of banning tools that are needed everyday by myself and many others.
Sincerely, a very concerned dog owner.

From: [Sarah Clusman](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: e-collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:20:32 PM

Hello,

Writing to ask that you do NOT institute a ban on the use of e-collars as training collars. I have used them on my dogs, and other dogs, and they can be used just as humanely and appropriately as a leash. They, like any tool, can be used inhumanely and inappropriately, just like a leash.

When used correctly, this tool has allowed dogs to have more freedom, running off leash while hiking with their person and has allowed owners the ability to better, safely and humanely, communicate with deaf dogs.

There are so many good things that can be done for some dogs and some owners with e-collars.

Consider banning mistreatment of dogs, not tools, in order to protect our dogs who are counting on us.

--



Sarah Clusman

Owner

Synergy Dog Training & Behavior Solutions

- [720 724 1294](tel:7207241294)
- sarah@synergydogco.com
- www.synergydogco.com
- Serving Boulder County, CO



From: quigley.ann.m@gmail.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: No to Ecollar Ban (SB677)
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:48:03 PM

Hi there,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying your week.

I was recently informed of a bill that has been proposed to ban electronic collars (ecollars) from sale, distribution, and use in the state of Hawaii. I wanted to reach out to voice my concern and tell you how against a ban I (and countless owners and trainers) am.

Ecollars are fantastic training aids that are used to continue to promote clarity in communication with our dogs. They enable owners better control, subtle communication, and improve our lives with our dogs. A ban of this training tool would unfairly limit the options of pet owners in training their dogs.

Thank you for your time, and I genuinely hope you reconsider this ban.

Ann Quigley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bret Parker](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar letter from Bret Parker
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:48:25 PM

02/06/20

To whom it may concern,

I was a customer of South Orange County California, Sit Means Sit, dog training company. My two dogs were out of control and running amok at home and while my wife and I worked outside the home. Our dogs barked incessantly at many different things including dogs on television.

We met Whitney Ostrom while traveling and noticed how well trained her dog acted at every moment. We later contracted with her to train our dogs and we could not be happier with our decision. We were a little skeptical at first because we were not sure how the E collars worked. But after talking with Whitney, doing our own investigations into different training styles we contracted with Whitney for her training services. We could not be happier with our decision.

We believe the E collar has a place in training and is not harmful to our dogs. We don't always have the E collars on 24/7 but regular training reinforces good habits and controls which prevents them from running away or across the street into traffic.

Most people probably don't understand that there is also just a vibrations mode on the collar that simple vibrates. This is usually enough to reinforce most good habits and prevent bad habits from running unchecked.

They are much better behaved and we love spending time with them as they pay more attention to our commands and improve the quality of our everyone's lives, including our neighbors.

I believe in the Sit Means Sit training principles including the use of the E collar.

Bret Parker

Thanks,

From: [Catherine Hernandez](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar testimony
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:48:50 PM

My dog lives his best life with his e-collar! He knows that it allows him to have off-leash freedom that he would otherwise not get. I live in an apartment so he doesn't have a yard to run in and work out his extra energy. Some days, we go down the street to an open field and he runs and plays with his choice of toys. On those days, this is a better option than taking him across town, to a dog park, where we could run into other dogs that may have aggressive jealousy over my dog's toys.

On top of fun, my dog's overall behavior and training took off when we introduced his e-collar. He **THRIVES** on off-leash walks!

The e-collar gives him the freedom he **NEEDS** as well as insurance for **ME**. The e-collar allows me to be able to trust him off-leash because I know I can use it to get his attention if needed because he is overly distracted.

The e-collar allows us to communicate in a simple way that is easy for my dog to understand and effective enough to give me peace of mind.

Taking e-collar away from dogs that truly need that level of freedom will cause damage to dogs, lead to them entering shelters, and eventually euthanasia. Properly educated owners and trainers that use e-collars are essential to the wellbeing of dogs.

Thank you,
Catherine Hernandez

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dale Reitz](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar usage
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:33:18 PM

It has been brought to my attention, by a fellow dog trainer, that a bill proposing a ban on e-collars is being presented.

I would urge you to vote against it, and here is why.

I have been a dog trainer for over 45 years now. I have seen dog training evolve in many ways. Most for the better. One of the greatest, and most beneficial tools, is the e-collar. No other tool provides a form of communication with the dog, at a distance, like an e-collar. It not only provides communication, but a level of safety for off leash dogs, either sport, working, or companion dogs, like no other tool.

Many will tell you that e-collars are not needed, or are cruel. Neither is correct. In fact e-collars cause less stress than many other tools, once the dog understands them. There are a couple studies out that determine that on a scientific level. But, I don't hold much store in "studies" because so many of them are skewed to support the view of the people that pay for them. And many are not based on sound science at all.

Here are two things I know, from exhaustive experience. Positive reinforcement, something you hear a lot about now days, is a great teaching tool. But it is only a start. Because a dog knows something does not mean the dog will do it, when needed. There are two more steps before that happens, and even modern day "operant conditioning" says that, but many will not acknowledge it.

The argument I hear so much these days is "They trained dogs before e-collars, so they aren't needed".

That is true. But what the young trainers don't know is how we did it. It was hard on not only dogs, but the trainers, and in some cases brutal.

Here is my best argument in favor of e-collars, and I can write a book on other reasons.

When I was a young man working with hunting dogs, I have seen dogs lost, of days, or forever, dogs killed in barbed wire, dogs shot, dogs killed on the road, dogs killed by predator's, and shot for chasing livestock. Chains thrown at dogs, dogs beaten, and dogs "peppered" (shot at long range) when they didn't recall. And all the while being handled by some of the best trainers of the day. That is the "good old days" these people talk about so romantically.

Since I picked up an e-collar almost 30 years ago, I have NEVER come home with less dogs than I left with, and I have not had one dog injured. Not one !!! And the e-collars of today are far better and more gentle than those early ones.

If you look around you will see, every hunter, almost ever working dog trainer, both police and military, and almost every world champion, in the dog sport world, is a staunch believer in e-collar use.

In closing, please don't let a bunch of purely positive zealots convince you to do away with one of the greatest tools ever made in dog training.

Thank you for your time

Dale Reitz

Abilene, KS

Alva, FL

From: [Emily Henderson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:13:15 PM

My family has a true love of dogs we started with one and then ended up with 3. My second dog was a mixed breed with intense drive and true lack of obedience. She was awful. We almost surrendered her to a shelter for fear that she would attack our children or a neighbor passing by. She hated everything children on skate boards, bicycles you name it, and it would send her into a rage and you could not get control over her at all. We had tried other "training methods" but found we had only waisted our money. Nothing worked. I started an e- collar training with a company local to my area. By the end of my first day I saw an immediate difference. And after a few more sessions she was like a completely different dog. Thanks to the fast and effective results of the e-collar we were able to not only maintain control of her, but able to maintain a heal and focus so we could properly desensitize her to all of the things she was afraid of before. I now have a great balanced dog at home. Thanks to e-collar training that we were able to welcome another dog to our home. E-collar training saved my dogs life and made my family safe. If we surrendered her she would have been deemed aggressive and she would have been put down.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Mrs. Emily Henderson

From: [Eric Torres](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: HB/SB 677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:09:36 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'd like to submit a personal testimonial regarding the use of tools included in this proposal.

While I have no experience tethering a dog, I have had fantastic experiences with the use of an electronic collar. It has helped me with all of my dogs in various ways. I have one dog who was extremely reactive on leash to the extent that we could not responsibly take him in public. While keeping the safety of other dogs in mind. With proper instruction, I learned to use the electronic in a humane fashion to train him without conflict. He now pays attention to me in public, rather than paying attention to other dogs. Without the use of this tool, he would've been doomed to a miserable life indoors, sheltered from the world, with no hopes of getting better.

The dog I mentioned above is my only "problem child". My others never exhibited any behavior similar to that. I still chose to introduce them to the electronic collar. Once again, it created clear communication between us that allows me to take them anywhere. They aren't stuck in my home or in my yard. Instead, they get to experience the world safely. They provide joy to others and are under control. How often do you see dogs hopping on rear legs out of control or barking causing a disturbance?

I understand you'll be reading plenty of testimonials, so I'll try not to drag this out. I use electronic collars and I've educated myself on the proper use of the tool. I don't "zap" or harm my dogs. When they see me pick up their collars and remote they come running and wagging, excited to go explore the world. I provide them with clear communication so they understand what is expected at a given time. This allows them to be under control, safe from the harms that a human world has in store for them, and keeps others safe. I know thousands of dogs have undergone similar training and have benefited immensely. The statistics of dogs being put down or ending up in shelters every year are far too high and a great deal of these occur due to behavior problems. Electronic collars in the hands of the right people are already keeping thousands of dogs off that list and can continue to do so in the future. However, let's keep in mind, that even dogs without dangerous behavior problems can benefit. The 120lb dog that outweighs its owner would surely be a project without something to level out the playing field. The little Jack Russel that loves to slip a leash and run off could have its life saved by such tool. I urge you to consider the implications this will have on dogs' lives. Let's hold owners responsible for ensuring they have properly trained dogs. Dogs trained with all tools that benefit the dog as long as they're used properly.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Torres

From: [Erin](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Hello
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:44:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

We have recently heard about the cause to ban Ecollars in Hawaii and wanted to let you know that if it wasn't for this tool we could not have our dog Toby. He was very aggressive over toys and food since birth. After he was old enough and multiple bites for no reason walking by food and toys we hired a trainer who used ecollars. They showed us how to use them in a positive way for the dog to understand and as well as us. This helped with out it we could not have control his fuel to be aggressive over objects and food.

Please consider all the dogs you will be putting in the pound and killed if you ban this amazing tool.

Please and thank you

Erin

From: [GD.Cumberledge](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Use of E-Collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:58:50 PM

To whom it may concern:

Please do not pass a bill banning the use of e-collars. This tool is incredibly powerful in developing balanced dogs who enjoy the freedom they deserve. This freedom spans the ideas of freedom to move and freedom from unclear or inconsistent communication. The timeliness, consistency and effectiveness of e-collars is above any other leash option. It provides clarity in communication between me and my dog.

Please consult with those in the dog industry who properly use this tool and provide a level of relationship between owners and dogs which might otherwise never be reached. Three dog trainees to start with would be Bart Bellon, Michael Ellis, and Larry Krohn.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further assistance.

Thank you in advance as a dog owner/trainer who firmly believes in the use of e-collars.

Gratefully,
George Cumberledge

Sent from my iPhone

From: [jennifer cummings](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: ANY tool used INCORRECTLY can be inhumane
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:59:43 PM

To whom it may concern,

My dog would likely have been put down if it wasn't for training at SitMeansSit, and yes with an e collar.

I was one of those people, like thousands of clients before me, who was in way over their head with their dog. Abi (7 at the time) was a free range farm dog, friendly with me but never properly trained or socialized. I did not realize this until I moved the city and was stunned when my sweet Abi nearly broke our window trying to attack a dog walking by the house. I immediately started looking for trainers but quickly realized she had severe anxiety and would not allow anyone near her. She would growl, bark and lunge at people. Spoke to several different trainers and most had the same response, treat train her. Only problem was Abi is not food motivated. She did not care about the food or toys. Her anxiety was crippling and I had no idea what to do....I honestly thought I'd have to put her down.

Then I found SitMeansSit and they have genuinely and permanently changed my life and saved Abi's. They opened my eyes to something I had never thought of before, what if whenever I picked up the e collar my dog ran to me EXCITED to put it on? That is literally every morning for me now. The collar us has never been used for correction, punishment or negativity at all. She is now obedient, confident, and most of all HAPPY.

The approach is everything. E collars do not cause fear, anxiety, pain, punishment or misery. The only thing that can is the person using the tool. Any experience the dog is created by you. I have seen dog gasping for air choking from pulling on flat collars and other whip their dogs with the back of the leash. Does that mean flat collars and leashes are inhumane? Absolutely not, the problem lies with the handler.

My mom told me once "It is a poor craftsman, who blames his tools". Place accountability accordingly.

I am one person but I speak for thousands when I say, my dog would not be alive if it weren't for training with an e collar.

From: [Jess McIntosh](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:24:47 PM

Hey there

I rescued a shepherd husky mix who was 4 years old. He had a rough journey. His jaw was broken by a man and that man killed his puppy family all before his first birthday. Then he spent 3 years in a shelter where he was adopted twice and returned twice.

When I first met him, I knew he had a heart of gold but needed some boundaries and definitely some training. We worked with him for two months. After two months, an incident happened in our home that I didn't know if my family could get passed. My husband tripped behind me while I was sleeping and my rescue ran around to "protect" me from what he thought was an attack and attacked my husband. It was awful.

I still didn't give up on my rescue. I found out a week later that I was pregnant. It's crazy how dogs know before us.

We then had a dog behaviorist come to our house who gave us great advice but we still weren't confident in our plan. Everyone was nervous still including the rescue.

We researched dog trainers and I know a lot of people use ecollars for working and hunting dogs (ours being a working dog breed). When we found sit means sit, I was extremely nervous about the ecollar. The owner reassured me but was this the right choice?

We ended up paying for a board and train program with group training to follow. I'm here to tell you that it was **THE BEST DECISION** we made for our family including our rescue. Not only did it provide us with the confidence but it built our rescue's confidence too.

We have been using it for 4 months and we love it. We continue with group training so that we can best support our dog and family. He now goes with us to dog friendly places and loves getting pets from everyone. This is coming from a dog who dare not be in a crowd or around other people just 4 months ago. He will also be taking his AKC Canine Good Citizen test next week and has passed all the practice tests we have done.

We could have never accomplished this without the ecollar and training. If we hadn't had that opportunity, there is a good chance that his behavior may not have changed and our rescue would have ended up back at the shelter and possibly worse.

I'm so thankful for the ecollars and the training for not only what it's done for my family.

I have attached a photo that was just last week of how much it's helped us. Look how happy the shepherd is!

Jess McIntosh
jbeecher37@gmail.com

From: [Jillian Rich](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Don't ban e collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:50:50 PM

Hawaii,

Please don't ban e collars. These collars are wonderful tools and have given my dogs and my clients dogs so much freedom.

Best,

Jillian Rich

Trainer, Mannered Mutts Training, LLC

Executive Director, Mannered Mutts Rescue, Inc.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jonas Black](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: I am a canine behavior specialist
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:51:17 PM

I rehab dogs consistently that were supposed to be euthanized with ecollars. Do not ban these tools; they are amazing.

My business yelp is K911atx please go see the hundreds of life saving stories that have occurred solely due to ecollar usage.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jordan Bryant](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:30:16 PM

Aloha,

A few years ago I took my dog Riley to Sit Means Sit for training. He was highly reactive and often times showed aggression toward other dogs and people as well. Due to his behavior I was unable to do anything with him beyond the limits of my own property for the fear of interaction with others. After training at Sit Means Sit with the use of an E-collar Riley is much easier to control for the fact that he reacts to the signals I send him through the collar (not punitive but instead positive reinforcement). The signals you often use through the collar are very weak and are often used at levels as low as a vibrate or a beep. Many times you use this to keep the dogs' attention focused on something other than what might get him/her worked up. It's neither painful nor stressful for the dog and I have seen zero negative effects with Riley after years of use. I hope you will take this into your consideration.

Mahalo,
Jordan Bryant

From: [Casey Clubb](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:40:14 PM

SB677 seeks to ban 'electric shock dog collars'. That term – shock collar, does injustice to the tool.

Like any tool, electronic collars can be misused and cruelly used.

But in my opinion, animal cruelty is a facet of personality and education, not the tool itself.

For me and my dog, the electronic collar, which has never been used to 'shock' my dog, but rather to provide a faint stimulus, so faint that I cannot feel it on my own skin when I test it, that allows me to communicate in a kind, compassionate, and non-emotional manner with my dog.

It has freed me, a small woman, and my near one hundred pound German Shepherd to have a joyful, fun, conflict free relationship. It is a form of clear, concise communication that has helped me to create a bond with my dog that I do not believe I would have had had I had only a flat collar and leash at my disposal. I never have to raise my voice, yell, or use the electronic collar at a high enough level that it could be construed as a 'shock'.

To ban this tool because cruel and or uneducated people use it to commit acts of animal cruelty would deprive many dogs and owners of the opportunity to have a more joyful, liberating life.

I can't rely on physical strength to communicate with my dog. Or food rewards. I am not an overly assertive person. He is stronger, physically and mentally, than I am. Yet, with an electronic collar on a setting that is so low that I cannot feel it, we have a harmonious relationship and have traveled the entire country and explored exciting off leash areas, with no conflict.

Without the electronic collar, my dog would have become a nightmare, and could easily have ended up as a long term resident of a shelter.

Please consider the ramifications for loving dog owners when you think about this bill.

Thank you,

Julie Clubb

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Kerri Ballard](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Fw: E-Collar Saved Us - Bill#677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:16:41 PM

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Subject: E-Collar Saved Us - Bill#677

I adopted a rescue pitbull mix from Puerto Rico after the hurricane. She had some resource guarding issues from growing up as a street dog in Puerto Rico and A year later my sweet, mostly well behaved rescue dog bit my child across his face. I knew I had two options. I could fight for her breed and get her trained or I could let her be another statistic and put her down. I wanted to put her down! but BOTH my children begged me not too and my husband reached out to Sit Means Sir Dog training. They're training style uses E-Collar training. After only 10 days in their board and train my Puerto Rican pitbull came back with confidence, she no longer guarded her food and toys and behavior is outstanding. I believe the E-Collar training saved my dog's life and it has never hurt her, we always test the levels on ourselves first. Some dogs, mostly large breed dogs, need the e collars reminder and it is truly an effective method.

Please reconsider your bill.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Lorri Tolliver](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony of the E-collar
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:07:38 PM

Hello,

I want to write you to encourage to not allow the dog E-collar to be banned.

We got a very high energy, Dalmatian at the age of 4 months. I had no idea what I was getting into when we obtained him. He had been through 3 other homes. We decided to put him through training locally that required the use of the E-collar. If we had not done that I'm not sure that all of us would not have survived our home life with this new dog.

After 10 days of board and train with the use of the E-collar, we took him home and he was a different dog in a really good way. We still continue 3 days a week taking him to group classes and continue practicing with him. The collar is not used for a negative discipline but rather it is my voice or communication to him in a positive way, rather than having to keep him in a crate all the time, getting angry with him or yelling. That would be using negative disciplinary actions but the collar used properly is just a language between me and my dog.

My dog, Blue is absolutely amazing now and we actually enjoy him. He goes everywhere with us - to restaurants, many public places. We stood in the middle of a city for a Christmas light up, surrounded by 1000's of people and Blue got so much attention and he sat there and allowed everyone to pet him. Blue is a much happier dog now. See his picture attached.

The collar, I can honestly say, would save his life. It keeps him from running out into a street with oncoming cars, or running to another dog that may attack him.

I am so grateful to have found this solution and I feel to ban it anywhere would be a travesty and honestly would probably result in a higher rate of abandoned dogs or even worse, dog abuse because people don't know how to deal with their dogs.

Please consider carefully. A better solution would be to instead require training with the collar to teach proper use.

Thank you for for taking the time to hear my testimony. Please do not ban the E-collar.

Sincerely,

Lorri Tolliver
Florida

From: [Madison Hopkins](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: E-collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:18:26 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a pet owner of two amazing Great Danes I would like to provide my support for the usage of E-collars with pets. When used correctly, E-collars are safe, effective, and sometimes necessary tools for the welfare of dogs and their families. This tool has kept my dog, my family, and everyone we have come in contact with happy, healthy, and safe. When I adopted my dog, I was aware of his size. What I wasn't prepared for was what would happen if/when his size prevented me from controlling his behavior. Now, as a 145 lb trained pet with the use of an E-collar, I am confident that I can provide my dog with the care he deserves by taking him on walks, experiencing social outings, and adopting another dog from the local shelter without the fear of unexpected behaviors. Before using the e-collar, my dog engaged in aggressive behavior with other dogs. At one point in our lives his behavior was so aggressive we could not take him on walks or go to the dog park like we once could. Considering his size and behavior, the e-collar saved his life. We wouldn't be the family we are today without Blue and his e-collar. Banning e-collars would prevent responsible pet owners from protecting their families and prevent people from adopting well-deserving dogs from unfortunate situations.

Sincerely,
The McNair Family

From: [Mandy Ramey](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Bill
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:59:52 PM

Good evening,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a bill proposal to ban remote e-collars here in the state. I am opposed to this ban. Our family lost our miniature dachshund 5 years ago and we waited a very long time to get another dog because our boys were small and we wanted to wait until they were mature enough to be mature supportive dog owners. About 5 months ago we adopted a 6 month old Belgian Malinois who had been confined to his crate for the majority of his life. Lego is now 11 months old and he's blossoming into a very respectful young man. The malinois breed is known to have a high drive and wants a purpose in life. Lego is very smart and loves to be commanded. He has been through lots of training already and will be neutered next week. Since we have adopted him, our trainer recommended an e-collar to us to help with his training. Because he wasn't exposed to other dogs and people as a younger pup he has had extreme excitement when encountering others. Our e-collar has helped us greatly with this. The only time he has his on is when we are outside walking or exercising and it is rarely used. It has probably saved a few other unleashed dogs lives before when he has been charged at. This is a huge problem that affects us on almost a daily basis. Our dog is always on a leash but we encounter dogs almost daily that are off their leash in Mililani.

We are responsible dog owners trying to give Lego the best life we can and his e-collar has helped him become a better family member. We might have not been able to keep him if we didn't have it to assist with training. Thank you for your time with this matter.

Very Respectfully,
Mandy Ramey

To Whom it may concern:

We rescued our beagle shepherd mix, Zero at 12 weeks old from a shelter. We noticed after a few months that he behaved better when he had a sweater on (it was winter time). Zero was around 16 months old when we had our daughter. He was very protective and loved laying with her. Zero never showed aggression with anything including his crate. Last summer when Zero was just under a month of being 5 years old bit someone. My grandmother had passed away and we were at my parent's house along with several other family members. A family member's girlfriend put her fingers in his crate to pet him. She had food in her hand and we aren't really sure what happened seeing as no one was around, but Zero gave an aggressive growl and bit her. We were shocked and couldn't believe he had bit someone. Over the next few months we noticed that Zero didn't seem as happy and started to show aggression around his crate. He had a crate downstairs and upstairs in our bedroom where he used to sleep. When we look back he hadn't been happy in about 6 months. In February I was going to open Zero's crate to go to bed and the crate door got stuck. He bit both of my hands. I had to go to the ER as the one on my left hand was extremely deep and tore from me pulling him off of me. We took him to the vet the next day asking what was going on and is he safe to keep. We have gone to the same vet since we got Zero, so we felt he would lead us in the right direction. The vet completed a full panel of blood work to make sure nothing more was going on. He suggested we put Zero on Trazodone (an anxiety medication) and complete obedience training. After a couple of months on the medication we noticed a difference, but my four-year-old and I were afraid of Zero. I was terrified every time I put him in his crate and I never left him alone with my daughter. I also found out that I was pregnant and what were we going to do with aggressive dog. We talked about putting him down, but it just didn't feel like the best decision. Our vet suggested Sit Means Sit for obedience training. We called Matt and in a few weeks he came to our house. Zero quickly warmed up to Matt. While deciding between the immersive program and the in home program for 8 weeks, we felt that the immersive program fit our family best. We were also going away on vacation and I was very stressed out with family watching him in case he would bite another person. For Zero this program was life or death. We have a child at home and a baby on the way. We needed to think safety. When Zero came home Matt began to train mainly with me and working on commands. My husband and I practiced daily. The progress Zero has made is amazing. The training collar is the best part of the training. Zero has gotten to the point on most things that you only have to tell him "off" and he will stop and walk away. I no longer fear my dog. He loves to train! He gets so excited and has shown more affection towards me. Prior to the training Zero never cuddled me, he only showed affection towards my husband and daughter. We have been working on crate training and Zero is so good that I no longer fear putting him in bed. I took a video of Zero "come, sit, bed, come" and my family and friends were amazed at how he listened. The training has made him a happier dog and us a happier family. We are no longer yelling at him. I don't feel he will ever be able to come off the anxiety medication, but the training has given us the confidence on how to be better dog owners.

Matt Luxton
Owner
Sit Means Sit Pittsburgh North
412-440-8748

From: [Sit Means Sit Casper Wy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:03:47 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Miranda Siebler** <mjsiebler@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 8:59 PM
Subject: Testimony
To: <casper@sitmeanssit.com>

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this testimony in support of the use of E-collars. The use of an E-collar has improved the life of our dog and our relationship with her. Without the E-collar we were not able to help her control her aggressive/anxious behaviors.

When meeting new people she gets overly protective and nervous. She lunges, growls, and barks at other dogs and people. She also has very high anxiety which causes her go into her natural fight instinct in unfamiliar situations or places. Without the E-collar we were not able to get her attention. She is a large breed dog with alot of strength so holding her back or getting her away was almost impossible. With the E-collar we are able to take her places. We have the confidence that when she reacts we will be able to get her attention even when her fight instinct is at its highest point. This gives her the opportunity to go anywhere with us instead of staying home. It keeps her safe when she puts herself in aggressive situations.

Overall it gives her a more fulfilling life because with out the E-collar we would not be able to take her anywhere with the fear that her reaction to anyone or anything might go to far and really hurt someone. When used correctly the E-collar can help many dogs live their best life just like our own dog!

Thank you for your time,

Ralph and Miranda Siebler

--

Curtis and Danee Day

Sit Means Sit Casper WY
736 N Glenn Rd
Casper, WY 82601
Phone 307-251-7784
Fax 307-337-3030

From: [Nick Seabrook](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:09:45 PM

I strongly oppose any legislation to ban electronic training collars. I want to state as a professional, certified dog trainer with over 6 years of experience, that ecollars have saved the lives of over 15 dogs I have trained showing aggressive behaviors. They have also brought over 40 extremely fearful dogs out of their shells brimming with confidence. Any tool can be abused. When used properly the training tool provides clarity, freedom, easier results, and much more confident, relaxed dogs. Banning electronic collars will increase the rate of aggressive dogs, attacks, as well as stray dogs not contained by electronic fences, as well as nuisance barking.

Thank you,
Nick Seabrook
Owner at Who's A Good Boy
301-539-9404
whosagoodboytrainingllc@gmail.com

From: [Orlando Cuevas](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:50:40 PM

It has been brought to my attention that a proposal to ban ecollars in Hawaii is schedule for voting tomorrow. I hope that those who are voting on this is not going to change a law based on someone's opinion. E-Collars have helped changed the lives of many dogs all over the world and when the right person uses them the right way they help dramatically improve the quality of life each dog has. I can sit here and bore you with the same old comments like it's not the tool, it's the person behind the tool but I am sure you are getting lots of emails stating that. All I am going to say is you should not go by ones opinion but by facts. Do your research and get out there and see what these tools are doing for these dogs. Look at the results each dog has and talk to the people who are actually using them. The people who are bringing this to the table do not have the dogs best interests in mind as their actions and efforts are based on uneducated opinions. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you take the time to educate yourself before making the wrong decision.

Sincerely,
Orlando L. Cuevas Sr

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From: [Ronna Patty](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Electronic dog collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:43:10 PM

To whom it may concern:

In 2015 we were at our wits end with our 8 month old Boxer puppy. I was not a novice Boxer owner, nor dog owner, but she was more than I could handle. She would bite me when I would try to handle her, jerk my arm so hard it almost dislocated my shoulder and was so dog reactive we couldn't take her anywhere. Out of sheer desperation I called Scott of Sit Means Sit. He came to our house and observed our dog for a while and then put an e-collar on her and very gently, in about 3 minutes had her sitting and walking loose leashed next to him. I was stunned.

We sent her to his program to be trained and it literally saved her life. She is now the most well behaved dog I've ever met. We walk her off leash, she loves all other dogs, she is kind to everyone. It was a positive reinforcement system that just plain works. There was never any "shock" collar portion of this training. It was all positive reinforcement through e-stimulus.

Please do not ban the use of these types of collars. They are humane when used appropriately and literally saved the life of my beloved dog. When I pull out her collar she actually jumps Up and gets excited she knows it means we are "going bye bye" and she gets to leave with me. If this was a punishment she would not have this response.

We have since moved away from Maui but given the chance I would not hesitate to send another dog to Scott and his team at Sit Means Sit to be trained with this method.

Thank you for hearing me out. Programs like Sit Means Sit are a godsend for dogs that have been deemed untrainable. I am so thankful for them!!

Ronna Patty
808-446-6696

From: [Sonia Turrill](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Please don't limit the use of e-collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:28:51 PM

I would like to submit a positive testimony for the use of e-collars.

We have a high drive Doberman that we adopted and enlisted the help of a trainer to help train him. While training without an e-collar didn't work, we decided to use an e-collar. Prior to this training he would not come when called, would pull us on leash and would run away when we opened the door.

As you can imagine, a large dog like a Doberman could easily hurt a person, or another animal if he got out. Not to mention, hurting himself by getting hit by a car, getting attacked by another dog... etc.

The e-collar training literally saved my dog's life. He responded immediately to the training and in turn is a dog that we can take with us places, and we don't fear that he will hurt himself, another person or another dog.

Please don't limit the use of this amazing tool: Dogs, like my Tucker would be put down or sent back to shelters for misbehaving and not being trained properly.

Sonia Deane

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Terri](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar ban
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:52:59 PM

Aloha,

I'm writing to share with you my experience with E-collars. In general, most of my dogs have never needed one. With that said, I've used them for 2 different dogs/situations.

1. I used it with my dog Sharky, to do Bufo Toad aversion training, to keep him from dying from picking one up & being poisoned. It worked & he never went near them again.

2. We just finished training our 3 year old Koa with Sit Means Sit, we spent a lot of money to re-train his mindset & build confidence in him. We love this boy & he is the sweetest dog to us. But he was scared of new people or dogs, his reaction to those situations (in our home or in public) was a very loud & scary lunge/bark which unnerved most people. He wouldn't have hurt anyone, but that didn't change the fact that it made a lot of people uncomfortable & scared. So we stopped taking him places & doing things outside of the house with him. That's no life for him & we were not about to put him down. On the flip side, we would never be able to kennel him because most places wouldn't get past the initial behavior.

Sit Means Sit uses the E-Collar as a way to communicate to dogs in a different way. It is not designed to just shock the dog, it is meant to "tap, tap, tap" to get their attention. Yes I might have to adjust the level sometimes depending on the situation. I can tell you, we were able to walk around with him in downtown Haiku, with people & chickens for the first time peacefully ever yesterday. It was awesome for us & he was so happy to be out with us. We still have to continue working with him, but we are hopeful that somewhere down the road he won't even need the collar at all. We are happy to know that he will be a happier & contented dog, being able to be with his human family much more often.

Please do not ban these collars. Sometimes they are necessary tool, to get train a dog who might otherwise have to be put down.

Mahalo,
Terri

From: [trina langdon](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:16:51 PM

My pup is a sit means sit alumni. We r so thankful for the E-collar. We got our little girl (dog) on “accident”. And due to backyard breeding, the poor thing has the worst anxiety among other problems!!! The E-collar enables her to have quality of life. When something distracts her and she gets overwhelmed it’s near impossible to get/keep her attention. This is where the E-collar comes in. It is the equivalent to a tap on the shoulder for us. It keeps her safe by enabling me to control her. Which is my responsibility to ensure my dog is good member of society. Do not ban E-collars. Thank you for your time.

Trina Langdon and Ela

From: [Tyler Peterson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ban of Ecollars.
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:03:08 PM

For the American people and world of dog trainers and Dog Sports.

We should not allow this ban to happen. Many trainers use the tool to set up the dog for success including dogs that would be sentenced to death otherwise. This tool is not to harm an animal it is merely to bring the best of it out in creating ignition and drive and desire. This tool is not what it once was back in the 70s. We have used it in the military, police, and sports. It makes smart dogs look like geniuses and ok dogs look smart.

We encourage you to look at this from a different perspective from the eyes of a trainer that cares about all animals and helping it be set up for success.

Tyler Peterson
Dog Trainer and Police K9 Certified Trainer

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Bobby Sianis <sianisbobby@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:01 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: E-collar

Training with an e-collar has saved my dogs life! He was dog aggressive and just a mess, and now after training with an e-collar my dog is as happy as ever. We go on walks and hikes all the time and he is a happy, healthy and respectful. Due to the fact that I use an e-collar I'm able to enjoy my dog even more and build a stronger relationship with him. In conclusion an e-collar is an amazing tool and should not be banned.

Thank you Bobby sianis

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: ddinspire <ddinspire@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:04 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Ecollar

It would be such a mistake to ban ecollars. It has saved my dog. Without this training, my dog would most likely have reacted. This allows my dog to pay attention to me and listen to commands. There is no hurt being done to my dog because i love my dog so much and would never do anything to hurt my dog. Please Don't do a ban on Ecollars.

Deb Darnick

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Lisa Forcia](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collars. Please don't ban.
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:29:28 PM

Remote E training is used as the best training tool! As long as your dog is appropriately conditioned and taught to understand and know what the stimulation means from the collar your k9 friend will be a very successful well trained animal. E collars are wonderful means of off leash communication. It allows the dog handler to communicate to the dog without needing to raise your voice which in turns keeps things calm and submissive for dog and owner. Banning such an amazing piece of equipment would be a great loss and it would take away an amazing tool to keep man and his best friend in tune. Friends and family have asked me why I would want to use a shock collar on my dog and my response is always I don't feel like I'm shocking my dogs. I also educate them about how my decision to use the e collar is my best friend in training my furry friends. And using the lowest form of stimulations conditions my dog to respond in a highly motivated fashion to get his high treat rewards. This is a wonderful tool to bring dog and man together as best friends. I always refer everyone just beginning their e collar joint to the Pak Master, Larry Krohn on YouTube. He is a great inspiration for e collar training! All in all please do not ban the e collar in Hawaii, coming from a handler trainer in Michigan I pray this will never come up in our beautiful mitten state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Forcia SD Dante & family

Sent from myMail for iOS

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Russell Hudson <smallfriinc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:03 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Ecollar ban - please don't!

Urgent Proposal Bill#677 to ban E-collar here in Hawaii is being presented Friday.

To whom it may concern,

I have 2 large German Shepherds, and I decided when they were puppies, that I must have control of them at all times. For make sake, and others. I had them and myself professionally trained with ecollars.

Training at first was a chore, but after 8 weeks, we both, the dog and I, started to turn into a machine. When I say sit, she does. When I tell her place, she goes where I'm pointing. My second pup was trained the same way, and much quicker because I knew how to use the **TOOL**, the ecollar.

Neither of my dogs have worn their collars in almost a year, but they still respond to my commands, and know exactly what I want. And, when I say break, they know they are off duty and allowed to be just dogs.

Please don't take away this tool.

Thank you,

Russell Hudson

From: [Pati DeSoto](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:41:46 PM

I am writing to testify that e-collars are humane. There are warnings then levels prior to using the shock. They are instrumental in humanely training very large breeds. E-collars make jerking choke chains unnecessary.

Please do not ban them.

Mahalo

Patricia DeSoto
808-554-4224

From: [The Composed Canine Claiborne](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:55:06 PM

Hello,

I'm a dog trainer in Austin, tx and the owner of The Composed Canine. For what it's worth, I'm also a Navy veteran.

It has come to my attention that an important debate is coming up concerning a widely used tool: the e-collar.

The e-collar is a fantastic safe and humane tool that allows dogs off leash freedom and reliable recalls. Dogs NEED the opportunity to run, smell, and be a dog.

It is vital to their well-being. A dog given regular off leash freedom can make a difference between surviving and thriving.

Just like the leash, it is a tool that allows clear communication between handler and dog, but over a longer distance.

I've helped countless people give their dog the gift of off leash freedom and improved their relationship with their dogs in the process.

From: [Sarah Singleton Dorsey](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:55:51 PM

Good evening.

I understand that there is a proposal to ban electric collars. I am a small animal veterinarian and as such animal welfare is my top concern. I believe that used correctly there is a place for shock collars in training and that they can save lives.

I currently have a rescue dog, Scout. He's a very large, strong and loving dog. Prior to me adopting him he was bounced around from house to house. His back story is limited and the only thing I was told was he was very 'mouthy'. The one thing I knew for certain was he was big, sweet and beautiful and I fell in love. As a veterinarian I have had a lot of dogs and my dogs are taken everywhere with me which includes work, social events, vacation and errands. My dogs are well socialized and well trained. I had always believed in positive reinforcement and never thought of using an electric shock collar, until my new guy came along.

Scout being 'mouthy' was him biting people when they prevented him from doing what he wants. Namely getting out of the yard. It's a natural tendency when a dog gets out that a good samaritan grab them by the collar to contain them. Doing that with Scout will get your arm bitten and hard! Scout is extensively exercised daily, our fences are constantly undergoing an evolution as Scout continuously finds our mistake and finally, I have spent thousands of dollars on trainers trying to fix his aggression. We have worked countless hours on redirecting and getting him to listen only to fail when it most counts. I cannot have a dog that bites me and I cannot have a dog that I cannot trust if he gets out. I cannot rehome Scout as this is not a problem that I can pass onto someone else. If I do not get a handle on this problem someone is going to get severely hurt and Scout may too. My options were to find a solution or euthanize my dog. I was desperate, many vet friends have used electric shock collars and I began researching.

I decided to find a trainer that would train me on how to use it. Today thanks to the collar and positive reinforcement my Scout is much improved. He now knows that when he feels the collar, I want his attention and to focus on me and my command.

It sounds cheesy but I do believe that the collar is saving Scout's life.

Best regards,
Sarah

From: [Kim Stiller](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill#677 to ban E-collar here in Hawaii
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:33:04 PM

I understand that the Proposal Bill#677 to ban E-collar here in Hawaii is being presented Friday morning.

I would like to speak in favor of using an e-collar responsibly when training dogs. If trained professionally and used responsibly, e-collars are safe and effective. My small dog had a tendency to behave unacceptably, risking harm to a person, other dog or himself. We learned how to use an e-collar responsibly and proactively and our dog is happier as he understands expectations, and he is less stressed and at risk of danger (other dogs, cars, etc).

Please do not ban the use of e-collars.

sent from my mobile device
Kim Williams Stiller
kimwilliamsstiller@gmail.com
(808)276-6565

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Jenna Sheehan <jennamarin22@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:12 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Protesting proposal bill #677

To whom it concerns:

In September 2016 I adopted a rescue from Hawaii Humane Society on the island of Oahu. As he was settling in to his new home on Maui I started to notice some behavioral issues. When other dogs were in sight, he would act out and lunge at them. I was dragged across the entire park while trying to use a choke chain as a correction aide. The event in October 2016 which led me to Sit Means Sit was an unfortunate dog bite on a smaller unleashed dog at the beach and my dog trying to lunge out the front window at any dog walking by the house. Sit Means Sit saved my dogs life. He was never aggressive toward people but any encounter with a dog, male or female was disastrous. Almost four years later, I am able to take him and my other dog to any park/beach with limited need for an e-collar/command collar. After years of training with the command collar I barely use it any more and both pups are able to interact with other dogs with no issues. They both love children and smaller dogs. Banding e collars would be a disastrous outcome for the community- a community which has seemed to thrive toward animal recuse and avoiding euthanasia for years. Please please please consider the animals that do not have any other option and deserve a life with caring and compassionate humans.

Sincerely,

Jenna Marin Sheehan
Wailuku, HI

8082814999

See attached:

Please do not use photo of child and dogs outside of this email.

From: [Premier Pack Dog Training](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:37:06 PM

In regards to prohibiting the use and sale of "electric shock" dog collars.

Please do not bow to the pressure of those with an agenda that goes far beyond legitimate abuse. They believe that every dog that deserves to live will be able to behave and be obedient by only rewarding it. They often will recommend euthanasia before giving a dog a correction to help it understand what is not acceptable behavior.

I want you to note that no one writing you in an effort to keep e-collars from being banned is doing so because they want to continue abusing their dogs or their client's dogs. We are all writing because we have seen first hand how much they benefit the dogs work with.

Those who want these tools banned are doing so from an emotional and ignorant place.

I have been training dogs for 20 years before ever trying an e-collar. Now all my training programs feature e-collar training because the results are too good not to use them. The e-collar is a dog training game changer. I can offer clients dogs that can run free in fields and parks with confidence because they know they can communicate to their dog from a distance. Problem behavior that often get dogs put to sleep or surrendered can be curbed easily and effectively with this tool.

I could go on and on about the benefits to a dog and it's owner. But I will put it simply. People have always, and will always, take means to correct their dogs bad behavior, and they should because it is necessary, don't believe differently. Unlike many other ways, an e-collar will not physically damage the dog. The e-collar has levels that are adjustable to fit each circumstance and each individual to convey a lesson to the dog, they are not abusive. In fact, I love the e-collar because of how safe and gently I can get a message across to a dog.

Please consider this, you can pet a dog or beat a dog with your hand. The tool doesn't abuse, the person does. They will abuse with their hands if you take everything else away, and you do allot more damage to a dog with your hands than you ever would with an e-collar.

Additionally, this is a capitalistic economy. Normal people do not desire to abuse their dogs. So, if people saw this tool abusing and torturing their dog, the market would put e-collar manufacturers out of business without government having to step in. Likewise, if the clients of dog trainers believed their dogs were being abused, those trainers would be out of business. But, they are in demand. So the people who believe otherwise have to resort to pressuring the government to step in because the public is supporting e-collar use.

Thank you for your consideration, if I can be of any help with further information or consultation please let me know.

Thank you,

Eric Devine

Premier Pack Dog Training

From: [Rebecca Mosenthal](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Against Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:26:18 AM

I am 100% against this bill. You will be crippling dog owners in their ability to train dogs. E-collars are a tool and when used correctly with a balanced training approach is a very effective way to modify behavior. If passed, the bill will be sending more dogs to shelters because they are deemed untrainable using purely positive methods. And lastly this bill will be overstepping government boundaries by imposing rules on private citizens on how they are allowed to train their dogs.

I am a dog trainer, full time k9 police officer and pet owner and I oppose this bill.

Rebecca Mosenthal

From: [Kuulei Sylva](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ban on electronic collars
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:55:46 PM

Aloha,

My name is Ivy Sylva. I am a dog owner of a red nose Pitbull that was trained by Sit Means Sit Hawaii Maui.... This is my testimony on why we should not ban electronic collars.

Our dog Hummer we got him as a pup at the age of two months or so. We got him from Maui Pitbull Rescue. As reputation is perceived for Pitbulls, that they're breed are the most dangerous around. Well they aren't. With a lot of love and training they are the most loyal, loving and family oriented dogs to have. They will protect you until they die.

Hummer was almost a year old when he started running around and not obeying the commands of being house trained. So, we sought help and took him to Sit Means Sit Hawaii located in Haiku. After a week of training with them by utilizing the electronic collar, Hummer was a totally different dog. He could walk side by side next to you. He will sit with the command of "place" and using very minimal shock of the collar. The collars used have three different levels of intensity. We use the very lowest levels as a higher level is not needed. He listens to his commands and has made a miraculous turn around in behavior and listening skills. He is a member of our family and he wouldn't be who he is today if it wasn't for the training of Sit Means Sit.

I highly recommend that we do not ban these collars but perhaps make a suggestion of having certified professionals utilize it and everyone else not certified not able to. Please do not ban these collars as they have helped so much dog owners like myself be able to get closer to their dog and have them be a part of the family. Without them, owners would not be able to keep their animals and end up in Shelters that will euthanize them.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amanda Howard](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677 Banning E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:43:34 AM

This is an absurd bill. I plead with you all to deny this bill. E-collars are the best training tool when used correctly. As long as used correctly, there are no negative side effects to the animals.

Amanda Mccuen Howard
Altamonte Springs, Florida

From: [joe.galloway](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:21:21 PM

Hi,

I don't believe it is a good idea to ban these collars as they are a great training aid. I have used this from a great company who has helped my dog. My dog rarely even needs his collar to be used anymore, and he is almost two. Please do not ban these, as it would be a step in the wrong direction for obedience training.

Joe Galloway
808-264-8871
A Maui Resident

From: [Carlos Martinez](#)
To: jdctestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov; [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:38:26 PM

I would urge you to please vote against bill 677 banning e collars.

For many pets that is the last effort a trainer may use to manage a pets Problem behavior. Without this tool in many cases it will become impossible to correct a dog's problem behavior. In cases where the problem behavior is dangerous or something a family can't live with the dog will wind up in an already over populated shelter and likely euthanized. E collars are commonly used in dog training and considered humane throughout the world.

It seems this bill was presented without thought to secondary consequences to solve a non existent problem.

-Carlos Martinez
(786) 348-9448

From: [Jaclyn Dagampat](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:48:02 PM

To whom it may concern:

I believe banning ecollars in Hawaii will have a long term detrimental effect to the lives of the dogs in the affected area.

I have been a trainer for many years and in that time, I have rehabbed HUNDREDS of aggressive and/or out of control dogs who would have been put down for behavioral reasons. Without the clear communication and efficiency that comes with training with an ecollar, many of my clients would have been unable to manage their dogs' behavior. The use of the ecollar has changed the lives of so many families and dogs, and to take that away would be a terrible thing.

I had a client from Austria (where ecollars are illegal) who had a service dog who needed focus training. My client struggled for MONTHS to build focus using alternative methods with little success. Within 2 weeks of training with the ecollar, her dog's focus had increased dramatically. Her dog is a syncope alert dog, meaning she alerts to her handler before a fainting episode. The ability to focus on her handler could literally mean life or death. Because of the ecollar, I was able to help my client prevent dangerous syncope episodes by training her dog to focus well and alert in a timely manner.

An ecollar used well can totally transform a dog. If the intention of the bill is to reduce animal cruelty, then the focus should be put on increasing animal abuse penalties. Animal abusers won't stop because you banned one tool. You can't ban people from using sticks and stones. But you can increase the consequences for those cruel actions.

Banning ecollars will harm so many people and their dogs. I ask you to please, do not go forward with this bill.

-Jaclyn Dagampat

From: [Paige Darnick](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Don't ban them!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:18:09 AM

Please don't ban ecollars! Training with an e-collar has saved my dogs life and I can't imagine what would happen if we could no longer use this training tool. When used for attention and not punishment, it is amazing the bond you and your dog can create.

From: [Hui Ho](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar ban
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:57:52 PM

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the electric collar ban proposal. I support the use of electric collars by trained professionals and certified dog trainers. The use of these collars come as a last resort for some dogs and has saved countless lives. When used appropriately they are an effective training tool for those dogs that do not respond to any other training. It gives dogs a chance, maybe a last chance and keeps more well behaved dogs out in the community. I don't believe that e-collars should be sold in stores and used by untrained and with the lack of knowledge on how to use them. They should be provided by trainers only. Please consider these details when considering an all out ban on these training tools. Some of these trainers have done amazing work saves the lives of those that humans have already failed.

Thank you,
Hui Ho
Wailuku, Maui

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Debbie Morrisset](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sweetie](#)
Subject: E collars positive uses
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:28:22 PM

Debbie Morrisset

Debbie Morrisset

I've trained many pet dogs in my life and I have also seen the effects of poor training methods and the sad results of abused dogs. I have recently been introduced to the use of e-collar training by a professional trainer. These modern devices are a miracle, when used properly and responsibly in addition to positive reinforcement like treats and praise. These devices can be adjusted and fine tuned to not cause discomfort but to get the dogs attention much the same as tugging on a leash. As with any device, even leashes when miss-used will cause pain and or injure the dog. The e-collar allows the pet owner to control the dog without the negative punishment association of yelling or the owner physically touching and correcting the dog. I have learned that Difficult to train dogs respond well to the remote reminder and do not associate it with the owner thereby limiting aggressive responses. Without the option of this method of training many dogs will not receive effective training and will end up in shelters or euthanized due to bad behaviors. Ecollars are a good training tool when used properly. Do not punish responsible pet owners and trainers by outlawing e collars.

Most respectfully,
Debbie Morrisset

Debbie Morrisset

From: [James Henry](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar Ban
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:49:31 PM

Aloha,

I'll keep this short and simple, I want to express my concern with the banning of e-collars. I am one of the top dog trainers on this Island. I use e-collars as my many tool for training and as a way to communicate with the dogs. The way I use and set up the e-Collars with the dogs is as a form of communication. It is not as a form of punishment or a form to correct the dog into behaviors. They are simply an incredible way to talk with the dogs, as dogs do not have a language of their own, yet allow an understander of our language.

These collars are not what you are referring to them as, they are the exact same tools used in doctors offices, at your Chiropractor and even in sports recovery. These e-collars are simply a TENS unit (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation), these collars are not shock collars implanted to cause the dog pain. I love dogs, I would not be as successful in what I do if I didn't and I wouldn't be doing what I do, if it was hurting the dogs. These collars are absolutely not what everyone wants you to believe they are. It is honestly just a lack of knowledge and understanding. I truly wish I can inform everyone what they are and how great of a tool it is.

As a stated before I am one of the top trainers on this Island, meaning I get some the worst dogs on this island. By worst dogs I do not mean bad behaved dogs, I mean dogs that truly want to hurt, if not kill other dogs and people. An e-collar is what I use to get these beast under control and its not by beating them up and causing them pain. As 98% of aggression is all fear based, by hurting a dog I am not going to be able to effectively communicate with the dog. This is where the magic of the e-collar comes in. I am able to get the dogs attention off of what its going after and redirect that into obedience. I do this with the help of an e-collar, prong collars and different leashes. However, the e-collar is what makes it able for me to hand over my skill set to the owners of the dogs, effectively giving the owner everything I've learned in my career over in a nice easy package and effect way to communicate with there dogs. At the end of the day that is what matters, is that the dogs listen to the owners. I as a professional dog trainer can have control of the meanest, wildest beast. If the owner can't control the dog then that dog is doomed to fail. When these dogs fail they get put down and this is what I want to prevent.

Set aside the hundreds of relationships I bettered between dog and owners. I would like you to look at two maybe three of the worst dogs I've trained. I have taken these dogs that were literally on their last chance and have given them a second chance at life, all because of the e-collar. I was able to give the owners control over there dogs and have saved the dogs from being killed.

I would implore you to talk to anyone of my clients and ask them how they feel about the e-collar or what they think there dog feels about the e-collar. My personal dog loves his collar, to the point we have to keep it hidden from him. These collars are not the evil torture devices they are made out to be. These collars are not shock punishment collars. These e-collars are simple a great way talk and have a conversation with your dog.

By banning e-collars you will take way my ability to not only help the average dog, but you will strip away an invaluable tool to train extremely scared dog that are only doing what they know. By taking away the e-collar you will drive a lot of great trainers out of the industry. Leaving behind a few that think they can handle these beast of dogs, which will end up enviably getting hurt, if not worse. By taking away this tool you are essential saying you would rather see dogs put to the needle then given a chance to be shown that the world is not a scary place. Senator, we need this tool to help the hundreds of dogs that are still out there. So I ask you, if you want to know more about these collars and what a great tool they are to please call, email, send me a smoke single so I can educate you on them.

James
Off Leash K9 Training
Cell (808) 772 - 3923
email OLK9James@gmail.com

From: [The Active K9](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: e-collar experiences
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:37:03 AM

Hi, I know you are voting on a possible e-collar ban in Hawaii. I wanted to let you know that I am a trainer who uses e-collars on a regular basis. Being able to use e-collars makes your dog safe to be off leash, where he or she can run and explore trails, forests, beaches, etc. E-collars allow the dogs to have so much more freedom in life and enjoy more activities with their owners, because their obedience is reliable no matter if you have a treat or not.

I have used e-collars to keep other animals, such as cats, sheep, horses, and chickens, safe from dogs. I have used e-collars to train dogs to have amazing recall so the owners can call them back from potentially dangerous situations like running into a busy street.

E-collars are an amazing tool that helps dogs to live their best life, and I hope that you do not go the route of limiting trainers and owners by banning this tool, because for sure dogs will not benefit at all by a ban.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Amy Griswold

The Active K9
Dog Training for your Home and Family
theactivek9.net
[Follow Us on Facebook!](#)
tel: 919.307.1888

From: [Erin Shapiro](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Electronic Collar Proposal
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:35:45 PM

Electronic collars have been a life saver for many years, more than they have done harm. The misuse happens when the collar is placed with uneducated and impatient people. I believe we should place limitations on purchases, but not remove altogether. (Only sell through training programs with certified trainers) .

I worked at Sit Means Sit in Haiku, HI for 3 years training all kinds of dogs with Electronic Collars. Sit Means Sit has partnered with no kill shelters such as Maui Humane Society to help the dogs who are on the euthanizing list due to behavioral issues.

I now work at Maui Humane Society as an Animal Control Officer. Our community would have a much lower Live Release Rate at the shelter without the use of training collars. I have personally seen the percentage of LRR change through assistance programs such as intensive training using a collar as a last resort. Many people aggressive dogs that have never been exposed to new environments tend to need the collar as a means of communication. The excitement level can become too high in many situations and the use of the collar can be the difference between life and death when dogs interact. I can't imagine our island losing access to this amazing tool when used properly. Please Maui let's try a less extreme solution!

Erin Shapiro
Humane Enforcement Officer
Maui Humane Society
PO Box 1047
Puunene, HI 96784
(808) 877-3680 ext. 3510



From: [Duke Ferguson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: H.B. NO. 633 a bill for an act proposal relating to animal cruelty
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:42:33 PM

To whom it may concern.

My name is Duke Ferguson. I am a certified Professional Animal Behaviour consultant, Coach & Master Dog Trainer.

I own and operate a certified professional dog trainer school registered with the provincial government here in Canada.

My curriculum has been vetted and approved.

I help pet owners, police, military & government agencies with K9s, disabled citizens with service dogs and professional dog trainers learn how to train and clearly communicate with their dog so that the dog will respond with heart and soul. This in turn provides safety and sanity for both dog and owner/handler.

Some of the tools I specialize in and use in a modern day, motivational and humane training system, based on science are, remote training collars, which are sometimes regarded in slang as shock collars.

This term is misleading and these tools used correctly in a training system are proven time and time again to be one of the most effective and humane tools used in 2020

Technology has come a long way and so have these tools.

I am writing this email in regards to the proposal suggesting to prohibit sale and distribution and use of electric shock collars.

As a canine professional who has worked with and aided top government departments and officials over the years including the RCMP canine training centre, I offer this email as a friendly yet strong recommendation against the proposal the way it is.

E collars are way to valuable of a resource and training aid to let a ban happen on.

Letting this pass will be very devastating and for the owners and dogs of Hawaii and increase massive stress in tens of thousands of dog owners and dogs lives.

Other places have tried this and you see the numbers of dogs in shelters go up and they get packed, then kill rates on dogs go up, Liabilities increase, dog bites to public increase, livestock and wildlife become more at risk and so on... If remote training collars become banned this will make tens of thousands of locals of Hawaii extremely upset and potentially criminals.

Instead I encourage you to take time and get the truth and more consulting from top organizations like International Association Of Canine Professionals and Local trainers who are highly skilled and specialized in the use of these tools.

A ban in my opinion would be a bad decision, possibly irresponsible.

Education and regulations are always a better option to avoid losing such a valuable aid to canine public and handlers.

I hope this email is of positive influence to encourage against the Proposal and to further working with professionals consultants who know these tools, both pros and cons .

If I can ever offer any assistance please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully,

Duke Ferguson, ABDT, MT, NePoPo®

Owner / CEO Unleashed Potential k9 Academy

From: [Megan Ernst](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: No to BILL #677
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:57:10 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

The e-collar has changed my life and my dogs life for the better. I have a hyper energetic German short haired pointer named Ipo Pono. At a year old he was attacked by 2 other dogs in my apartment complex. He was obviously traumatized and slowly became reactive towards other dogs when they would get close to him. He was also difficult to walk on a regular leash because he would pull me the whole time. I tried taking him to Petco puppy training classes and they were not effective. I eventually found Off Leash K9 Training and they were able to help me.

Not only did they give me the tools and discipline for basic obedience but they helped teach iPo avoidance of other dogs so he wouldn't be reactive towards them. They helped to train him and by doing so gave me an amazingly behaved and loving dog. Off leash uses a unique and creative approach to dog training by using the e-collar.

The e-collar which is a TENS (transcutaneous electronic neuro transmitter) unit collar. It is not a shock collar. The collar does not cause pain or discomfort. The collar has the same effect as going to the chiropractor where they place the e-stim electrodes in your muscles and it makes them twitch. The collar allows you to have direct communication with your dog allowing them to fully understand what it is you want them to be doing. Because of this type of training it has allowed me to have a deeper more sincere bond with my dog. Ipo no longer needs to wear his collar all the time. In fact I can take him off leash and he listens and obeys all commands. He wears it when we go for runs or when I take him to the park. Anytime he puts the collar on he is very excited and doesn't display any fear of the collar at all.

Banning this collar is a disservice to Hawaii. This collar gave me the tools I needed to take my high drive, high energy animal and make him a great obedient dog. The collar came with a professionally trained dog obedience specialist to teach me how to use the collar properly and effectively. The collar and my trainer Helped me to teach my dog confidence and direct his energy in a positive direction to avoid other dogs from being reacted upon. My dog is fine with other dogs now.

Please reconsider this bill and keep e-collars legal in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Megan Ernst RN, BSN

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dean Fenwick](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: opposition to Bill 677 section 2 chapter 711
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:36:47 PM

A testimony in favor of the sale and use of electric dog collars. You may use my testimony in public and shared to whomever you wish.

I adamantly disagree with the prohibition of electric dog collars. I DISAGREE with the following statement in Bill 677: "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."

I can personally testify that the use of an e collar has been a wonderful addition to be able to communicate with my dog. I am a life animal lover and dog owner. My dog is my family and I would never do anything to hurt my dog. An e-collar is a stimulus to communicate. I test the collar on myself every day before I use it. I prefer to use the e-collar with a traditional leash and traditional collar at the same time. Every day I see dog owners yanking on leashes too hard and choking their dogs. It makes no more sense to ban a traditional leash and collar than an e collar. Both can be abused by an owner. However, in my experience, I have never once seen an owner abuse with e-collar, but I do see owners without e-collars physically abusing their pets. It's not that an owner couldn't possibly abuse with e-collar but I find someone who has taken the time to get an e-collar is genuinely interested in training and communicating effectively with their dog so the demographic is probably naturally skewed towards more responsible owners. I have seen the e-collar transfer the relationship between a deaf dog and his owner. My dog is not deaf, but I can communicate much more effectively and far more gently with a vibration or tapping sensation than voice commands and leash "yanking."

Our own human body communicates with electric signals. If you are going to ban electricity as a means of communication we would literally die. It's all about levels. The way you describe the e-collar as an "Electric shock dog collar meant to be used to deliver a shock to the dog." Is a complete misrepresentation. That's like saying my neural synapses are a device used to deliver a torturous shock to my brain. Only someone who has never used this device would describe it as such.

The sale, distribution and use of electric e-collars must continue to be allowed so they can continue to improve the lives of dogs and owners and help reduce the number of canine necks being physically choked and abused by improved gentle communication.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Dean Fenwick
808-446-1593

From: [Victoria Smith](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed legislation supporting the ban of electronic dog training collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 1:33:36 AM

To whom it may concern,

It has been brought to my attention that the state of Hawaii is looking at legislation that would ban the sale and use of electronic training collars for dogs.

I ask you to oppose these changes in legislation. A law that limits an owners ability to on how to train their dog will ultimately result in many dogs loosing their lives or the quality of life becoming much smaller.

Humane use of electronic training tools, which owners and trainers who invest time and money into, are an excellent way to help communicate with dogs in an off leash fashion. For the safety of the dogs in training, the general public, wildlife, and livestock, owners need to be able to control their dog when on and off leash. While leashes should be used in appropriate places, having the security of off leash control and reliability is important for the the dogs as well as those living around them.

For instance, in the UK there is also legislation being presented to limit the use of electronic training collars, and one of the largest concerns by trainer and dog owners who use them is that having this excellent tool taken away will result in many dogs hurting livestock.

Farmers in the UK are having sheep and other livestock killed and maimed by off leash dogs, often infront of owners who let them out in the back yard and they escaped or even right infront of them - when they unclip the leash to give their dog freedom in large grassy areas. Dogs without electronic training collars will see the livestock, and their predatory nature kicks in...and the result is gruesome and very sad.

Hawaii is a beautiful place, with amazing beaches and greenland that is all so very dog friendly. However, with all of that beauty comes livestock as well as important, and even endangered wildlife, that needs to be protected. Dogs with off leash reliability allow resposible owners to keep those animals, as well as the people who share the land with those animals safe.

Electronic training collars are an amazing training tool and are primarily used under the direction of a trainer. However, many owners can find amazing resources online to train their dog themselves and teach their dog reliable on and off leash control with an e-collar.

Responsible owners deserve the right to train their dog to their best ability, and having that safety net of an "invisible leash" for their dog gives them piece of mind and protects the welfare of animals and public around that dog.

I hope that what I've shared has shared some light to just a few of the valuable, a literally life saving benefits, of electronic training collars. Please consider this, as well as any other letters in opposition of this legislation, as you all make your desicions today. The great state of Hawaii should stay safe and free for all dog owners and the pups living on these beautiful islands - I know I would LOVE to one day have one of my dogs running off leash through the

waves on the beach in Maui...wearing her e-collar so that I can call her back to me 100% of the time if we see a sea turtle resting in the sun, or a seabird nest on some rocks. Your wildlife is beautiful, please protect!

Thank you,
Victoria Smith
Dog Trainer in Orlando, FL

From: [General Information](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Remote Training Collar Utilization
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:43:12 AM

Good morning,

My name is Mitch Fletcher and I've been training dogs for the public for 15 years. Remote Training collars have been one of the most innovative tools in the history of dog training.

As like any tool it could be used improperly, however, when used properly the remote training collar gives handlers the ability to teach a dog off-leash reliability far more humanely and effectively than ever before.

The real push, in my opinion, should be towards regulation and standards in the EDUCATION of dog training professionals. Not controlling tools.

Thank you for your time,
Mitch

From: [Amy & John Killila](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Bill #SB677 & HB633
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:50:58 PM

Aloha,

I have just been told there is a bill proposed in Hawaii which bans e-collars. My vote is YES, ban them!

Our family adopted a 2-year-old Labrador (I'll call him G) off of Craigslist. He was free. The family we adopted him from gave us very little history for him. We quickly learned he was a sweetheart, loved children and families, playing fetch and eating off the counters. We also learned he had an aggressive tendency toward other dogs. This aggressive behavior with other dogs led him into one too many dog fights.

We hired several trainers. Spent countless days, weeks, months and thousands of dollars to do our best in training him to be non-aggressive. All but one trainer said he needed a thick cement wall, large yard, and not to take him anywhere. We desperately wanted G to be dog-friendly. It was very difficult to keep him contained.

We hired Hawaii Dog Training Services (HDTs) after a recommendation. Very quickly, the owner & trainer of the business suggested the e-collar. She said it would work miracles. And it did. Within seconds of G having the collar on, he began to walk at our side calmly. The collar worked on a dial system. We were told to add more 'electric vibration' the harder he was to control. He still didn't like other dogs but would get upset and nervous when the collar was buzzed. He would quickly revert into a "I'm sorry" dog. All of the HDTs dogs we met also had e-collars.

Fast forwarding a few months, G was wearing the collar most of the day. The trainer would visit him on occasion and our family felt comfortable to leave G with her while on vacation to the mainland. The trainer also happened to be fostering a large pit bull with unknown history at her home (unknown to us at the time). The trainer let her guard down with the dogs. No e-collars were on. From what I've been told, G went up to the pit bull as he was tied up while other dogs (including G) roamed the yard. Things did not go well from there. G was severely injured, the trainer was injured, and the pit bull made it with just a scratch on his nose. We received a phone call and without knowing the true story, agreed to pay over \$4000 in medical bills at our veterinarian's office for multiple surgeries. The trainer blamed herself and said she would help with his bill. She did not, nor did she respond to emails requesting help.

When we arrived home, we picked up our severely battered and bruised dog from the vet. He still loved us, and we love him. Months of recovery, another surgery, and physical healing ensued. But mentally, G had become worse with other dogs. We tried the e-collar again - thinking it was the only way to keep him from becoming more destructive.

What I didn't realize then - and I definitely do now - is that the e-collar made G's fear

and aggressive behavior worse. When the trainer let her guard down while boarding him at her house - it was a huge setback on his growth. It was FEAR training, not positive reinforcement training. The e-collar put FEAR and anxiety into our dog. Every walk was hard. Every time the collar was on, he became a scared and anxious dog. Ultimately causing him to break through our front door and attack a dog walking on leash with its owner.

After that last incident, we had to make the difficult decision to let him go. We could not risk the liability and the heartache of the "if he does it again" or "if it was a child!"

Please take my testimony and consider banning e-collars.

Thank you,

Amy

From: [Laura Merkt](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: The banning of e-collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:43:20 AM

It been brought to my attention that Hawaii is trying to pass the banning of e-collars.

This is very upsetting to me. If it wasn't for the e-collar my relationship with my dogs would be in a very bad state. It has allowed me to train and create a way to clearly and humanly communicate with me dogs. They are off leash trained now and behave so well.

The banning of these tools will result in many dogs being given up and or killed. The e-collar is a amazing and human tool and has helped millions of people and their dogs live better and safer lives.

Don't bann the tool. It would be a BIG mistake.

Thank you
Laura Merkt
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Linda Harris](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Use of shock collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:05:50 AM

My name is Jennifer Harris, and I am the founder of The Zuri Pet Rescue, and the owner of The Zuri Pet Spa & Resort. We see so many behaviorally challenged dogs with owners at the end of their rope ready to give up or put down their challenged pet. After we started working with Sit means Sit, a trainer that uses the shock collar tool, we were educated on what that actually meant and how it was used. To our surprise these collars were not used punitively nor did they hurt. I put my personal dog through this training and have been blown away by the results. My once crazy distracted standard poodle, that would run into the street if gotten the chance, now listened to me when distracted. With clients that had dogs who were a challenge to manage, once put through this training, were able to actually enjoy their pet. This also helped prevent owners from coming to the decision of having to give their pet up. We often saw dogs left at shelters due to very trainable behavior issues, when trained through this method. I thoroughly and whole heartedly disagree with the ban of shock collars. I believe without this successful training tool, many owners, will be faced with the choice to give up their dogs due to unmanageable behavior. I have worked with thousands of dogs over the years and several trainers and with the professional use of these collars, in an non punitive manner, it offers great success. I encourage those to become educated in how these collars are to be used and how they actually feel. These collars are not meant to hurt dogs.

I appreciate your time,
Jennifer Harris
The Zuri Pet Spa & Resort
The Zuri Pet Rescue

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Smart K9 Training](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: We save lives every year. Including shelter dogs with ecollars.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:27:46 AM

I stressed the importance of off leash control to protect the public, as well as livestock and Hawaii's beautiful wildlife. Hawaii has incredible green spaces and dog friendly beaches, and it also is the home to many protected seabird and sea turtles, etc. Ecollar training saves lives - of dogs who need training to stay out of shelters, as well as the animals and public living around dogs. Owners given rules about how they can train their dogs and what kinds of tools they can use affect the dogs and families who benefit and live better lives together with the help of ecollar training!

--

- Emilee Mahar
Owner & Head Trainer

www.SmartK9Fargo.com

Facebook: Smart K9 Training - FARGO

Instagram: @SmartK9Training

SB-677

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:27:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/14/2020 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Heisel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. I believe shock collars are inhumane and cruel and cause undue pain and suffering to an innocent creature.

I believe the animal cruelty laws need to be more stringent

From: [Good Dogma](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: "Shock" Collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:08:08 AM

To whom it may concern,

I discovered this morning that the possibilities of a ban on dog training tools, specifically electronic collars, is up for a vote in Hawaii.

As a professional dog trainer, I want to provide you with an alternative view of these tools that have received such a bad rap. Let me begin by telling you that I was a positive reinforcement only trainer for many years. This is the community that wants to ban these tools. Basically you are allowed to ONLY tell the dog what you want them to do, not correct what you don't want them to do. I found using this methodology ONLY made behavior modification incredibly difficult, if not impossible. This means that in a long run, more people will surrender or euthanize their dogs due to behavior issues.

The use of electronic collars, in addition to positive reinforcement, in my experience gives families & their dogs an effective means of communication. I send home dogs regularly that are happy, are able to be better family members & have increased freedom due to their reliable behavior. These dogs are not scared, suffering or "shut down".

I urge you to listen to professional trainers that use these tools in a proper manner. It is not what this opposing view paints. There is much propaganda & opposing agendas based in emotion not fact, that surround the use of electronic collars.

You can use a hammer to build a house, or to kill someone. The proper use of any of the tools we have at our disposal is left to the human using them. If you want to regulate anything, think about regulating the industry for proper education, don't ban the tools that we are using.

Thank you

Sabrina Joens

Good Dogma Training, Newfoundland, NJ

--

Sabrina Joens

Good Dogma
Owner, Head Trainer
www.GoodDogmaTraining.com

From: [Chris Landers](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ban on e collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:36:38 AM

This e mail is to ask you to please not ban the use of e collars. They are great tool to use when working with dogs and have helped change people and dogs lives for the better. Banning the use cause more dogs being put down and owners having to get rid of their dogs because they would not be able to have clear communication with their dogs.

If you look at Europe where they have banned them, nothing has improved and things have only gotten worse.

Please dont ban the use, they are great tools that have helped many people do great things with their dogs.

Chris Landers

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Hillary Ratcliff](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677 e-collar use
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:17:09 AM

In regard to Bill #677

My family, and my clients have all had EXTREMELY positive experiences using high quality e-collars in training for many years.

Our use for the wonderful current technology, is to enable dogs and their owners to enjoy off-leash freedom in appropriate / allowed areas, AND still maintain safety for the dog and general public.

Hawaii's beautiful dog friendly beaches and natural green spaces are SIGNIFICANTLY MORE SAFE when used by owners & dogs who are trained using e-collars.

The benefits to the quality of life for the dogs are numerous - yet the safety to the general public is even more important.

Banning these types of tools can only take them out of the hands of responsible dog owners. It will not keep irresponsible people from allowing their off-leash dogs to chase, bite, or injure innocent members of the public.

We highly recommend you vote to NOT PASS this restrictive bill. Allow educated trainers to work with the public and keep more dogs & people (especially children!) safe.

Thank you,
Hillary Ratcliff
Owner & Trainer
Good Wellesley Dogs

From: [Christine Dutton](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:46:39 AM

Good morning!

I support the use of e-collars for training. 4 years ago I had an aggressive English Bulldog. The e-collar set on buzz with training from Sits Means Sit changed our dog. We currently use the same setting and collar on a collie who likes to run out of our 5ac yard. This has taught her boundaries. This e-collar is necessary for training. Instead of banning there are other ways so dogs are saved. Maybe only trainers can use e-collars. There has to be a way dogs can benefit from the collars while being safe.

Christine Dutton

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katelyn Freiwald](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:03:50 AM

Dear who it may concern,

I am the owner of two wonderful dogs. One of my dogs is of the Weimaraner breed. These dogs have many great qualities about them such as their loyalty, friendliness, strength, athleticism and fearless nature. This breed also had some traits that make them difficult to manage such as hyperactivity, hunting instinct towards smaller animals, strong-willed nature, and suspicious behavior around strangers.

I also have a miniature schnauzer who is playful, spunky, stubborn, feisty, and a great cuddler. My schnauzer weighs in at only 10 pounds but can be quite yappy and reactive when on leash. Small dogs can also suffer from anxiety. My big dog weighs 105 pounds and as you can imagine walking him is not always easy as he is very strong and can be reactive to things on the leash. For example he used to bark at other animals, people, bikes, and especially birds. This was all prior to e collar training when we attempted positive behavior training with treats. He loves food but it wouldn't stop him from barking, lounging or chasing things down the road.

Both do our dogs are absolutely amazing and we would never want to abandon them or lose them. Their behavior would not be manageable without the use of an e collar. The e collar reminds them who is in control and has given them a release from their anxiety knowing they don't have to be in control and can just be patient listeners. As you can imagine a large dog that has a trait of fearlessness can be harmful to itself. Our dog wouldn't hesitate to run into a street with moving vehicles and has no sense of safety for himself. We used to have difficulty getting him to stop and listen to us. We read books, went to positive behavior trainings, and reviewed Cesar Millan's strategies to implement- all to no success!

Finally we went to a professional that specializes in large stubborn breeds who uses e collar training. It was so life changing for us. We now have control of our dogs, can put their safety and best interest first, and we can take them out of the house without fear of what might happen. Our dogs are now role models in the community and have received compliments on their behavior. I was worried about using an e collar at first, but we got properly trained and know how to safely use it. It also helps to use it on your own hand so you know exactly what the output feels like before using it on your dog. Without the e collar our dogs might not be safe for themselves or others.

We also have a 5 month old baby and with a 105 pound dog that thinks he is 10 pounds and can sit on your lap...well there could have possibly been some challenges in boundaries of personal space. With the use of the e collar he has learned boundaries and we can trust him around a small infant. We always wondered how other people got their dogs to behave so well and why we had such difficulty, until we went on a road trip two summers ago. While in their road trip we saw many dogs with amazing behavior in city areas, hiking trails and more. We began to notice that every dog had an e collar on- it was like a secret we never knew before. I sincerely hope you reconsider the ban of e collars in Hawaii, as they are absolutely essential for the safety of our pets and ourselves. I can only imagine the challenges that would occur in Hawaii if e collars were no longer allowed. It would make owning a dog that is trustworthy, safe and dependable truly a challenge. Modern e collars are safe to use with proper training and they come with an array of stim levels beginning with a buzz or vibration. Maybe instead of banning a product that is highly needed, provide training instead?

Thank you for reading where I stand on this issue,
Katelyn Newcomb

Sent from my iPhone

From: [anne wheeley](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Do not ban ecollars!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:40:23 AM

I have two chesapeake bay retrievers, we hunt we walk off leash, they were both trained by a trainer for the ecollars and the trainer trained me. we never have had any issue they are a communication devise and have made all the difference in having positive training,. it is not abusive in fact it is all the care in the world that we use them.

Anne

From: [Bryson Buehrer](#)
Subject: Do Not Ban The Use Of E-Collars or Remote Trainers
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:18:36 AM

Hawaii Legislators,

E-Collars, Remote Trainers, Shock Collars, whatever you want to call them...
They save lives. They save the lives of dogs, the lives of local wildlife, and dog owners from the heartache of a lost or aggressive dog.

Properly used, an E-collar can barely be felt by a dog, and it is no more than a tap on the shoulder. They are vital in working dog applications, where the use of verbal commands would put all parties in danger.

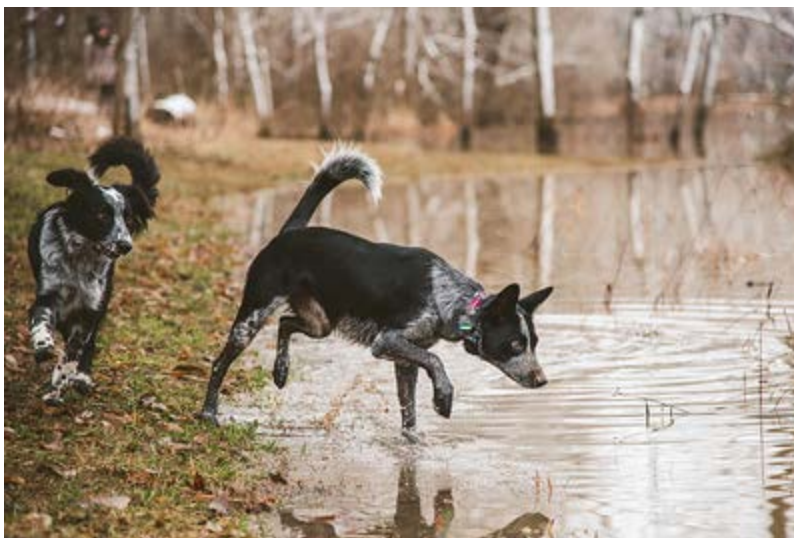
They are vital for dogs with anxiety cases, like my own dog, Sage. When we rescued her, she had little to no training previously. She was anxious around loud noises, and her confidence was terribly low, which resulted in leash reactivity/barking and poor social skills.

For her, the E-collar was a gentle language that told her when she needed to focus her attention on me, and away from the scary world around her. Her bond with us strengthened through the language of the E-collar.

To ban the tool is to miss the heart of the issue. Trainers all over the world use this tool to *rehabilitate* dogs, not to destroy them. The world will always have brutish, incompetent people in it, and if one tool is made illegal, they'll just abuse another one. Do not set this precedent. Instead, call for greater quality control amongst training tool manufacturers, regulation in the pet-product industry, and hold shelters to a higher standard so that they stop sending aggressive dogs to unprepared family homes.

Please, for the benefit of all dogs, including mine below, do not ban the use and sale of E-collars.

Sincerely,
A Caring U.S. Citizen



From: [Chanin Malle](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:50:57 AM

To whom it may concern:

I stress the importance of off leash control to protect the public, as well as livestock and Hawaii's beautiful wildlife. Hawaii has incredible green spaces and dog friendly beaches, and it also is the home to many protected seabird and sea turtles, etc. Ecollar training saves lives - of dogs who need training to stay out of shelters, as well as the animals and public living around dogs. Owners given rules about how they can train their dogs and what kinds of tools they can use affect the dogs and families who benefit and live better lives together with the help of ecollar training! I have also trained many aggressive dogs to be happy, functioning members of the family. Much more enjoyable to not only have in home but in public too. I stress the importance of e collar use on a very low setting so the human can't even feel the level of stimulation used. Today's e collar is not a shock of electricity as it is safe to use in water. It is a tens unit, micro amps of stimulation to get the dogs attention. Much like a tap on the shoulder. I don't believe they should be sold to the public but trained professional trainers should be able to use and train pet and sport dogs per the average pet owners needs. Please don't take away my dogs ability to be free.

Kind Regards,

Chanin Rivera

Head Trainer
Beaches Jet Set Pets
www.beachesjetsetpets.com
(904)-383-8043

From: [pet.techniques](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: E Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:38:21 AM

Hello -

My name is Dane Hoppe, Minnesota resident, dog owner, trainer and small business owner.

I am writing to express my concern with this bill, as I foresee so many dogs and owners will struggle to maintain control and harmony with their animals.

The controversy you see in the public isn't from these tools, it's how people USE them. Alcohol is legal and available, but people misuse it and are miseducated on it.

E Collars have saved my dogs, and every single dog we've worked with. If we don't have that option, shelters will be even more crowded, owners will be limited and dogs will suffer.

Our efforts and mission aims to help save dogs and educate owners on the benefits and proper use of these tools.

Please respond back if you have any questions.

We must do whatever we can do to prevent this bill from passing.

Dane Hoppe

From: [Brandy Crise](#)
Subject: E Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:57:19 AM

Hello,

I am writing you as a concerned citizen, formerly of Hawaii, who is in support of E Collar technology with dogs.

E Collars are one of the most misunderstood tools in the dog world. These collars are, in reality, a life saving tool for dogs, wildlife, and livestock. They streamline communication and insure dogs that may otherwise be euthanized receive correction and understand boundaries. They insure that a prey-driven dog, like herding breeds, terriers, and more, leave sea turtles and endangered birds alone. They make sure that dogs can enjoy the many dog-friendly areas on the islands without harming people, other dogs, or animals.

I encourage you to use an e-collar on yourself. I did before I EVER used one on a dog! I learned that I cannot even feel the stimulation until my Educator Mini is on a level 24, and I turned the level up to 60 without any pain whatsoever. The stimulation causes a small muscle spasm- It is uncomfortable, but not painful by ANY means. When my dog wears his E Collar, I have the level set at a 12- And as soon as he feels it, it is his cue to return to me, regardless of what he is doing, seeing, or chasing.

The lives of dogs can be filled with safe enrichment with the help of E Collars. Instead of banning a life saving tool, we should focus on prosecuting those people who are actual animal abusers. Just as much damage can be done with a flat collar as an E Collar. Just as much damage can be done with a 6 foot leash as a tie out. Just as much damage can be done in a fenced in back yard as a crate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brandy Barbour

From: [Tamaki](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar should NOT be banned but used properly not for punishment
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:52:58 AM

To whom that may concern,

Please reconsider proposal bill #677 and do not ban an electric collar instead please educate people how it works, how to use and considering a quality of the device before purchasing.

If it is used properly, it doesn't hurt dog both physically and mentally. Stimulation from the collar should be like tapping its shoulder but not extreme strong to hurt him/ her. People who don't know or are not trained how to use it has hurt dogs and has given it bad name.

Instead of banning the devise, please consider to make a regulation to take a training course / class about the device.

There's many low quality of an electric collar are on the market at much lower price. Between good quality of e collar and poor quality one, there's a huge deference. For example, you may not feel a stimulation when you turn up a level of stimulation of the good one from 2-3 because it changes stimulation subtlety per level, however the cheep and low quality one potentially gives you stimulation in a level difference (for example level 1-2) equality 1-10 in good quality one.

It's people who don't know the quality of device and ignorance how to use it but not the good quality device.

Thank you for taking your time to read my email.

Sincerely,
Tamaki Shimada

From: [Rosana Sanchez](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E Collar testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:51:19 AM

Hi!

Wanted to share my experience with e-collar training because it has been such a value to me and my dog Opie.

We had a bad veterinarian experience and a dog attack on my dog all in one month. After that, he didn't want to let strangers especially other vets near him. This is troubling when you need to keep a 2 year old 80lb dog up to date with vaccines. We did a 1 week training with the e collar and now Opie has trusted me more as well as laying on his back at the vet and getting belly rubs. When we go on walks he gets excited when I put his e collar on and wags his tail. We had tried training with treats but he is not motivated by just food, he needed both. If it weren't for e collar I wouldn't have been able to get him to the vet and he wouldn't be as happy as he is now. That's all.

Thanks!

From: [Ashleigh Derrickson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:24:39 AM

E Collars are an essential tool to maximize a dog's freedom and quality of life. E Collars provide a precise way communication to dogs of all backgrounds. E Collars are a human way of shaping bad behaviors into correct manners and well behaved dogs. They can save in death row at shelters from being put down, they can help the every day pet owner in creating a better behaved dog, and they can add working dog owners in being able to fulfill their dog's genetic needs safely. Without them, you will see a rise in deaths in shelters, more dog fights and dog bites on humans. Dogs will be less mannered out in public. I strongly encourage you all to think about what you will do in banning these life saving tools.

From: [Jordan Brodner](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:17:54 AM

Good Morning,

E-collars are a great tool for dog trainers across the United States. Banning e-collars would take away a great tool from qualified trainers that would use them to help the dogs. Taking away this tool would be a dishonor to dog trainers all over. I would suggest mandating a class learning about e collars to be able to buy one rather than taking them away all together.

Jordan Fleck

From: [Eloise Yeomans](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar Ban Testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:50:08 AM

Hi there, my name is Eloise Yeomans and I am former military, current fire service and dog trainer.
This proposed ban on the e-collar will destroy lives.
I have personally seen the e-collar aid with changing behavior on some of the most aggressive/confused and unruly dogs that would have otherwise been euthanized.

I have been using the e collar for several years with compatible training clients.
These collars are not like collars we had in the 90s or even in the 2000s, they have come a LONG way.
The e-collar creates an opportunity to communicate with dogs much more effectively and I can't stress the benefits of this.
What can be gained with a leash in months, can be gained in weeks through clear communication.
Some shelters, some dogs don't have months.

E collars are like any tool, they can be misused.
Look around you, a leash and flat collar is far more misused EVERY DAY over the e-collar.
Dog owners let their dogs pull into the leash and create long term trachea defects - that is absurd but, no one turns their nose up at this.
Then there are front clip harnesses and head haltis, known to cause spinal and neck injuries long term.

Why is the e collar being singled out over every other tool?
Wrongful use of a training tool is an animal abuse problem - NOT an e-collar problem.
These people will only find something else to use if they want to do harm.

Please don't take the e collar away.
It has far more benefits for dogs and has saved countless lives. It isn't the problem.

Thank you,
Eloise Yeomans

From: [Brittany Viken](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar ban!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:59:06 AM

The e-collar has saved my dogs lives! Without them they had so many problems! Now we are able to live a stress free life! I urge you not to ban them. With so many beautiful beaches and landscapes in Hawaii it's so much safer to have a dog who is off lease reliable. Not all dogs get alone and it is much safer to be able to 100 percent know your dog is going to come when called if approached by another dog. These tools aren't a form of abuse in anyway they are a tool used to communicate with out animal, no different than a bridle on a horse. I would never put my animals in harms way and I love them with all my heart but these tools have helped us so much! It's a dream of mine to live in Hawaii and it will devastate me if I wasn't able to bring my dogs because of this ban! Please please reconsider!!

Sincerely

Brittany Viken

From: [Katherine Jankowski](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar safety
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:22:53 AM

Dear representative,

I wanted to share my experience with an e-collar. My girl Indy lived a long happy off-leash life due to e-collar training. My Grandma lived on a farm with acres of fun land to play on in the back yard, but there was a busy US highway in the front yard. Without e-collar training and security, she would have never been able to experience the weekly off leash joy at my Grandma's farm. She would have had to endure the cruelty of being tied to a tree to enjoy family cookouts vs being free to chase a ball, because chasing a random critter across the highway would have been deadly.

I guarantee she was happy to be e-collar trained for the off-leash freedom since any time I'd grab the collar she'd get crazy excited knowing she was going to experience off leash fun somewhere.

Please don't take this freedom away from good deserving dogs.

Thank you for listening,

-Kate Jankowski

From: [Coralie Evequoz](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:45:44 AM

To whom it may concern,

I have been training dogs professionally for a few years now. I started using an e-collar on my personal dog after everything else had failed. He was highly aggressive and had turned on me multiple times. E-collar literally saved my dog's life.

After going through all this with my own dog I decided to make it my mission to help other dog owners who were told that if positive reinforcement did not work to solve their dogs' behaviour issues, their dogs were lost causes. I have trained every single dog that came through my business on e-collar. I have been able to save multiple dogs who were about to be put down or surrendered. Plus I have been able to offer owners with mildly challenging dogs a normal life with their dogs just by the proper use of e-collar.

E-collar is only a tool. Like all dog training tools they can be abused. Front clip harnesses are known to create shoulder issues. Halteres create neck issues as well as soars on the dog's face. Flat collars can create collapsed tracheas. Regular harnesses can create shoulder burns. Even if treats are misused they will create an obese dog.

The use of training tools is not dog abuse. The misuse of them is.

The ban on e-collars means signing the death warrant of hundreds of thousands of dogs.

I urge you to consider what is best for dogs. Keep the use of e-collars legal in Hawaii.

Best regards

From: [Kaitlin Kane](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar Testimony: Do NOT ban the use of ecollars!!!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:12:03 AM

Good morning,

I wanted to take some time to share my amazing experience with the proper use of ecollars. Both of my dogs would not be the mindful, respectful & happy dogs that they are today without the help of these amazing tools. One of my dogs was HIGHLY leash reactive. It was so bad that walking him anywhere we'd see any kind of distraction (which is everywhere) was unbearable for all involved. Now he is a dream on the leash. He is happy. He is calm. He is living the life he should be! We can take him to explore life & all the beauty the world has to offer! These tools have allowed me to provide my dogs with clear, fair & humane communication to help them be assets not only to our family but to the community. Not only that, but the benefit of being able to teach off leash reliability has been life changing for so many dog owners. The real problem is the lack of training that many dogs have who run around off leash, which is not only a danger for them but for the community. These tools provide owners a safe, effective & humane opportunity to truly train & communicate with their dogs to keep everyone safe & happy. If the right to utilize these tools is revoked, then so many owners who are struggling with their dogs will continue to do just that. More dogs will end up being surrendered or euthanized due to behavioral issues that could be addressed with proper communication of an ecollar. That in itself should be enough to never ban the use of ecollars. I appreciate your time & I truly can't imagine what life would be like for me or my dogs without these amazing tools!!

Thank you for your time.

Kaitlin Stankowski

From: [amber smiley](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:54:02 AM

To Whom this may concern,

It was brought to my attention from a dog trainer or which I am a former client, that the state of Hawaii is planning to ban the use of ecollars. I do realize, that to those not educated on proper use and training of a dog with an ecollar often refer to the tool as a "shock collar". To which my response is, it should never be used to light up your dog, but it is a safe and effective tool used to help rehab dogs every day. I personally have rescued had deaf dog, whose eyesight was quickly disappearing as well, due to bad breeding. It was IMPERATIVE for him to have some physical sensation to keep him safe. If he ran off, got loose, or heaven forbid ran toward moving cars, i would have NO way of keeping him safe- can't yell after him, and he cant see whats coming or where he was headed. We trained him to low ever stimulation (I am talking a level 5-7 on an ecollar that went from 0-100). We were able to train different patterns for different behaviors (sit, down, stay). I was even able to train "tricks" with the dog with the help of vibration and low level stimulation.

I recently attended a training seminar for my own education, which was helping pet dog owners to correct poor behaviors with the use of an ecollar. Each of these people were taught how to individually find their pet's working level on a safe and effective ecollar. We then went through protocols on how to use the ecollar on the lowest level, to correct the behaviors. Everything from dog reactivity, fear, people reactivity, leash reactivity, and over excitement was taught to be remedied, and not one dog was "punished" by a high level stim. These tools are helping keep dogs safe, keep them in their home, and more importantly out of shelters and off the euthanasia lists!

In my opinion, the ecollars available to the public need to have some level of restrictions. It sad, the genral public, uneducated on the proper use and training of eollars, can buy ecollars online for \$20 with only 1, 2, or even 3 shock settings, and yes they are STRONG SHOCKS! I was so interested in these cheap collars i purchased on online to compare to my own ecollar. The collar i purchased had 3 setting (low, medium, high) and had no vibrate function. When i tried the low level, it was comparable to level 30 on my personal dogs ecollar (remember it had 100 levels) A 30! For a dog that has no idea what the stimulation means or how to turn it off (meaning it hasnt been trained to an ecollar) this is quite the stimulation! Holy cow, the Medium setting, was almost the same as the 75 on my collar. It hurt! I have not tested higher than the 75 on my personal collar, up until my little experiment 50 was the highest i could stand. No way in the world i would use these high settings on my dog on a regular basis! THESE are the collars that need restricted!

No way I'd ever use a setting in my dog without testing it on myself first! It all comes down to responsible dog ownership. People that put in the time to research, teach themselves and their dog, those are the people using these tools correctly, effectively, and SAFELY.

Please reconsider your ban on these tools. My dog Buddy would have been euthanized in the shelter due to a human's inability to 1. Practice safe and responsible breeding and 2. Because most people would not take the time to learn to communicate in a way he can understand being blind and deaf. Yes he has poor behaviors, but i cant fault him for those, the fault lies with all the people that failed him! After several months of proper ecollar training, he was as so well behaved! And we did not "shock" of dog, we used low level stimulation patterns to

communicate with him, and he was the best dog! He got to experience a life of love and happiness for 12 years!

Thank you for the opportunity to share our story

A.Smiley

Columbus, Ohio

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Casey Stankowski](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:10:01 AM

Hello and to whom it may concern,

We heard recently that the state of Hawaii is considering banning E-Collars as a tool for training dogs. I am highly against this legislation. This tool saves dogs Lives! It saved ours.

Our dog would likely be no longer living had it not been for this wonderful tool. He was highly reactive on leash, and was a nuisance around other dogs and humans.

We tried all other types of training that you can think of, and nothing worked. We eventually got in touch with a qualified E-Collar trainer that changed our lives.

Through the proper use of E-Collar training with a trained professional, we were showed how to improve the life of our dog. Today, we know how to control him but most of all... he is Happy!

Instead of trying to ban the use of E-Collars in this state, there should be education provided as to how it works and how it can properly improve the life of our loved ones (dogs).

Regards.

Casey A. Stankowski

From: [Jonmbell](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar training for K-9
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:34:30 AM

The State is currently considering banning electronic collars for dog training in a rider on a proposed bill. Such a bill will have the opposite impact as intended and likely lead to barbaric training methods. E-collars, when used appropriately, are a safe, stress free, and nonpainful means of training. They can use sound, vibration and mild electrical stimulus to help the dog understand what is asked. By mild I mean mild. There are collars that use more than mild stimulus, but most owners and trainers do not use those collars. The collars I use I check on myself first. They are not painful. Please educate yourself before taking this action.

A well trained dogs saves dogs lives and can prevent harm to persons. Taking away this tool threatens that goal. More dogs will end up abandoned or harmed.

Feel good legislation that actually causes the issue intended to be stopped, is just harmful bad legislation.

Thank you

Jonathan Bell

From: [Libba Zimmerman](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Use
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:21:11 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an e-collar user living in the US who has highly benefitted from properly implementing this tool with my dogs. There are thousands, if not millions, of people who use e-collars in their training whose dogs may not be with us today if it weren't for this tool. This tool saves lives, keeps dogs out of shelters, off the streets, in their homes, and prevents euthanasia in extreme aggression cases. Please do not ban these tools, as they are incredibly useful when in the hands of a knowledgeable owner.

Thank you,
Libba Zimmerman

From: [Ben Lepinski](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:20:21 AM

Banning E-collars will not solve any of your problems. Owner education is the problem. Banning these tools takes them out of the hands of trainers that work with dogs that may otherwise be put down. Behavioral issues in animals is a real problem , and taking away tools is not a solution. Animal abuse takes many forms and the problem has nothing to do with a tool.

Thank you.

Professional dog trainer
Benjamin lepinski

From: [Christina Okane](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:29:47 AM

Good morning,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposed ban of e-collars. So I'd like to share my story...

I have a female German Sheppard who just recently turned 2. She's a very intelligent dog, but she's incredibly strong willed. I struggled for the first year and a half of owning her. She kept digging in the trash, chasing the cat, jumping onto countertops to steal food, running away before I got her hooked up to the lead when brought outback, etc. These are all things she knows she isn't supposed to do. I know this because when she sees me catch her in the act, she stops what she's doing and bolts the other direction. So after much research and turning to dog trainers for advice, I finally purchased the mini educator e-collar. I did what the instructions and the trainers all advise people to do. I set the shock portion to the lowest setting, 1, and worked my way up until my dog Silver responded to the device. She's at a level 10 out of 100 and responds well when shock is needed. The best part about this whole ordeal though is that I very rarely ever even need to use the shock portion at all. The mini educator has a beep/vibrate option and 9/10 times she responds simply from me utilizing that feature. However when there are other distractions around, like another dog, I do need the shock portion to get her attention back on me and my voice commands. We spent months working on correcting her bad behaviors with the use of the mini educator. And I've seen so much improvement that I highly recommend these tools to my friends and family. The thing that I believe people get confused about with these tools is that it isn't meant to be a punishment for the dog. It is meant to be used to get their attention back on the owner and to follow their verbal commands. Just last night I took her outback, without her e-collar on, yard is not fenced, in a subdivision where the lots are less than a quarter acre. My dog responded to all my verbal commands without any correction needed. She did not run off. She stayed when I told her to when the neighbors brought their dog outside. She listened to my voice commands without the e-collar or any other tools. Without the help of the e-collar over the last several months, she would have most certainly run off as she has done in the past. While I can understand the concern about people misusing the tool, the fact remains that the tool is designed to help owners in training their dogs to behave at their best. I know that my dog would not have progressed to the point she is at now without the help of this tool.

Thank you,

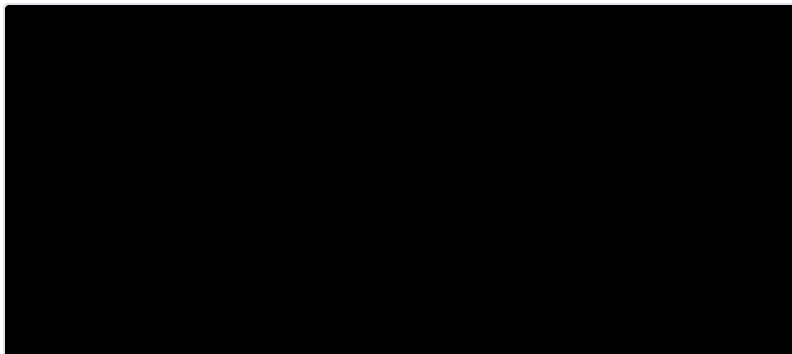
Christina O'Kane

From: anthony@afurrytailcometrue.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [AFT_DogTraining](#)
Subject: E-Collars are the safest tool
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:46:13 AM

Hello-

I am the Vice President of one of the largest animal shelters in PA. I have been professionally training dogs since 2007. I own 3 dog daycares. I am heavily involved with dog. E-Collars are the safest dog training tool in the world. It is a TENS unit attached to a collar on the dog. It does NOT electrocute dogs. Why would the Police K9 officers and Military Men and Women use ecollars on their own dogs? I have trained thousands of dogs on ecollars without issue. Please vote No on banning ecollars. If you vote Yes dogs will absolutely die like they are doing in the U.K and Australia right now. Higher euthanasia rates than EVER seen before. See facts:

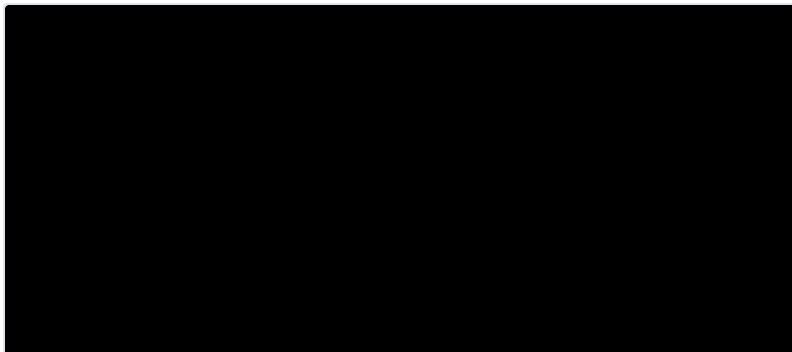
[**<b class=red>Sun Investigation: We expose charities killing 1000s of healthy dogs**](#)



<b class=red>Sun Investigation: We expose charities killing 1000s of...

Sun Investigation: We expose charities killing 1000s of healthy dogs

[Dog attacks hit record high with owners unaware of the 'significant damage' small dogs can inflict](#)



Dog attacks hit record high with owners unaware of the 'significant dama...

DOG attacks have hit a record high, figures show. Hospital admissions for injuries totalled 8,507 in the last ye...

Thank you,

Anthony Schwickrath, ABCDT
Owner
Certified Dog Trainer

[AFT Dog Training](#)

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From: [widget leigh](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collars save lives!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:45:45 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am a professional e-collar trainer in the United States. You must step back and see the larger scope in this matter. Over my 6 year career as a pet trainer, I have personally seen e-collar save the lives of many dogs. It keeps dogs out of shelters, and in their homes with the people who love them. The government has absolutely no business dictating what tools dog owners and trainers are able to use. When used correctly, e-collars are an incredible tool for reliable training.

The horror stories and photos you see are either from neglect (leaving the collar on too long) or misuse. You see, e-collars cannot create burn marks on the neck. Those are allergic reactions to the material of the collar that a small percentage of dogs have. The point is, any tool can be misused - even treats! The increasing number of morbidly obese pets is staggering, but it seems completely unreasonable to ban treats, right?

Take it from a professional dog trainer that used to work only with 'pure positive methods' - they are not effective in 99% of the dog population.

Please consider these facts when deciding on the proposed e-collar ban.

Respectfully,
Taylor Pulice-Loomis
Haven Dog Training

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rebecca Ash](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:14:42 AM

I have just learned of a bill to ban the sale of ecollars in Hawaii. I believe this is a horrible idea. From my personal experience alone my male dog would likely be dead without this training tool. I adopted him as a 2yr old who didnt know basic obedience. He was a quick learner but he was a runner. If he got loose he would take off and not want to be caught. I worked with professional trainers and used multiple methods and nothing worked until we tried an ecollar. My dog needed to understand that he needed to listen even if i was not touching him.

An ecollar is a simple training tool and when used properly it's not abusive to the dog. Any tool used improperly can cause harm. Including a regular flat collar. I hope you take all of this into consideration before deciding how people should train their dogs.

From: [Melissa Strittmatter](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Electric collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:19:33 AM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)
[image2.png](#)

Dear government of Hawaii,

Please understand that banning electric collars is taking away a tool that has given my dogs more freedom. Using e-collars has given me the ability to communicate with my dogs in a way that is clear and fair.

With my own dogs, I have been able to decrease anxiety and make the world a bigger place. I could barely walk my dogs down the street other than imagine taking them to public places. Now we are able to go to dog friendly stores and public events around large crowds.

A friend of mine rescued a dog that she did not know had a bite history. Within 24 hours of bringing the dog into her home, the dog has bitten her husband. Heartbroken, she called me for help. Over the next few weeks, we were able to change the dog's behavior with the use of an e-collar. Now the dog lives with less stress, more confidence and has becoming a loving dog to the family and friends.

I appreciate your time and hope that you will understand that there are many people using e-collars to improve their lives and their dogs lives.

Thank you and have a nice day.
Melissa Strittmatter



From: [Liz L](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed SB #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:02:20 AM

... and I stand corrected. I see the tethering is to be done w/ a harness only. While I do not agree with unsupervised tethering the use of a harness is the lessor evil.

From: Liz L
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:55 AM
To: JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Proposed SB #677

I am writing to voice my opinion on the proposed ban of sale and use of E-Collars. Without the current knowledge I have now, I used to think they were cruel. I did my research and changed my mind completely. I personally have a 130 lb Mastiff that is E-collar trained. It is NOT animal abuse. It's a means of communicating that works.

In my opinion it has saved the lives of many shelter animals. Have you even felt the effects of one? I suggest you get a quality collar and try it for yourself.

And for the record, a tethered dog on a flat collar can do a lot of damage and even cause death. Rethink this or Hawaii may end up with many more dogs euthanized.

Thank you,

Liz Lenti
Florida

From: [Haley Howe](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Proposal Bill #677 The ban of e collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:52:26 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Haley Howe** <haleyhowessoundhounds@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 7, 2020 at 8:38 AM
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 The ban of e collars
To: <senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: <senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov>, <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Good Morning to whom is reading this!

I am emailing to share my personal experiences with e collars and why I think this ban could be more harmful than helpful.

-E collars keep dogs in home and out of shelters because the average dog owner can stop unwanted behaviors (running away, jumping, barking, digging, etc.) without the use of actual abuse.

-E collars use a TENS unit (E collar technologies or Dogtra) which is the same as what professional use in human physical therapy. It is not electric shock.

-E collars allow owners to help their dog through anxiety and arousal because you can communicate to them in a NON-emotional way that is effective.

-If E collars are banned, there will be something else to take it's place. Either that's physical force (grabbing, yanking, etc.), yelling, throwing things, or just ultimately rehoming or euthanizing the dog because it is uncontrollable.

-E collars help protect wildlife and greenspaces.

Because of E collars our family of 3 dogs has stayed together and living happily. No fighting, no running off, no barking, no destructive behavior, just peace and happiness. I know this would not have been possible with e collar training.

Warmly,
Haley Howe

From: [Tanya Cardwell - Dog Trainer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Humane Remote electronic collar - SAFE and responsible
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:43:19 AM

Here is a photo of two dogs who enjoy the benefits of humane remote electronic collar training. Humane remote electronic collar training is the SAFE and responsible way to have your dog off leash.

Dogs' primary means of communication is tactile...physical. E-collars provide a tactile means of communication. I do support this humane tool that saves dogs' lives.

Respectfully,

Tanya Cardwell



[VOTED BEST TRAINING IN DENVER \(2014-Present\)](#)

Let's Get Social!

[Facebook](#)

From: [Mariah Prescott](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: In Favor of E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:00:57 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in favor of e-collars use on dogs. I personally have had astronomical success helping rehabilitate my shy, timid dog to feel confident and relaxed in off-leash and on-leash situations. By utilizing a high quality brand that is trusted in the industry by professionals and sportspeople, I am able to leverage low levels that humans cannot feel and correct my dog on a micro level and encourage her to stay in a calm, relaxed state of mind. Many have inquired, saying that this seems counterproductive; I can see how common logic may lead people to think this, however it has not been my experience whatsoever. I have worked with a trainer and done my research to ensure I am training properly because I want the best for my dog.

The best for my dog means having freedom to run off-leash and knowing that if a truck or tractor approach us in the woods, I am 99.9% sure that she will be safe and return to me. The same goes for her prey drive: if she is headed after a deer or squirrel while off-leash and heads towards a road, I can stop her safely.

I understand that it is a nuanced tool and many do not understand, but I am writing because I firmly believe this tool has altered my dog's life and made her a better companion to me and anyone we encounter. I hope you will consider the success stories across the country and globe and let people choose to use the right tools for their dogs.

Sincerely,
Mariah W. Prescott
11 Lawrence Drive Apt 507
Princeton, NJ 08540

978-578-8333
mariahwp@gmail.com

From: [Curtis Johnson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:17:07 AM

Banning E-Collars is detrimental to the life of dogs who would be in capable trainers hands; the E-collar is a teaching and learning tool, and as many things that can be abused when in the wrong hands, it doesn't mean that banning is the first step as opposed to educating. Dogs that would otherwise be put down without the help of a trainer and an e-collar are in need. Just because people are capable of abusing the technology, does not mean it needs to be banned for the people who are responsible and know how to use them.

From: [Jason Peterson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Please consider E-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:08:43 AM

When voting on the issue of a ban on e-collars, we must not consider only the potential for abuse. Any tool can be used to abuse. But the power of these tools as part of informed training has incredible impacts on our relationship with dogs. From allowing our dogs to be a bigger part of our lives to saving dogs in rescue who could not be adopted without the training which includes these collars.

Please consider the training techniques which utilize e-collars. Do not pass this issue by simply saying "there are other training methods available". Consider the nuance involved in dissemination of information. E-collar training has helped countless dogs and struggling owners.

Without e-collars, dog abusers will still be dog abusers.

Sincerely,
Jason Peterson

From: [Stephanie Delores](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Potential E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:27:55 AM

Hello,

I am not a resident of the beautiful state of Hawaii, although I try to visit as frequently as I can! I am a dog trainer here in Louisville, KY and have recently heard about the potential ban of E-Collars.

As someone who used to be unequivocally opposed to their use, I feel like I can testify to the fact that they are a very misunderstood tool by the public and even by many trainers and shelter volunteers. They are not "shock collars" like many people believe (and like I used to!). They are incredibly versatile tools that can help dogs learn a wide variety of commands (sit, down, here, stay, heel, etc.) so that dogs can live happily and peacefully with their humans! This leads to dogs who have much bigger lives, ones that get to go to restaurants and beaches and anywhere they're allowed because their humans have a reliable way of communicating with them.

They're also one of the only tools that can be used in serious cases of anxiety and aggression, as well as to help train dogs with special needs (like my own off-leash trained 100% deaf dog). Without the E-Collar majority of dogs with behavioral issues (which is an incredibly high percentage of those that get relinquished to shelters) will eventually end up getting put down for problems that can easily be addressed through E-Collar training within a matter of weeks.

As someone who has spent their entire life trying to do what is best for animals in need, I feel like it's my duty to ask you to please consider the long term effects of an E-Collar ban and please vote against it so that trainers like me can continue to save dogs who don't need to be put down.

Thank you for your time,
Stephanie Stralina
[New Tricks Dog Training](#)

From: [Beth Ruppert](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 Banning E-collars for use and Sale
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:22:16 AM

I urge you to consider not voting for this proposal. I have been training/using the e-collar for my German Shepherd for 4 years. This is an awesome tool for training. Have you ever had a high prey drive dog? Well if you haven't then you probably don't know that training by treats with a high prey drive dog does not work well. What works great is teaching them using treats and then once they understand the command and what is expected of them holding them accountable with the e-collar. High prey drive does not mean my dog is a viscous dog that will bite people. High prey drive just means that his energy level can ramp up from 1-100 in a matter of seconds if he sees something to chase. Something as simple as a ball can send him into overdrive. By using the e-collar I have been able to teach him when it is ok to go and chase something and when he is to ignore that instinct. By doing this his world has been completely opened wider. I can walk him around the neighborhood without fearing he will drag me after the first jogger he sees. I can take him hiking, and I can take him to the dog beach in Maryland. When he is off leash at the dog beach park I have total recall over him. He knows that if he does not come when called he will be punished. He always chooses to come when called. The command was taught to him by hand feeding him his meals for two years and asking him to come. This was followed by practical training outside the feeding time with correcting him when he did not come when called. This is such a better life than only being able to go in his back yard for his whole life. Because if it was a test of strength he would win hands down every time. The e-collar allows me to hold him accountable and the more training we do with it and the more outside social exposure he has the less I need to use it. But it is always that safety measure. If he happens to be out on a walk and a rabbit or a squirrel happens to pop out in front of us and his instinct to chase emerges and he breaks his leash and goes after them I have safety of the e-collar. I would rather see him stemmed with an e-collar than hit by a car. Let's face it, leashes, collars they can all break. I also use back up collar and like his leash to both just in case his main collar breaks. I am a responsible dog owner and I don't think you should take this great training tool away from owners,

I hope you will research this more. If you want to see some great practical training uses of the e-collar check out Julie's K-9 Academy if Frederick Maryland. The things they have been able to accomplish with the e-collar and some dogs who's only other option was to be put down is such an inspiration. I urge you to check out their facebook site and see for your self what the ethical use of this tool can do for dogs.

Thank you for your time and I hope you can vote no for this proposal.

From: [Emily Shirey](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:46:49 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my concern with the Proposal of Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of e-collars in Hawaii. Although I do not live in Hawaii, I am a U.S. Citizen and am extremely concern about the ripple effects this could have on the rest of the U.S.

I am a dog lover and owner with 7 years of e-collar experience. I was taught by a professional trainer and have continued my training education throughout those years. I currently have 4 hunting dogs that are also pets. E-collar work with these dogs is a matter of safety. When hunting, it is normal for your dog to be out of sight, from 150-300 yards away (or more when hunting open prairies). These collars allow us to keep track of our beloved dogs and communicate with them when they are too far away to hear us. E-collars are just that: a communication tool. Like any tool, they can be misused and misunderstood. I encourage you to work with or contact a professional trainer that can explain how to use one properly. If used properly, they are nothing more than a communication tool. Think of it as a tap on the shoulder. You feel a tap on the shoulder, you understand someone wants your attention and you turn around to see what they want. This is exactly how it works with hunting dogs. When they are out of sight and we need them to come back, we can use a "tap on the shoulder" to let the dog know we need them to come check in with us and they do because they understand what it means. Of course, this takes lots of time to train, starting with a leash and treats and overlaying the meaning of the e-collar to a dog who already understands the expectations of recall. When a dog understands the expectations, they see the e-collar as nothing more than a communication tool.

All of my dogs have a positive conditioned emotional response to the collar; when they hear me turn the collar on, they get SO excited because it means we're going out for a run! There is absolutely NOTHING these dogs love more than going out for a run/hutning and because they have been correctly e-collar conditioned, I can safely allow them to do what they love and were bred to do. Without an e-collar, it would be **dangerous** to allow dogs off leash. This goes not only for hunting dogs, but for ALL dogs. There is no such thing as a 100% reliable recall without an e-collar because at some point your dog can be too far away or too distracted to hear you without one.

I really encourage you to do your research on reputable trainers, how they use e-collars, and see all the benefits one can offer. These collars enrich and save the lives of the dogs we love so much.

Thank you for your time,
Emily Shirey

From: [Jenny Jundt](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:37:02 AM

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to express my concern about this bill and ask for it not to pass.

It has been almost one year since I started training my dog with an e collar and our lives have been forever changed. Before the e collar, our dog was reactive, uncontrollable, and anxiety ridden. Using the mini educator (the only e collar I would ever use or recommend) has been life changing for my family and our dog. Our dog is now in a much better mental state, walks calmly on leash, and completely ignores other dogs on our walks.

Not only have I seen the e collar change our own family's life, but countless others as well. Dogs and owners who were at the end of their options have found great success in using the e collar to communicate effectively and find harmony in their relationships.

My dog is off leash reliable and I can recall him off any distraction or from any area. Having gone to Hawaii a few years ago I will never forget the natural beauty that is your state and the beautiful parks and beaches which were enjoyed by dogs and people alike. I now would feel 100% comfortable taking my dog to these places knowing the e collar has opened up those possibilities for us.

Our dog is living his best life and has truly been positively transformed by the use of an e collar. I urge you to continue to allow owners to make the best and most informed decisions for their own pets by not allowing this ban to pass.

It would truly be a tragedy for our family and a huge step back hindering families from advocate for their own pets and making best decisions possible.

Please do not allow this proposed ban to pass.

Thank you for your time.
Jenny Jundt
Madison, Wisconsin.

From: [Joni Lopez](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:59:45 AM

To whom it may concern,

While I agree with dogs not being tethered outside and the reduction over animal cruelty, the use of e-collar training is very important.

I love my two corgis dearly, they are my 'fur-babies' and were even in my wedding! That being said, they fight over food and can be aggressive despite training and care. I now have a small human baby at home and needed additional help with training my dogs.

It's been a year and the e-collar training has given my family peace of mind while initially used under the correct training and guidance under a trained instructor.

This e-collar addition should not be bundled in an overall bill and should be removed from this measure.

Sincerely,

Joni Lu

From: [Begging4Balance Dog training & rehabilitation](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:08:55 AM

I am writing to voice my opposition to banning E-collars in the state of Hawaii.
Please vote No!
Proposal Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii.

I am a dog owner and a dog trainer who uses e collars regularly to help keep both my dogs and wildlife safe. E collars help owners to have better control of their dogs both on and off leash. The tool makes communicating with their dog easier and more clear. Many trainers use E-Collars in modern dog training. Please do not ban these beneficial collars.

Thank you ,
Katharine Pliscofsky

--

Katie Pliscofsky -owner/trainer
Begging 4 Balance Dog Training
www.begging4balance.com

From: [Rebecca Reeder](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:30:29 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing to you in response to the new proposal Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of Ecollars in Hawaii.

Off leash control to protect the public, as well as livestock and Hawaii's beautiful wildlife is so important. Hawaii has incredible green spaces and dog friendly beaches, and it also is the home to many protected seabird and sea turtles, etc. E-collar training saves lives - of dogs who need training to stay out of shelters, as well as the animals and public living around dogs. Owners given rules about how they can train their dogs and what kinds of tools they can use affect the dogs and families who benefit and live better lives together with the help of e-collar training!

Personally, my dog's life has been forever changed by an e-collar. I have been trained to use it properly. He has freedom when we are hiking and he enjoys life so much more. Without the e-collar he would be spending a lot more time in a crate because he is hard to handle. He goes everywhere with me and has a much more enjoyable life now.

I do think that people and dog trainers should know how to use these devices before just putting one on their dog. When used properly, these tools allow for a much more enjoyable life and for more may even save the lives of troubled dogs.

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca Reeder

From: [Lauren Bartel](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:26:41 AM

To whom it may concern:

Banning E-Collars statewide would be a mistake. Stop Proposal Bill #677.

An E-Collar is an essential communication tool for working dogs and handlers. E-collars do not inflict pain when used properly. Many companion dogs also respond to a balanced training regime, and E-collars are often a part of that. Limiting owners training tools will lead to higher instances of loose/roaming dogs, fights, bites, car accidents, destruction of wildlife, and ultimately euthanasia and owner surrenders.

When working different terrain, there are many factors that can effect direct verbal communication with my dogs- wind, rain, engine noise, etc. At many working distances, my dogs are out of sight. An E-collar equipped with GPS not only allows me to see exactly where they are, but I am able to call them back to me. It is also a safety issue- as many dogs are bred for specific jobs, prey drive and intensity is something we strive to preserve. E-collars allow handlers to stop their dogs should a safety consideration arise. This can save the life of the dog, wildlife, livestock, or human life.

Are there individuals that misuse E-collars? Yes. The cruelty of a few should not limit the tools the greater public has at their disposal.

Thank you,

Lauren Bartel

From: [Danielle Bauer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:20:27 AM

Good Morning,

It was brought to my attention by a fellow trainer that Hawaii as a state was going to present a case to ban the use of Ecollars for good. I wanted to talk about how they have helped me and many other owners.

I believe everyone can have and form their own opinion when it comes to raising a dog, but I feel like there is a lot of misinformation out there when it comes to the use of tools especially the Electronic Collar.

Yes, E-collars can be used wrong and yes the cheap ones can hurt the dog, as they only have 7 levels. Every single dog I have seen rehabbed or just like me use one to keep my dog always safe and under control, have paid a lot of money (thousands of dollars) for trainers to teach us how to properly use one.

I have been to Hawaii a few times and know the importance of off-leash control to not only protect the public, but as well as livestock and Hawaii's beautiful wildlife such as the sea turtles. Without the use of an E-collar many owners do not have any control over their dogs especially in high stimulating environments. I have personally seen e-collars save the lives of dogs who needed training to stay out of shelters or at risk of being put down.

Rules set forth to tell owners who are dedicated how to train their dogs and what kind of tools they can use affect not only the dogs but the families who benefit from them and give them a better life living together.

I urge you to open your minds and hearts about this topic and research more. There are so many awesome trainers and owners that use these tools with transformed dogs leading better lives, mine included.

Thank you for your time,
Danielle

From: susan@flatcreekpetcare.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:50:44 AM

Good morning Senators,

I am writing in hopes of adding to hundreds or thousands of emails, phone calls or letters you may receive regarding the proposed bill that will ban the use of e-collars for the citizens of Hawaii. The effects of this bill passing would be devastating to thousands of pet owners as well as dog trainers who effectively and humanely utilize the tool. The agenda of individuals and organizations pushing such legislation is grossly deceitful, and their ignorance regarding this modern dog training tool is horrifying, whether intentional or not. The modern electronic collar is not the shock collar so many imagine and labeling it as such only aims to stir emotional responses from others to further their own agenda.

Are there people in this world who abuse and neglect animals in their care? Yes, there are certainly too many, but they do so with any number of tools, household objects and by simply neglecting basic needs of the animals such as food, water and shelter. The e-collar can be inhumanely used just like any other training tool? Yes, but so can any other object, training tool or not, when in the hands of someone with bad intentions. A flat buckle collar can be so poorly fitted that when the dog grows, their skin actually grows into the collar. A leash can be used to beat or tie up a dog to the point of strangulation. A harness can actually be so poorly fitted to alter the dog's natural gait as well as encourage pulling on leash, which is usually the #1 reason pet owners seek help from trainers, to stop leash pulling to enjoy their walks together.

I am a dog trainer in Virginia and not only do I use e-collars with my clients, but I use the e-collar with my personal dogs. The e-collar affords my dog and many others, the freedom to enjoy the world so much more. When trained humanely and effectively, the e-collar is so often not used, because during the process of training, it's used as a way to communicate and guide, not to restrict or dominate. The tool actually helps to enhance the relationship between the dog and human, because of the process that happens during the training, the level of trust that is built, and the ability to communicate with the dog in the highest levels of distraction when needed the most. So many pet owners have been able to keep their dogs and keep them safe after training and using the e-collar for many reasons such as controlling prey drive around livestock, eliminating reactivity towards other dogs or people, or recalling a dog from a potential hazard in the field such as a rattlesnake.

This isn't a tool issue. Such a bill would create such a horrendous fallout for all pet owners and everyone in the dog training field who only have their pet's best interest in mind. Such a bill would severely limit our ability to help pets and their owners and it will negatively impact animal welfare everywhere. Owners would likely be forced to turn their dog over to the shelter or their world (dog and owner) would become very isolating and limiting because of a simple lack of understanding or tolerance regarding this humane and life-changing tool. I do hope you take the time to consider the total impact of this bill and do not vote in favor of this bill. Your action today is being watched all over as the impact will be profound for all of us and our pets in the U.S.

Kind regards,
Susan Moon
Evington, Virginia
USA

From: [Sabine Scheumann](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:31:36 AM

I am very concerned about the proposal to ban ecollars in Hawaii. The use of ecollars is frequently misrepresented as cruel or abusive by people who have never actually used one or educated themselves on its use. They just react emotionally to imagined harm an ecollar might do. Modern ecollars work like a tens unit that chiropractors use by giving blunt stimulation. They do not issue electric shock. Our 3 dogs are ecollar trained and as a result are well behaved dogs that can go adventuring with us. In places without leash laws, they can safely be off leash because the ecollar is like an invisible leash, and they will come instantly if called. They LOVE their ecollars because they represent fun times.

Keep in mind that people that truly want to abuse dogs don't need tools like ecollars to do so. They can kick, choke, starve, etc dogs without spending a lot of money for an ecollar.

In addition ecollars also keep wildlife and livestock safe since owners are more likely to have control over their dogs.

Please do not ban ecollars since a ban will lead to more dogs being surrendered to shelters due to owners running out of options.

Respectfully,
Sabine Scheumann

From: [Teresa VanGilder](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed e-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:22:44 AM

Hello,

I would like to tell you a story about my dog. She is a rescue, she was owner surrendered at 8 weeks old to a local kill shelter. I adopted her, took care of her with enrichment and exercise daily. At approximately 4 months old she became people aggressive. She would attack if anyone (including me) would try to pet her or ask her to do simple things like sit. Treats held no interest for her and toys were even less interesting so I had no method of helping her behavior. At 4 months old this is a genetic rather than environmental issue.

I worked with a local e-collar trainer from Sit Means Sit to provide behavior modification. Keep in mind she was almost 6 months old by the time we got her in training and she was getting more aggressive as time went on, not less.

After the initial e-collar training she was listening to basic commands. It took about a year after that point to solidly teach her alternate behaviors to aggression. Consistent e-collar use allowed me to help her be more confident and secure in her environment. It also allowed for me to be safe when she chooses aggression over correct behavior.

Sadie is now 5 years old and has been a registered therapy dog with Go Team Therapy dogs for the last two years. She has discovered a love for helping children that is amazing to watch.

Personally I left a 20-year corporate career and became a franchise owner because I believed in being able to help people with dogs that have nowhere else to go. I am enclosing a picture of Sadie at an event last year.

Simply put, as with any tool, e-collars are an amazing use of technology to help dogs understand and navigate the human world.

I have no doubt, if we had not found and used e-collar training for Sadie, she would not be alive now due to the level of her aggression at 4 months old.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Teresa VanGilder
Owner/Head Trainer
Sit Means Sit McKinney



Sorry, We Don't Train Husbands, Wives or Kids!

From: [Liz L](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed SB #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:54:45 AM

I am writing to voice my opinion on the proposed ban of sale and use of E-Collars. Without the current knowledge I have now, I used to think they were cruel. I did my research and changed my mind completely. I personally have a 130 lb Mastiff that is E-collar trained. It is NOT animal abuse. It's a means of communicating that works.

In my opinion it has saved the lives of many shelter animals. Have you even felt the effects of one? I suggest you get a quality collar and try it for yourself.

And for the record, a tethered dog on a flat collar can do a lot of damage and even cause death. Rethink this or Hawaii may end up with many more dogs euthanized.

Thank you,

Liz Lenti
Florida

From: [Ariel Peldunas](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: RE: SB 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:27:46 AM

Dear Senators:

I am writing to share both my concern that the state of Hawaii is proposing to ban a valuable training tool as well as share my experience as a professional trainer who frequently uses this tool.

SB 677 would make it a crime for an individual to buy, sell, or use a “shock collar”. I ask that you reconsider what is being proposed and not approve this bill.

First, professionals in our industry no longer use the antiquated term “shock collar” as the technology used in these training collars has improved tremendously over the years. We refer to them as electronic collars and they are designed to deliver a low level electric stimulation that is controlled by the trainer. Any experienced trainer will ensure the collar is set to the lowest effective level which is often just barely perceptible to the dog. This is much milder than what humans receive from electronic stimulation devices during physical therapy. It is not designed to be painful or shocking.

Second, electronic collars are a valuable tool for trainers in many venues. I have handled and trained police, military, search and rescue, and pet dogs for over 18 years. Electronic collars give dogs the freedom to engage in off leash activities or to work in highly distracting environments while allowing their handlers and owners to maintain reliable control of their dogs. I have worked with out of control dogs that endangered themselves or their humans because they were too powerful for their owners to maintain control with a leash and collar alone. These were not bad dogs, but dogs that learned there was no consequence for misbehavior or running away. Electronic collars helped to restore a healthy relationship between dog and owner. I’ve worked with elderly or disabled individuals who were physically unable to control their dogs with a leash. Electronic collars allowed these owners to enjoy fulfilling relationships with their pets.

Working dog handlers in law enforcement, military, search and rescue, and private civilian corporations regularly use electronic collars to communicate with and control their dogs during off leash exercises. In many situations, using a leash would limit the dog’s effectiveness as well as introduce a potential hazard. Not allowing law enforcement, military, or civilian trainers to use this valuable tool has the potential to seriously hinder a dog team’s effectiveness and safety.

I realize there are misguided animal rights groups that would like us to believe electronic collars are cruel and that it’s possible to effectively train dogs using only treats, toys, and affection. In reality, to train reliable, consistent obedience and maintain control of a dog in distracting, challenging environments and scenarios, we as trainers need access to a variety of training tools, including electronic collars. Trainers like me strive to properly educate owners and enhance the relationship between human and dog by using all methods and tools available. To limit us means less dogs can be trained effectively and saved from endangering themselves, their humans, or from being euthanized.

Please reconsider what SB 677 proposes and take the time to talk to trainers who are using electronic collars humanely and effectively.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariel Peldunas
Your Dog Can Too
Fredericksburg, VA

540-419-1611
alpeldunas@gmail.com

From: [Lisa Pierce](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Response to proposed e-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:27:29 AM

In regards to the proposed e-collar ban in Hawaii:

It's like the gun control debate, but for dogs. The tool is not bad. People who use the tool abusively are bad. Man, did I just open a can of worms, or what?

You will learn that stimulation from an e-collar is similar to stimulation used on humans in physical therapy. Therapy, as in healing.

You will receive testimonials about dogs saved by training.

You will read research documenting that training with an e-collar is stressful for a dog. And another article that contradicts the first.

The bottom line is that any tool misused can be abusive.

Leashes can be abusive *if* used harshly, but there are laws that dogs must be on leash. Dogs fed too many treats are obese; that's unhealthy, and shortens their life expectancy. I argue that is abusive. Someone *could* take a belt and hit their dog; the state should probably ban belts, too.

Most people who *choose* to use an e-collar, especially those who hire trainers to help, are doing so to improve the quality of life they share with their dog. They are not trying to harm their pet.

People who misuse e-collars, or use them as punishments are doing so because they are uneducated in how to use them in another way. These same people probably own leashes and belts, and treats.

I'll let colleagues and clients of e-collar trainers provide personal accounts, testimonials of success and video transformations of their dogs.

Another way to look at this:

Comparatively, without even looking at statistics, more people are negatively impacted by cell phones and distracted driving accidents than dogs are by e-collars. So let's just ban cell phones. Problem solved.

Regards,

One trainer among thousands

--

Lisa Pierce
Owner/Operator
Sit Means Sit, Pittsburgh

412-345-1748

sitmeanssitpgh@gmail.com

From: [rachel feery](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:58:50 AM

To whom it may concern,

The banning of e-collars will not in the long run be a betterment for dog welfare. As a professional in the dog training industry I stand by the use of dog e-collars as they have saved countless dogs lives under my supervision as well as other members of my training company and friends of other training companies whom do the same work. banning e-collars takes away an option for owners, who are left with limited options as it is, owning a dog who presents behavioral issues they are not equipped to handle. Taking away e-collars takes away hope that I'm able to give these clients who are so desperately in need of it when they reach out for our services and often times we are their last hope. If this ban takes place what will happen in the long run will be more surrenders to shelters of mostly adult dogs who are riddled with behavioral issues such as aggression and anxiety that could have been simply solved with low-level e-collar training. More euthanasia's will take place as a result.

Countless research has been put into this type of training and all of the positive effects that it has. I urge you to look into it and to understand better that you cannot just look at things at surface value and there's more to it than meets the eye.

Sincerely,

A proud e-collar user.

From: [Martita Sharlow](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: SUPPORT E-COLLARS!!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:31:45 AM

To whom it may concern,

My family consists of myself, my partner, and our four wonderful dogs (Prince, Bear, Pickles, and Bingo). I am writing this letter to discuss the potential ban of e collar and how this bill is extremely dangerous for those who greatly benefit from the use of this tool and everyone in the community.

E collars have made a massive impact on our family and our dogs quality of life. Our dog Prince has had several incidents where he slipped out the front door while being watched by others and having his e collar has literally saved his life. He could have easily been hit by a vehicle or lost forever but his e collar was a gentle reminder to recall and come back home. Prince is also very anxious around other dogs while he is on leash so his e collars assists him in staying calm and properly handle the situation.

We also use an e collar to help our dog Pickles, we rescued her from a terrible home at one year old where she was never even potty trained. She had developed extremely separation anxiety and severe impulse control issues. We have fully rehabilitated her and with the help of her e collar she has transformed into a calm and confident new dog. Her e collar assists her in staying calm in the car, in her crate, and on walks. She knows how to control her impulsive desires now with the gentle reminder to stay calm with the e collar. Without her e collar she loses control of the situation and becomes destructive which is extremely unhealthy for her physically and emotionally.

E collars are used universally for a variety of situations. They're used to assist hunting dogs off leash and let them know when it's time to recall to the handler, off leash herding dogs use this tool to corral the other animals back to a specific area as well as the shepherd being able to tell the dog from a mile away when it's time to come back, e collars are used for house holds to assist in behavioral training, off leash training, and a variety of other situations.

E collars are the equivalent of a tap on a child's shoulder to refocus them on the task and stay calm in stressful situations. I urge you to reconsider the bill as it will be detrimental to millions of dogs who greatly benefit from this aid.

Best regards
Martita Sharlow
Life long Dog owner and e collar supporter!

From: [tony curtis](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Support of E Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:33:51 AM

Listen my chesapeake bay retriever was trained with an e collar from a trainer for hunting on the bay, it is not shocking him not hurting him it is a communication devise that we can use when he is out in the water. and on land off leash. my experience have been positive only, do not ban these they help so many owners and their dogs,.

Tony

From: [Kyle](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Thoughts RE remote collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:00:00 AM

Hello,

My name is Kyle Weaver and while I do not reside in the state of Hawaii, I wanted to write to you to share my thoughts on the value remote collars have in the world of not only dog training, but dog ownership as well. I fear for the dogs and owners who have so greatly benefited from these tools in not only Hawaii, but across the country should they no longer be allowed to use them.

To be honest, it's difficult to succinctly share how valuable these tools are. Even though I've used them with countless dogs for years I'm routinely amazed at just how well they allow for clear and concise communication between myself and the dog. And ultimately that's exactly what any tools is for, creating a line of communication between human and animal. And this is where remote collars truly excel.

I can only assume the rationale behind banning remote collars or vilifying those who use them is based on the notion that they're strictly used as punitive devices, meant to "shock" or otherwise inflict pain on the dog until he or she simply becomes compliant. While I can more than understand the desire to prevent this sort of "training", the reality is that not only is this not something that's done, it is my honest belief that it would be highly ineffective if it were. The idea that causing pain to a dog somehow results in an obedient and compliant dog is one that is hugely misguided. That is to say, if trainers and owners were using remote collars in this way, no one would be getting anywhere.

And yet, we are. We're seeing fantastic results and overjoyed owners. We're seeing happy, relaxed dogs. We're seeing dogs running and playing off-leash because of the freedom for which these tools allow. We're seeing calm dogs no longer feeling the need to bark, bite, lunge, or self-mutilate.

The thing is, as a trainer I see some "cupcake" dogs; dogs who are, at worst, a little rambunctious and not always so good at listening or paying attention. But what I see a lot more of is dogs who are experiencing some serious problems, and are often a danger to themselves and others. I see dogs who are biting people, getting into fights with other dogs, breaking out of crates and injuring themselves in the process, dogs who are destructive to the extent that they need invasive surgery (or multiple surgeries) to remove foreign bodies, dogs who are pulling and reacting so intensely on the leash that their owners simply gave up on taking them outside of the house, dogs who spend their entire day whining, panting, and pacing.

These are dogs who are highly stressed. These are dogs who are not "happy". These are dogs who are often dangerous. And the reality is that helping these dogs is more nuanced than offering treats and affection. If it were that easy, believe me when I say that I'd be doing it all day long. But it isn't. These are complex psychological and emotional issues, and remote collars allow for a level of communication that dogs can truly grab onto as they begin to work through these behaviors. While many would label remote collars as "abusive", it is my feeling that forcing dogs to remain in a state of high anxiety and stress, eliminating their ability to

enjoy walks or off-leash play time, or leaving owners with no other option than to take them to the shelter or euthanize them is far more abusive.

And without effective training tools, that's exactly what happens. I'm often the last resort for dog owners with major issues in my area. They've been to other trainers. They've done group classes. They've offered treats. They've spoken with other "professionals". And what have they been told? Their dog can't be helped. The dog needs to be killed, or at least dumped at a shelter so they can do the killing (by the way, I worked at a shelter for 5 years, and we killed anywhere from 10 to 50+ animals a day, so this is reality). Then they come to me, and a few weeks later they find out they had other options all along. Their dog could be helped, if given a proper chance. All they needed was a holistic and reasonable approach. Not only that, their dog isn't a fearful mess. They see a happy, calm, relaxed dog on a remote collar, not one shaking in fear of being "shocked" if it makes a mistake.

I'm writing to you because I'm passionate about helping dogs and owners. I have been since I was 14 years old. I'm now very nearly 30. But without proper tools, many dogs can't be helped. Without the ability to properly communicate with dogs, change is improbable for most, and impossible for many others. I urge you to look at the big picture when it comes to remote collar training. Talk to owners who have dogs that benefited from them, and really listen to them. Really find the stories that demonstrate the true power, and use, of these tools. I assure you, if all you see is the potential for abuse in a remote collar, you haven't even begun to scratch the surface of how these tools are truly used, and I would urge you not to make a decision based on an incredibly limited understanding of them.

Thank you very much for your time,

Kyle Weaver

From: [Sarah Freer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Why the E-collar Ban is Detrimental for Dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:26:16 AM

To whom this may concern,

The proposed e-collar ban is not best for dogs. I'm a professional dog trainer and have seen so many dogs lives saved from e-collar training. We need to educate people on how the tools are used and why- to keep dogs out of shelters from being euthanized due to overpopulation and lack of resources to keep them alive. They are used to promote growth, not to punish and hurt the dog.

Aggressive dogs in particular who have been bred with poor temperaments and require intensive training benefit from e-collars. They get to learn impulse control and take commands and cues from their handler. They get to live a happier, comfortable, confident life. On and off leash! They get freedom. They don't get put in a kennel jail sentenced to an unsure future.

Fearful dogs gain more confidence, and have opportunities to overcome their fears off leash while ensuring their safety. This was the case with my German Shepherd who tried to bite 3 people before training, and before an e-collar. Now I can take her anywhere and she is the sweetest dog who gets to run on the beach, through the woods, and walk with me through the middle of downtown.

For my other dog, she loves finding mischief. She is a dog in the most simple way. She uses her nose. Her nose will sometimes lead her into unsafe situations. Then it is my job to help keep her safe and give her the proper guidance. I do this with the use of the e-collar which she knows and truly loves. She bounces and wiggles with excitement when she sees it and wants it on. Even when we are already outside. Is it fair to keep her on leash and deny her her natural instincts? No. What would happen without the e-collar? She would have a very high chance of getting injured, lost, and go crazy from not being able to have a proper outlet that she needs to thrive as a dog.

Please seek out education on proper e-collar use. Please help dedicated trainers and owners keep the dogs we love out of shelters and put into good, loving homes. A ban on e-collars is certain unnecessary death for so many more dogs that just need proper training and guidance.

Thank you,
Sarah Freer

From: [heather tyack](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Against Ecollar Ban testimonial
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:41:34 AM

To who it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Hawaii is looking at legislation that will ban the sale and use of ecollars.

I am strongly against this motion, as ecollars have changed my dogs life, as well as our family's lives.

My dog struggles with severe anxiety, and I searched for a way to communicate with him to help him learn to relax.

Because I was so stressed about him being stressed, it was a bad loop effect.

Our commutation was filled with emotion and disconnect.

The ecollar allowed me to communicate with him in a calm, very light, non-emotional way.

These days we are able to go anywhere and do anything, together.

The ecollar has given us our life back.

Please do not let one group of humans to dictate what is right for the whole.

Thank you for your time.
Heather Tyack

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Tiffany Huebner](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Ban on E Collars - I do NOT support this
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:09:35 AM

Would you rather see a potentially aggressive dog NOT injure/kill another animal or person or do harm when the “treats” don’t work or the dog slips the gentle leader (which I’ve seen plenty in 20 years)?

Would you rather see a dog hit by a car for getting off leash or shocked temporarily (possibly at a VERY low level that is barely noticeable) to not only save that dog’s life BUT avoid a potential accident from happening?

A butter knife in the hands of the wrong person can cause damage. There are gun control laws. People still shoot each other. There are speeding laws. People still speed. There are tax laws. People still commit tax crimes.

Good people, good trainers using tools such as the e collar are doing society more good than harm. It’s time to wake up and smell the nonsense. It’s not the tool. Banning an e collar makes as much sense as banning a leash. It’s a means to control a dog. If someone WANTED to be cruel they could hang their dog with a simple leash.

E collars are not the issue. Don’t make them one. They are nothing more than a training tool.

Tiffany Huebner

AQK9

<https://www.facebook.com/AQK9online/>

<https://www.instagram.com/theaqk9/?hl=en>

www.aqk9.com

763-634-1899

From: [Caitlin grilli](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Bill #677 Support of E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:02:50 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello- my name is Caitlin and I am a full-time professional dog trainer residing in the state of North Carolina. I, as well as many others, have been made aware that there will be a proposal this morning for Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of e-collars in the state of Hawaii.

I feel that there are many factors that should be taken into account in this presentation. I ask you to please consider the following:

1.) E-collars save dogs AND their owners. I have seen/trained countless cases where if it weren't for proper e-collar training, the dog would have been euthanized or brought to the shelter. Not only does proper e-collar training help to maintain a smaller population of dogs in the shelter system, but keeps owners from experiencing the absolute turmoil of having to give their dog up. From aggression cases to severe reactivity and more, I have seen/had e-collar training change the lives of those dogs for the better.

2.) Technology & training has evolved. Have you ever placed an e-collar on yourself to see what it feels like? Most don't think to. For each and every dog that I train on an e-collar, I have the owners feel what their dog's "working level" is and every client I've had can hardly feel it. That is the same goal with their dog. E-collar training is no longer "shocking" the dog at a painful level to gain compliance. We have evolved greatly from that. Not only do quality e-collars feel more like a tens-unit than an actual shock, but most have the options of 100+ stimulation levels so it's possible to gear it towards that particular dog and what they perceive.

3.) E-collars provide significant levels of control and freedom when applicable. Please think about two families walking towards each other in the park with their dogs. Dog A typically gets overstimulated and becomes reactive towards other dogs when he is on leash. He sees Dog B and begins to bark, growl, lunge, and circle while on leash. Dog A's family tries to pull him the opposite direction but the tension on the leash fuels him more. Eventually, he twists and slips out of his "flat" collar and begins to barrel toward Dog B. Dog A's family begin to shout his name and run after him, but they have zero control of him off the leash. Dog A is so overstimulated by the situation and the other dog that, out of frustration, he bites one of Dog B's owners instead of Dog B.

All of this could have been prevented with proper e-collar training. The e-collar could have been a vital aid in the rehabilitation and training for Dog A's severe reactivity. In addition, the family would always have a way to influence their dog- leash or not. If Dog A was on a leash and slipped out for any reason, the family could have immediately recalled him back. E-collars help the dog to understand that regardless of proximity, there is some level of influence from the owners.

4.) This same idea translates to many other areas such as a dog who chases and kills the neighbors' livestock or wild animals, the dog that gets loose every week and has to be picked up by Animal Control because he bolts through any door, and even the dog who guards food and toys from other dogs in the house which results in fights.

5.) Anything can be used improperly or in an abusive manner. While the vast majority of professional trainers and enthusiastic owners spend countless hours and amounts of money researching and expanding their knowledge on proper e-collar usage, there's always going to be a couple in the bunch who don't. Of course, there are a smaller number of people in this country who don't play by the rules and will use tools incorrectly- but it's certainly not the vast majority. If e-collars are taken from them, they're just going to become abusive with whatever else comes next. I have a cousin who, when we were children, broke their collar bone by getting hit with a pillow in a pillow fight. ANYTHING can be used to cause some level of harm depending on who is in control.

6.) If passed, this bill could have major impacts to all areas of the animal industry and training across the United

States.

I would greatly appreciate the consideration of these points, as well as the others that you will be receiving in support of e-collars. This is a great decision to be made and I hope that the incoming information may be of assistance in it. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Caitlin M. Grilli
grillic97@aol.com
Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

From: [Madds Mom](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:58:30 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to Proposal Bill #677. To ban the use and sale of electronic dog collars is as frivolous as banning leashes. There is an old connotation of electronic collars as being 'shock collars' and used for punishment but that couldn't be any further from the truth of today. A quick google or YouTube search can easily yield countless results of positive applications of electronic collars. They are even technically less harmful to a dog than the pull applied with a standard collar. Reliable offleash communication cannot be established with out it. I plead you to not take away a device that many rely on for the safety of themselves, their dogs (many service and working), and the public.

Thank you
Kayla Miley

From: [Morgan Plunkett](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:03:41 AM

To whom it may concern,

Banning the use of shock collars as though it has a direct correlation to animal cruelty would be a poorly informed decision based in little to no knowledge of the tool itself and of balanced training as a whole. Even using the term "electric shock dog collars" implies a lack of understanding of the high quality tools being used.

A high quality e-collar uses an electrical stimulation like a TENS unit. What does that mean? It means it sends a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, not a "shock" like you're thinking of from an electric fence. If you ban the use of "electric shock dog collars" does that mean you'll also be banning the use of TENS units by athletes, doctors, and physical therapists? It's my understanding that transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation has proven to be quite useful and have healing properties in the medical and health fields, but if you believe it's harmful to dogs, it must also be harmful to humans right? Will you also be banning invisible fences utilizing shock collars? Those collars actually shock in the same way a livestock fence would, so if the logic that any electrical stimulus is abusive to an animal will electric fencing for livestock be banned?

Any tool can be abused in the wrong hands, please don't take away the rights to those who use tools responsibly. When used in concert with a systematic training technique, an e-collar is one of the most effective and subtle ways to communicate with your dog. It has helped countless owners keep their dogs alive. Yes, I literally mean alive. Reliable off-leash recall has saved countless dogs from dog fights and being hit by a car. On-leash dogs being rushed by out of control off leash dogs is one of the best ways to create a leash reactive and potentially dog aggressive dog. E-collars have given owners control in those situations, allowing their dogs to go off leash, but maintain reliability and control over their dogs. Many owners are prisoners to their own dog's bad behaviors, e-collars and proper training has given owners, including myself, the freedom to live a fuller life with their better balanced dogs whom they can effectively communicate with in all kinds of real world situations.

It also gives trainers and owners the ability to overcome issues like leash reactivity, dog aggression, and human aggression. Countless dogs would have been euthanized if not for the use of e-collars with balanced training techniques. I have used e-collars to overcome dog reactivity/aggression with my personal dog. Before I adopted her and trained her, behaviorally she was on track to be euthanized at the local shelter. My other dog had a human bite record and was considered "unadoptable" to the general public without investing training into him, now he is a model citizen, and the two of them are better behaved than the vast majority of the general population's dogs. None of this change in behavior and mindset would have been possible without the use of e-collars. No one is being forced to use an e-collar on their dog if they don't want to, but I support an owner's right to choose a tool that helps them keep their dog alive, safe, and happy.

I implore you to look beyond the well funded agenda of "cruelty free" groups who use emotionally charged words to engage your irrational and emotional thinking. Use logic, and do research before banning something that has helped thousands of people and dogs. You

wouldn't ban TENS units on humans without thoughtful inquiry and expert opinions, please treat e-collars with the same respect. You wouldn't allow emotionally charged words to override your rational brain if a group of advocates were saying that TENS units should be banned on use in humans because it's "abuse" to use "electric shock".

Thank you for your time, I hope this has shed some light on the issue at hand, and I hope you will do your due diligence and research e-collars and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation before banning something simply due to a lack of knowledge and carefully chosen emotionally charged words.

Sincerely,
Morgan Plunkett

From: [Kelsey McGrath](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:27:56 AM

Hello,

I have just heard about the Proposal of Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii. I strongly urge you to reconsider. I have had so much success with our dog using an e collar and proper training. We got our dog when he was only 9 weeks old, we didn't know how large he would be. Flash forward to expecting our first child with an almost 100lb dog that was super friendly but had no manners and positive enforcement training had failed to stick in the past. Enter our friend who is a dog trainer, she showed us how to use the collar, I was hesitant at first, concerned it would hurt him. But she let me feel the pulse on my own arm before I ever put it on my dog. It has been life changing. The dog we previously had to leave locked up, can now come with us anywhere, I don't worry about taking him to the dog park and having him accidentally knock down the wrong person. E collars have given my dog his life back, his freedom back, and made him a part of the family again. There are collars out there that are not made well and DO hurt dogs, I would urge you to reconsider legislation to regulate these types of collars by working with the manufacturers that already have experience with the product and the trainers that have seen so much success. We must speak for our animal friends who can't speak for themselves, but an outright ban of e-collars would only end up harming dogs in the long run.

Thank you for your time,
Kelsey McGrath & Zephyr
Proud supporters/customer of E-Collar Technologies

From: [Thomas Michael McManus](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 677 Ecollar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:06:42 AM

To whom it may concern. I am writing this letter in support of Ecollars and NOT in support of a ban on them. The ecollar is an extremely useful tool that has changed millions of dogs lives for the better. It has saved millions of dogs from being discarded and ultimately euthanized. It is similar to a TENS unit used by a physical therapist or a chiropractor. It has been mischaracterized as a “shock collar” which it is not. That is an ancient term which is being used by the “anti” crowd. I beg that you do a serious deep dive into its use and benefits. Please don’t vote on emotions, vote on the facts.

Respectfully,

T M McManus

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kaleigh Hoppe](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill Proposal to Ban E Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:14:32 AM

Good morning,

I'm sending this message as a plea for you to reconsider the banning of E-collars (ie. Shock collars) in Hawaii. A few years ago, I, too, cringed at the thought of people using what I thought at the time were cruel and abusive means to train a dog. Since getting my own dog and getting the advice from numerous well-known and respected dog trainers, I have a completely new opinion and experience with these collars. These tools are life savers!!!! I've been able to train and proof my dog's obedience: loose leash heel, sit, down, etc, but by far the most important obedience command this tool has helped me with is my dog's recall. Because of his E-collar training, all ethical and sound, I am able to allow my dog the freedom to enjoy many of our walks off leash to truly be a dog and explore nature. It's given me the sense of security that my dog can be off leash and if something were to spook or distract him, I'd still be able to easily and painlessly get him back to me. A great example of this actually occurred a few days ago. We were out at a park we go to frequently to play fetch. My dog was off leash and had his e collar on. One throw I threw a little too hard and the ball went straight into the street, with my dog ready to run out into the road after it. I quickly yelled "come" to my dog and applied a small stim to my dog on the e-collar remote (the collar I have goes up to level 100, but I was at a 6, which I can't even feel with my own skin). He immediately turned on a dime back to me, I told him to down on the grass, and I waited for traffic to slow down and went to get the ball myself, all while my dog stayed in a down, happily, where I left him. As soon as I was back to him on the grass, I gave him his release word and we continued playing fetch. Without the E-collar, that day could have ended very differently with me possibly bringing a hit-by-car dog into the vet. I know there are absolutely some people out there who have ill intentions to harm dogs with these tools, but that is not everyone. Most of us who do utilize these tools, use them as a communication tool with our dogs and use them for safety on off leash hikes. No one wants to see a dog abused more than me, but at the end of the day, it isn't the tool doing the abusing, it's the person holding the tool. Banning E-collars isn't going to stop those people from continuing to hurt dogs, but it is going to hurt and affect the people and dogs who are using them ethically to provide safety and freedom to the dogs we love so dearly. Thank you for the consideration.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Brittany Parker <ssakauno@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:45 AM
To: JDCTestimony; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; Sen. Karl Rhoads; Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Kurt Fevella; Sen. Donna Mercado Kim
Subject: E-collar bill

To whom it may concern,

I understand that the state of Hawaii is considering a bill to make electronic dog collars illegal.

E-collars are an amazing tool when used correctly. They offer the ability with a light stimulation (similar to a TENS unit used in physical therapy) to get the dog's attention and give direction even in very stimulating environments.

They also allow the dogs to have freedom to run off leash without worrying that that we have no way to communicate with them should they see something they want to chase. It keeps them SAFE!

I use mine to help my dog with his dog reactivity after he was attacked by off leash dogs. It allows me to essentially "tap him on the shoulder" to get him to look away so he can then be rewarded with treats for making the right decision. My dog comes running to me when he hears the e-collar turn on because he knows it means he gets to go outside and we are going on an adventure!

Because of his reactivity it would be impossible to take him out as often as I do without the e collar. This is a fantastic, gentle tool that has helped millions of dogs. Taking away this life saving tool is a heartbreaking consideration. Please reconsider so millions of dogs don't have to suffer!

Thank you,
Brittany Parker

PS. Here are photos of my happy boy-while wearing his e collar that helps him work through his issues and keeps him safe. ❤️

From: [Lisha Belt](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Do not ban e-collars for dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:32:47 AM

Good morning,

My name is Lisha Belt and I wanted to write to you to share my positive experience with e-collars and encourage you not to ban them. The ripple affect of your decision will affect the professionals that make these animals lives better. Please pause for a minute and consider how this will affect professional working dogs and dogs who are rescued from shelters who have major behavior problems.

An e-collar is an effective training tool that we have used with 2 animals since I was introduced to them through a professional trainer. I had reservations about using them until the trainer educated me on how they actually work and their proper use. The trainer showed us how to use them to teach and convey commands and how to safely use them to stop unsafe behavior. This device saved my dogs life and was an effective tool in training her so that she could be a more well rounded dog and enjoy life without being locked away or put down.

My first experience was with my cattle dog who is very reactive to other dogs. She was a rescue from the local humane society and we did not know what her history was. She was extremely aggressive towards anything smaller than her and we could not enjoy taking her with us on walks without being afraid of how she would react to other animals. She was very high energy and needed a purpose in order to enjoy her life. She had a singular focus when she spotted something she wanted to chase and it felt impossible to stop her escalated reaction. Her reaction was so extreme, we thought we might not be able to keep her. We reached out to a trainer who used the e-collar to begin to correct her behavior and help her focus on her owner's commands instead of her "prey". On one occasion early in our training, she had run out the front door when a pizza man came with a delivery and attempted to run across the road (in front of a car) to chase another dog walking with their owner. This kind of situation is the only time that the "volume" would ever be turned up on the collar, to prevent a major safety issue or injury. It's about the safety of the dog and others. The collar allowed us to issue an instant command and apply an appropriate level of response to break her attention resulting in her returning to the house without getting hit in the road or attacking another animal even though she wasn't on a leash. It's not used as a punishment, but as a correction followed by then rewarding the animal for the correct response. Crisis and injury were avoided for both us and the dog she was trying to chase and her response to an open front door was able to be corrected so that she did not make an escape attempt again in the future. In the course of our training with the e-collar we noticed that she loved to "work" on training and would get excited when we brought the collar out to practice. The collars do not cause injury when used properly. By the time we had completed the training course, entirely with the use of the e-collar, we were able to walk with her off leash without concern that she would react negatively to other dogs. She even began to relax as she gained confidence and enjoy their company. She loved to "work" so much that after the first few times of learning a command we wouldn't even have to hit the button on our remote. This is an effective tool for training and should not be banned.

I encourage you to go and spend time with professional trainers in your area and attend a session with them. Learn how the collars really work and hear their testimony for how this

tool has positively changes the lives of so many dogs who would otherwise had to have been put down.

Thank you for your time.

Lisha Belt

From: [Mia Semuta](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Dog Training Legislation
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:58:33 AM

If you have a moment, please read the blog on my training website. E-collars are valuable tools that truly help dogs learn to communicate with humans. Banning them will not prevent pain, a ban will cause otherwise rehabilitatable dogs to be euthanized when force free methods fail.

Our prisons are already full of people who don't appreciate the consequences of poor choices, let's not allow the crematorium overflow with dogs who are confused about the same
I welcome a conversation if you so desire. 717-919-7845

Mia Semuta
www.miasemuta.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [jacki restmeyer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar support
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:58:56 AM

My dog is the greatest dog in the world
She loves people and kids
But she's not good with other dogs
She's a rescue who at a young age got beat up by another dog
When I walk her if we see another dog she gets very defensive and aggressive
A small vibration with the e-collar makes it easy to remind her that behavior is not acceptable
If it was not for this amazing collar she would probably be put down
There is so much abuse towards dogs
Like overbreeding
And dog fighting
I'm surprised you would be focusing on eliminating this amazing training tool

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [melissa kappenman](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban -- The E-Collar Saved My Dogs Life
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:38:55 AM

Good Morning --

I am writing in to share my testimony on how the E-Collar has truly saved my dog's life and has help his quality of life be the best if can be!

We have a Great Dane-/Staffie mix,named Lincoln, who we recused as a puppy almost 3 years ago -- He was really an easy going pup until he was about 8 months old, when he was attacked while on his leash.

From this moment we started to see a change in him. He became fearful to other dogs, this was not the dog we once knew -- we were at a loss on what to do. So, we reached out to trainers, following the very common positive training approach. We noticed it was not working and he seemed to become even more fearful and then became reactive -- lashing, showing teeth, barking and lunging out when any dog came by him. At this time he was now almost a hundred pounds -- this is not a dog any humans would want to see lashing out, it became very scary situation. We knew something had to be done -- he was becoming a liability -- We can't just lock him up at home for the rest of his life, this will not help him. Some would have just surrender him and for sure he would be euthanized especially because he was part Staffie (Pitbull as some say). A reactive Pitbull...that will not fly in this society.

Then we met Dane at Pet Techniques who had a different approach -- Balanced Training. We started with a prong collar, which help control him some on leash. Control is great but we still were having difficulty calming his mind. Dane suggested using an E-Collar -- I was very skeptical of this, in my mind this is a shock collar!!

Now this is where the education comes into play -- so many people see these and think, wow this is inhumane -- Dane helped to educate us -- this is not shock collar-- there is no electricity used, it's more of a muscle simulator, similar to what people used to help with muscle pain - This is controlled - a way to help us "talk/communicate" to Lincoln using very clear communication. Working very closely with Dane, he helped us understand working levels to help make this effective.

When Lincoln saw dogs we would look for the signs (wrinkles in his forehead, tracking, etc.) and then correct it at a working level that matched the situation, (basically nudging him, saying "leave it, I've got you").

We started to see change in Lincoln. Walking by other dogs, he was able to have a calm state it was almost like dogs were not even there. I couldn't believe this was the same dog from less than 2 months prior--

This is the new forever lifestyle for us and Lincoln, and I wouldn't change it for anything. We have been able to use the E-Collar for more than just walks. We also use it to help communicate other great useful commands: place, double down, recall and so many more.

His life is so much better and we can tell he's so much calmer and confident (us too) -- We have shared this with others who have struggled with their dogs and they too are so grateful

this tool exists --

I urge you to not put a ban on E-Collars -- instead help to promote education on the proper use of them with Balanced Training. I am a firm believer, Balanced Training, teamed with an E-Collar will help so many dogs who are really just lost in their minds and need guidance.

Where it be from a reactive dog, to a dog who has a lot of energy and wants to say hi to everyone, all the way down to just starting with this tool when you get a dog, instilling it right from the start-- there are so many benefits to them.

Owners too will not feel lost -- they will not just give up and surrender their dogs, flooding the shelters. Where most will be euthanized, due to no space or a dog seen as "aggressive"..

We are forever grateful for Dane who introduced us to the E-Collar-- this tool for sure saved Lincoln's life.

I am attaching some photos of Lincoln hanging with his friends, without his E-Collar this would not be possible.

From: [Robert Rogers](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [AFT DogTraining](#)
Subject: E-collar Ban Proposal
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:41:24 AM

Please do not ban e-collars. My sweet female dog Annie would get so excited seeing a strange dog that she was uncontrollable. She was thrown out of two obedience classes because she could not calm down enough to train. Finally a local trainer, after seeing her and evaluation her, suggested a formal e-collar class. The collar is adjustable from 0-100. We never even got close to 30 during training. The final setting was 5 and I don't even turn it on anymore. When she sees me with the e-collar she gets all happy excited because she knows that we are either going to do training or we are going somewhere.

Don't know if the ban would also affect bark control collars and invisible fence collars. Both have use and I would hate to see them banned.

Robert Roy Rogers

From: [Courtney Connors](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:34:33 AM

Hello. I am a professional dog trainer for the state of Massachusetts. I have many online clients in Hawaii and I have heard about the e-collar ban through them.

As a dog trainer it is my job to show my clients how to use these tools appropriately within ethical boundaries.

Low-level e-collar training is the most useful part of any training program. Being able to communicate with dogs off-leash keeps wildlife safe, as well as other dogs and people.

With this proposed ban, the off-leash reliability of the dogs in Hawaii will dramatically reduce.

I am AGAINST this proposed bill.

Courtney Connors
Underdog K9 Training
508-244-9772

From: [Jamie Pike](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: e-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:38:40 AM

Dear Sir or Madame,

It has been brought to my attention that today Hawaii will vote on a state wide ban on e-collars. This will be a tragedy if it is passed.

I have seen countless dogs rehabilitated with e-collars for minor problems like lunging on leash all the way up to major problems like aggression. I understand that they can be misused but they have done FAR more wonderful things in improving dog behavior and saving dogs from being put to sleep.

I have had dogs all of my life and though some people think that positive treat based training is the only training that should be used, this is simply not effective for certain breeds and for dogs that come from abusive pasts or are of a certain size. Dogs that are in shelters and have a limited amount of days to live NEED rapid rehabilitation if they are to have a chance. E-collar training by a professional is quick, efficient, kind and is the most effective type of training in existence for "problem" dogs. The e-collar is adjustable so when training you tune the electrical "buzz" to the level appropriate for your dog. I have seen trainers demonstrate on themselves the intensity of the "buzz" and it is not cruel at all, it simply queues the dog of an undesirable behavior.

If this careless and reckless law is passed, mark my words you will see a large jump in shelter dogs being destroyed due to lack of rehabilitation as well as a jump in the number of dog attacks.

Outlawing these fantastic tools will also lead to pinch collars, electronic invisible fencing, many other types of corrective training devices being outlawed. For the love of dogs, please strongly consider the implications of the future of our canine companions if this careless law is passed.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Jamie Pike
14414 Skinner Road
Cypress, TX 77429
jpiker@sbcglobal.net

From: [Cori Miller](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); sengabbard@capital.hawaii.gov;
[Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:42:09 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern on the potential E-Collar ban. Many dogs' lives are saved and greatly improved with the proper use and education of the E-Collar tool and training. I have experienced this firsthand as a dog owner, and as someone who has fostered many rescue dogs. E-Collar training not only saves the lives of dogs who'd otherwise be in shelters and euthanized, but also the lives of others animals and people around them. E-Collar training can help an aggressive dog learn to be around other dogs, animals and people. E-Collar Training can help build healthy relationships and lifestyles for people and their dogs. This collar is a communication tool, and when used properly, it can truly transform lives.

The people who are against this tool are the people who are ignorantly jumping on bandwagons and assuming the worst. They are people who will shame others for (properly) using a tool, while they try to convince you that you can train your dog with "purely positive" and "science-based" methods, which are false claims and false information. These are the same people who have a dog who doesn't *need* this tool to live and thrive. Some dogs can learn without the e-collar, and some can't.

Please don't take this tool and opportunity away from people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Cori Miller

From: [Alanna Greco](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:54:37 AM

Please don't take the E-collars away! They save life's! Please, let me explain.

If the dog is first trained to understand commands, and then we use them to reinforce the command the dog understands the stimuli and is able to respond correctly.

Of course any tool can be used wrong if used ignorantly. You don't go to the dentist office and look at all those tools and get scared, because you know the dentist knows what their doing.

Many dogs that are e-collar trained live happier, healthier lives because they are able to have more freedom with discretion of the handler.

Please, let trainers continue to do their job effectively and safely.

Many thanks,
Alanna

From: [Lara Tal Cohn](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#)
Subject: E-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:02:46 AM

To whom it may concern,

I recently heard about the motion to ban electronic training collars (e-collars) in your beautiful state of Hawaii. As a training professional and a pet dog owner, I wanted to share my experience in hopes that this motion does not pass, as these wonderful tools have helped and will continue to help so many dogs and people.

I have had the privilege of visiting the beautiful state of Hawaii twice, and know how important your wildlife is! It's not only beautiful - it's a fragile ecosystem. E-collars give educated trainers and owners much more reliable off leash control to ensure that the dogs, but also the wildlife is kept safe. Without this tool, many dogs will be let off leash (regardless of leash laws I'm sorry to say) and will have much less control.

In my personal and professional experience, when given the appropriate education on how to use the tool, relationships flourish and dogs are granted more freedom and space in the world to be dogs! They are more fulfilled and happier for it. My own personal dogs are a testament to this! They are trusted on hiking trails, beaches, unfenced properties, and around other animals, prey and predators. I've been able to keep cats safe from my high prey driven dog, and I've been able to keep my dogs safe from bears on trails all thanks to e-collars.

My clients will also tell you that their relationships with their dogs have greatly improved. They can take their dogs places they never imagined before they had access to this tool!

Can this tool be misused? Absolutely! But we can just as easily abuse a tool like food to put a physical and emotional damper on our pets. How many obese dogs with heart disease are in the world? Far more than those who have been negatively affected by e-collars, yet we aren't restricting diets legally. It's all about education and proper use of whatever tools we decide to use.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about how to properly train with these amazing tools and I will be happy to help!

Thank you!

All the best,
Lara
540-907-1405

Sent from trusty iPhone.

From: [Allison Shaner](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:54:54 AM

To whom it may concern,

We rescued our dog Belle three years ago. The humane society told us she was relatively friendly but would need training. She was already six years old. We later learned that some of her aggression stemmed from years of neglect. She was protective and on several occasions attempted to bite people that came near us that she seemed a threat. We did eight months of basic training using only clickers and treats with very little progress. Some things are so deeply engrained that it isn't that simple to train using conventional methods.

We started working with an e-collar trainer from sit means sit at the request of our veterinarian friend. She had seen so many dogs put down because they had bitten someone and was afraid Belle would be in the same situation.

The biggest thing about e-collars is to understand how to use them in the proper way as a training tool and not as punishment. If you have to regulate something, require that the owner must be trained in the proper use of an e-collar. Dogs like Belle need these methods to overcome years of neglect and abuse. Just like people, simple methods can't solve deeply engrained problems.

After twice weekly e-collar training for 18 months and occasional training thereafter, Belle (and her owners) are now confident and able to navigate through any situation - scary strangers, dinner parties, dog parks, hiking... E-collar training allowed Belle to live a happy life.

Thank you for your time

Allie Shaner

From: [Cris Willett](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Ecollar Letter of Testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:47:28 AM

Hi,

I would like to convey my experiences of success with the use of an ecollar. I live in Colorado where there are large open spaces that my dog can be off leash legally. We share this space with livestock and wildlife and if were it not for ecollars my dog's and my life would be certainly more constrained. The use of an ecollar allows humans and their pets to co-exist with other animals and humans with which we share this planet.

Ecollars are very effective tools for pet owners. All it takes is a small amount of education to understand how to use one. When people take the time to learn how to use them effectively they are a blessing to both owner and pet.

Please consider this in your decision making surrounding the use of ecollars.

Kind regards,
Cris Willett.

From: [Kris W.](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-collar testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:03:02 AM

Hello,

My name is Kris Waterman and I live in the state of VA. I wanted to provide my testimony of how responsible and safe e-collar training has positively affected both my life and the dogs around me.

With my own dog, an 80 pound Goldendoodle, I struggled with training. I took him at 5 months to a positive, clicker and treat based training program. He did not succeed in that setting. He was anxious and unfocused, he would pull me in and out and all around that building. He jumped on me, knocked me off balance, jumped on others, etc. I have NEVER had to bring any of the 6 dogs I have owned in my life to a professional trainer for basic behavioral issues. My Black Lab and Cockapoo were trained by me and registered therapy dogs and good k9 citizen certificate holders. My doodle, was a whole new level of training for me and I was recovering from emergency spine surgery and newly out of a wheelchair. I called on Off Leash K9 Training and signed Jackson up. Prior to that first day, I was not much of a believer in e-collar training. That first day, my mind was changed. Jackson is still his goofy and clumsy self, but when when we are going somewhere or I need him to be reliable, he is amazing! I can take him anywhere and rely on his training with very few, if any, collar corrections. Oh, and the moment I pick up his collar, he runs to me and sits and WANTS it on him, because he knows it is time for an adventure or a game.

Vegas: Vegas is the american pitbull of a friend of mine. He once ran out the front door and jumped on a neighbor passing by and scratched her leg with his nail. That was his first strike. A few months later, my friend's father was feeding the two American pitbulls table scraps and they got into a scuffle over the food. My friend's father instinctively put his hand between the two of them and one of the dogs inadvertently bit his hand. It was never clear as to which dog it was, but since his father went to the hospital to ensure it wouldn't get infected (minor bite that just barely broke the skin), animal control was called and since Vegas already had a rap sheet, he was taken. He was deemed a dangerous dog and scheduled to be euthanized. When I heard about this, I once again called on Off Leash K9 to get their advice. They intervened and sent a call to assist to their counterparts in RI. The owner of the RI franchise contacted the police and animal control and made an offer to the owner to provide their 2 week board and train program and allow animal control to test the dog at the end. This was enough to get Vegas a stay of execution and he is now 100% reliable off leash!

There are so many other stories I could share about the positive affects responsible e-collar (not electric static shock collar) training has had on dogs around me. An e-collar is a training tool, and has its time and place like any other. Ban the cheap static shock collars in stores, ban them from those who have abused them, but please do not take this tool away from the trainers who truly love the dogs they work with and change lives every day for the better utilizing this tool.

Thank you,
Kristen Waterman

From: [Kim Stadler](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Use
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:38:43 AM

Good Day,

I am emailing because I understand you are considering the ban of E-Collars. I strongly urge you to reconsider this. Used correctly it can change the lives of families with pets. My dog was trained by a trainer with this tool and it changed our world! He came back a better version of himself! He is now a joy to take with us and we know we have control in a public setting. Even at home, knowing I can control him when exposed to wildlife, such as coyotes, raccoons, deer, cats, possums, etc. It is a relief that he comes with just the slightest pressure. I can't stress enough how this has changed our lives!!!

Do NOT ban the use of e-collars. They, when used correctly are a game changer in the lives of families with pets.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Stadler
W1608 Rupnow Road
Fall River, WI 53932

From: [Watchdog K9](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:39:45 AM

Hi my name is Cory Smith. It has been brought to my attention that the banning of e-collars training for dogs is in discussion. I am obviously an e-collar user. These collars are awesome tools to use **IF USED PROPERLY**. E collate should not be used to discipline a dog. For me, I use e-collars to teach dogs and to hold them accountable. E collars are great for long distance corrections (as timing is **VERY** important in dog training). One may say (just use your voice) which is partially correct however low stimulation is necessary along with you voice tool. E collars work. If there is going to be a change in e collars, I'd say don't allow 100 levels or 127 levels. Fix this option so that inexperienced users won't ruin (ruin not hurt) their dog.

Thanks for reading.
Cory Smith
Watchdog K9
270-985-5677

From: [DAWN C. NEWAY](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: electronic collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:27:16 AM

To whom it may concern,

I had 2 afghan hounds who were trained at Sit Means Sit Hawaii with electronic collars, 5 years ago.

We use the low vibration setting, when walking the dog if another dog does up to them or barks at them a slight command low vibration and verbal sit has them sitting and not reacting to other dogs.

They have been taught to stay, sit, come and it works well.

Please do not ban these, it is a wonderful training method

Dawn Neway

3531 Lanihou Place

Kihei, HI

From: [Danielle San Marco](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Hawaii SB 677 - VOTE NO!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:40:53 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern with Hawaii SB 677 banning the use of e-collars in Hawaii. Although I do not live in Hawaii, this Bill could cause a ripple effect around the United States.

As a responsible and compassionate owner of a high-energy hunting dog, the use of an e-collar has been INSTRUMENTAL in the training of my beloved Cypress. She's a very independent little adventurer who used to take off at any given moment. This caused a huge danger to her (passing cars! other dogs! people who don't appreciate a dog jumping all over them!) and wildlife. I live in the forest in Colorado, so as you can imagine there is abundant wildlife all around me, JUST LIKE IN HAWAII.

I tried everything to train my stubborn pup, but once she got away from me there was nothing I could do.... until I purchased an e-collar. I trained MYSELF first by learning how to properly use it for effective training. Fast forward six months.... I have the most well-behaved dog I have ever met. She listens to me now WITHOUT the use of the e-collar because she has been well trained. She does not chase wildlife.

Although I initially hated the idea of using an e-collar, I cannot imagine my life without it. My wonderful dog can live her best life because of the training this tool has provided. **Please vote NO on Hawaii SB 677** so that other people can train their beloved companions as I have and enjoy years of happiness with their well-trained dogs.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Danielle San Marco
Bayfield, Colorado

From: [Mary Sarych](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: I am against Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:31:44 AM

I am writing you because I am against the banning of e-collars.

E-collars have completely changed my relationship with my dog and given me the confidence I need to own a dog.

Before I started using an e-collar on my current dog, I used positive only reinforcement on two prior dogs that I owned. One of them bit a 75 year old woman in the hand and the other bit a 5 year old boy in the face and the arm. Prior to the bites, I had employed multiple positive only trainers which cost me well over \$4000. This did not include the \$800 I spent on a behaviorist. My family and I could not have people over at all without fear of an attack. This was especially hard on my young children. In the end, both dogs were rehomed.

My current dog completed a board and train session with a balanced trainer who uses e-collars. Because of this, my family and I have our lives back. Using an e-collar allows us to directly communicate with our dog. She listens and understands. Because of the e-collar and training, we no longer live in fear and can enjoy having a dog in our house.

Please do not allow the banning of e-collars. They are a life-saver.

Sincerely,

Mary Sarych

From: [Shannon](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Kate Bucci](#)
Subject: My dog is remote trained
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:41:26 AM
Attachments: [IMG_7444.PNG](#)

This is Jessie. Before she was remote trained. She was abandon. I found her in Texas . No one claimed her and she was not chipped. So we gave her a home. She was scared of loud noises and afraid of other dogs. If the kids were loud she wouldn't play much and tried to hide all the time. After being trained in a positive way with this collar. She is happy and focused. She plays with other dogs and no longer hides. She is more active and happier then I have ever seen her. She doesn't pull on the leash or try to run after the rabbits. Now she is focused and listens to commands. Our trainer was amazing and I truly feel like I finally had her rescued. Seeing her play , listen, and have her own little personality is amazing.

Shannon

From: nicholerichard20@gmail.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:52:19 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the bill to ban ecollars. I am writing to have my voice heard. Ecollar's have changed my dog and I's life drastically. Having a 100lb great dane/ pyrenees mix (practically a house cow) gives me a lot more control over what is going on while we're out in public. It gives my dog safety, reassurance, confidences and so much more. His recall is flawless because of the work i've invested into him with his collar. Life prior to the ecollar, he didn't care for men. He would growl, snarl and show teeth (he was a rescue).He was so bad with people the shelter chose to drug him instead of investing the proper training into him. After working with him and conditioning to ecollar methods, we can now approach anyone happily and let them pet and love us! It has turned him from a insecure timid dog into a confidant snuggle bug! Banning the use of ecollars would prevent me from furthering the success and confidence building with my dog, as this was the only method I was able to get to work for him and actually show positive results as there is no negative corrections. The ecollar I use is NOT a shock collar, similar to a tens unit (which is legal in every state). Yes it gives of an electrical stimulation but the stimulation is so minor that it flex's the muscle, therefor acting exactly as a tens unit. Thankyou for taking the time to read my email, and I do hope that I will be able to continue properly training my dog with his ecollar.

-Nichole & Max

From: [Charity Brumley](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Please do not ban e-collars in Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:33:21 AM

I hope this is not too late. In regards to Proposal Bill #677, to ban the use and sale of e-collars in the state of Hawaii, I beg you to not do this.

As an owner of two, highly active and working Belgium Malinois, our e-collars are our most effective tools in allowing our dogs to do their job and maintain control. We do not use our e-collars as punishment for our dogs, we use them as an invisible leash to allow for more flexibility in open spaces where our dogs love to run and play as well as when herding animals on our farm.

When used correctly, the e-collar saves lives of dogs who need training and for animals and the public space around them. We love having the freedom to let our dogs run in appropriate spaces but also having a strong recall when needed.

Our dogs go through a year or more of basic obedience training and work before ever being introduced to the e-collar, but once the training has been imprinted and we are able to move to the e-collar it provides us a great deal of flexibility for not only me, the owner, but also my dog.

Again, I ask you not to pass this bill. You will be hurting many families and dogs that benefit from e-collar training.

Thank you for reading,
Charity Brumley

From: [Tracy Hickler](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:04:34 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am a dog trainer in the state of Florida and have trained hundreds of dogs with multiple training tools including the e-collar/remote collar. No dog has EVER been injured with an e collar and have actually benefited greatly from their use. After training, they go on to LIVE much happier, fuller lives with their owners.

This training tool when used humanely and safely (as any tool should be used) is an excellent communication device. My work as well as other balanced trainers have saved countless lives of dogs that would otherwise be put to death.

We not only train the dogs with ecollars, but take an enormous amount of time educating our clients as well as the public.

Florida like Hawaii has many “off leash” places for the community to enjoy with their dogs...

“Hawaii has incredible green spaces and dog friendly beaches, and it also is the home to many protected seabird and sea turtles, etc. E-collar training saves lives - of dogs who need training to stay out of shelters, as well as the animals and public living around dogs. Owners given rules about how they can train their dogs and what kinds of tools they can use affect the dogs and families who benefit and live better lives together with the help of e-collar training!”

Please do not ban the use of tools such as E collars. Lets all work together to keep our beloved pets and wildlife safe and happy

--

Tracy L. Hickler
Dogs In Bloom - Dog Training and Rehabilitation
772-872-1582
<https://www.dogsinbloomtraining.com>

From: [Ashley Cliffe](#)
To: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); sengabbard@captiol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:11:16 AM

To whom it may concern,

I highly stand behind the use of e-collars and how they have helped dogs in ways unimaginable. When used properly they save dogs lives. Dogs that have deemed not fit for society due to our negligence to communicate properly is not the dogs fault but a fault of our own. The use of e-collars can be a very direct and concise form of communication for a dog. By having a concise and consistent form of communication, it then allows for the dog to understand what we are asking. Most dogs act out due to feeling like they have to hold the burden of the world but that is our job as their owner/partner. By taking this burden away from the dog, we now can teach the dog how to just be. Allowing this helps so many dogs in ways you can't fathom.

While I understand the reasoning behind the possible use of using an e-collar incorrectly. People use their hands incorrectly all the time. What are we going to do.. go around chopping people's hands off due to them using their hands to force a dog physically. Instead of using a device at a low level stim which can precisely communicate to a dog without having to force anything. When used properly these tools are used at such a low level that most humans can not even feel them. And for the dog it is a reminder that they are supposed to be doing something and in return will get rewarded positively for that action or behavior. For example, a reactive and/or aggressive dog understands that his job is not to worry about that "thing" over there but to worry about the relationship between us. It helps build a bond between human and dog. We ask a dog to work, we reward them with a paycheck. Think of a working dog (police k9, narcotic detection) these dogs need very clear and concise direction to perform a job or it could mean someone's life. By banning these e-collars we have no means to communicate with a dog off leash. What if that dog does not follow through with his job and that now means not only police officers lives are in danger but innocent civilians are as well.

E-collars have saved two of my dogs life. My first dog almost ran out in front of a car due to getting out the front door (he opened the door himself), but I was able to communicate with and save his life. My second dog was a rescue dog that was deemed aggressive and was going to be put down. However, he was wearing the weight of the world. Through his behaviors and reactions, you could tell someone beat this dog. He was defensive. He didn't know what communication meant, to him it was being hit. The use of the e-collar turned this dog into an outgoing, fun, friendly dog. He was on his way to becoming a therapy dog before he passed rapidly due to cancer.

These tools can save dogs lives. Don't be the reason we are killing more dogs, when all they need is a little guidance.

Kind regards,
Ashley Cliffe

From: [Kat Kavanagh](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:20:54 AM

I am writing to share the wonderful results I have using E-Collars to train rescue dogs.

As a foster mom, I take on dogs who have not had proper training. They live with me and learn to be good “citizens”. Using a balanced training approach, they receive structure, love, lots of treats and e-collar training to learn how to behave “out in the world”.

The e-collar is a gentle tool used to communicate and teach a dog yes and no. The vibration is a “tap on the shoulder” and used at a very low level, it feels like your phone vibrating in your pocket. My current foster dog Rosie has flourished with e collar training. She gets very excited when I put her collar on, because it means we are going into town to meet people and earn treats.

PROPERLY USED, the e collar has turned her around completely. When Rosie was found in an abandoned house that was engulfed in flames, she was very wary of people and behaved as such. She was a euthanasia candidate, but e-collar training turned Rosie around 100%. I sincerely doubt she would have come this far without the e-collar.

ANYTHING can be used improperly and hurt people. Cars are lethal weapons when used irresponsibly. Many trainers still hurt dogs without any electronic devices. Bad people will do bad things. Good people are training dogs with e-collars.

Please do not let the fear of ignorant people take away this tool that saves so many dogs.

Thank you,
Kathy Kavanagh

From: [Wiley Jones Irwin](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:44:11 AM

I want to share my experience with the use of e-collars, a training tool that, if used properly, can help save the life and relationships of dogs in a very positive way. My dog Tucker was extremely reactive to other dogs in public, on walks, at the dog park. I worked with a trainer who said she used only “positive reinforcement.” It did not work. I enrolled in and completed a class for reactive dogs through my community’s parks department. It helped a bit, but did not solve the problem. After much research, and monitoring of trainers who use e-collars humanely and successfully, I decided to try them. It was only when I learned how to use a remote collar, properly paired with positive reinforcement practices, that my dog and I formed a better relationship and his reactivity disappeared. Tucker and I are now able to be around dogs with the collar or without, and he behaves perfectly. I believe with proper use of low level remote collar training paired with positive reinforcement training, it can be a very effective tool. I use the e-collar scientifically— based off of operant conditioning and using the four quadrants within.

I am not being dramatic when I say this training has saved my life and Tucker’s. He is a happy, well-adjusted, loving dog who constantly earns the praise of passers by when we are in public.

Of course the e-collar can be used maliciously and/or incorrectly. Just, as you note in this bill, a dog crate can be. But for the thousands of dogs who are crate trained correctly, it is a help and security for a family dog. You are not asking to ban dog crates — just the malicious, inhumane use of one. Please apply the same standard to e-collars: punish malicious use of it (which is rare) and protect those who use it correctly.

Regards,

Wiley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Custom K9s](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill #677 comment
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:45:23 AM

Hello,

I read about the proposed bill #677 and want to share why I think e-collars should NOT be banned. E-collars are not hurting dogs, they are saving them! When I first got my 70 lb hound/lab mix I could not handle her. She would pull me down, chase deer, and was reactive toward other dogs. Positive only training does NOT STOP unwanted behaviors. Not only was I able to stop the dangerous behaviors but also gained complete off leash freedom with my dog! I NEVER worry about her running away because of the combination of training and e-collar backup. With the proper use of balanced training and e-collar my dog and I are living a much better and healthy life. This type of story is true for so many families. E-collars & balanced training keeps dogs in their homes and saves their lives!

The fact is, banning this tool will lead to more dog deaths. Shelter dogs will not find homes because trainers wont have access to the tools they need to communicate with the dogs. This will ultimately lead to over crowding and euthanasia.

Please do not let fear and lack of education on this tool ruin people and dogs lives.

Thank you for your time,
Chelsea Weinzinger

--

Chelsea Weinzinger

Custom K9s
920.264.9301
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

From: [Joey Luke's Dog Training](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); senkeohkalole@capitol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#);
[Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:26:59 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I have heard of the proposed bill #677 and how it would ban the use and sale of electronic dog training collars. I urge you to not pass this bill.

Electronic collars (also know as e-collars, or remote collars) can be a life saving device for both dogs and other animals such as livestock. I am a dog trainer and have experience using this tool both with my personal dogs and hundreds of client dogs. We have helped hundreds of dog owners who have tried other training methods (such as positive only or force free) with no results and who are on the verge of having to give up their dog to a shelter, where most likely the dog would be put down. E-collars have helped us and hundreds of dog owners to keep dogs out of shelters and keep both the dogs and the public safe by being able to obtain off leash reliability . There kinds of training tools allow families to control their dog and keep them safe and a part of their family instead of giving having to give their dog up. I have seen the positive effect that these tools have on dogs and dog owners and banning tools like this will result in more dogs losing their homes and being put to sleep.

Please vote against proposed bill #677

Thank you for your time,

Nicole Johncox
Office Manager
Joey Luke's Dog Training - A Michigan Dog Training Company
www.joeylukesdogtraining.com
(313) 208-2392

From: [Cati](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposed bill 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:22:00 AM

Hello,

I am respectfully reaching out to you today to discuss the proposed bill 677 that would permanently alter how dogs can safely and humanely be trained in your state.

I am a dog trainer in Astoria, OR, so I am not necessarily affected by this yet, but the more states that propose bills that define abuse through the use of tools or the jobs a dog is trained for (Florida passed such a legislation,) the closer it gets to affecting Oregon.

I do not pretend to know if you have experience with training a dog, multiple dogs, or have ever owned a dog in the first place. I am coming to you from a state that is exceedingly dog friendly and because of that, there are certain trends I am used to seeing. I am used to seeing unruly and uncontrolled dogs on the beach that absolutely will not listen to their owner. Even more unfortunately is the fact that people are convinced that if the dog doesn't experience total off leash freedom while in training, their needs are somehow not being met... even if the dog is rude to the general public.

I have worked with countless "friendly" but rude dogs, conversely I have worked with even more dogs that are human and dog reactive or aggressive.

Now, it's entirely possible to manage dogs in the environment through training, but it's becoming vastly popular worldwide to demonize and polarize a select set of tools and a certain type of training ideology. The implementation of tether training and crating and muzzling are polarized. The use of electronic collars (eCollars) and prong collars is a highly debated topic because of some of the extremely abusive people that have used them. However, for every person that has seen a story of abuse in the news, there are thousands more people that have successfully used those tools and management techniques to safely rehabilitate or train their dog.

I am one of those people that uses eCollars and tether training (2 of the items affected by the proposed bill.) I am happy to explain my particular story in the Hope's that it will make you think about the decision to push this bill forward.

I started off as a trainer that didn't agree with the use of corrective tools in training because of marketing and propaganda that was telling me it was inhumane, cruel, abusive, and a fear tactic to achieve dominance over a 'lesser' species. When I took on my first dog, I subscribed to that school of thought. Freedom was given and not earned, corrections were not used in any capacity because I didn't want to harm the relationship with my dog. Now, she was a pretty good dog... I unfortunately couldn't touch her prey drive though because all the cookies and praise in the world didn't matter if she wanted to go after a deer or got startled by strangers passing by while we were hiking on a leash.

My dog nearly died because she tried to launch herself out of my partially open 3rd floor window after a deer in our yard. She was halfway through the window when I caught her. Now, I could of course have prevented this whole issue by not having windows open and

covering all of the windows, which is what a few positive reinforcement only trainers suggested.

I finally encountered a Balanced trainer who used to be a positive only trainer like me who talked me through the proper use of those corrective tools I spurned. The quality of the tool is extremely important. Using a cheap electronic collar is a recipe for disaster as it tends to not buffer the lowest levels to be low enough for the larger percentage of dogs who are actually very sensitive to correction in general. Under the guidance of that trainer, I started working with a Mini Educator by eCollar Technologies. I started seeing gaps in our relationship being filled because my dog learned that correction only happened after she knew what I wanted from her in the first place (which I had already spent about 1 year doing previously,) if she completely disregarded my cue. It was also not just trying to set her up to fail so I could "zap" her. It was actually just me telling her yes or no to her choices in a calm and relaxed manner rather than yelling when frustrated and instilling the fear of God into her.

This same dog has gone on to be a registered Therapy Dog through Pet Partners because she stopped being reactive to sudden changes and learned that changes lead to good things happening. She also has a prey drive I can manage now. I can use her to drive off invasive animals on command only (she is a Shetland Sheepdog mind you, so she has an instinctive need to herd... so I was finally able to give her that outlet) because I trust her not to run off or injure an animal now. She listens when I say no and understands that she has to earn certain freedoms through the ability to control her impulses.

My second dog started with me as a Balanced Trainer and the difference is immeasurable. She has not gone through eCollar training yet, but will be soon to fine tune her off leash skills, which are already better than my Sheltie at the same age (6 months.)

My question to you is: is it truly the tool that is abusive? Or is it isolated individuals who are misusing the tools? I am fully aware that eCollars can cause hot spots with over wear/use (what people call shock burns, but are actually blisters/ pressure sores created from not rotating the collar and ensuring it is not too tight or worn too long... which can happen with any collar or harness with misuse.) Would it not be more pertinent to look at regulation rather than an outright ban? There are no requirements on certification for being a trainer or using any training tools at this point, so ANYONE can call themselves a dog trainer and choose to take on clients that they are I'll prepared to deal with. That is typically where most misuse of tools comes from is those who have not sought out to actually educate themselves on their proper usage.

I thank you for your time and consideration in reading this and I hope that you will reconsider this proposition going forward.

Sincerely,

Cati Foss

From: [Genevieve LaFerriere](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposed E-collar Ban in State of Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:37:50 AM

Dear Leaders,

I am a dog enthusiast and veterinarian in NJ. I ask all of you to NOT ban the use of electronic collars for dogs in your beautiful state. E- collars are a valuable training tool and humane when used properly. E-collars allow dogs freedoms that they would not otherwise have, and have kept more than one of my patients in their homes by allowing owners to correct problem behaviors that would have been otherwise impossible to correct.

Thank you,

Genevieve LaFerriere, DVM
Woodstown, NJ USA

From: [dawn schamus](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed legislation supporting the ban of e-collar usage
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:02:08 AM

To whom it may concern,

It has been brought to my attention that the state of Hawaii is looking at legislation that would ban the sale and use of electronic training collars for dogs.

I ask you to oppose these changes in legislation. A law that limits an owners ability on how to train their dog will ultimately result in many dogs loosing their lives or the quality of their life becoming much smaller.

Humane use of electronic training tools, which owners and trainers who invest time and money into, are an excellent way to help communicate with dogs in an off leash fashion. For the safety of the dogs in training, the general public, wildlife, and livestock, owners need to be able to control their dog when on and off leash. While leashes should be used in appropriate places, having the security of off leash control and reliability is important for the the dogs as well as those living around them.

For instance, in the UK there is also legislation being presented to limit the use of electronic training collars, and one of the largest concerns by trainers and dog owners who use them is that having this excellent tool taken away will result in many dogs hurting livestock.

Farmers in the UK are having sheep and other livestock killed and maimed by off leash dogs, often by owners who let them out in the back yard and they escaped or even right in front of them - when they unclip the leash to give their dog freedom in large grassy areas. Dogs without electronic training collars will see the livestock, and their predatory nature kicks in...and the result can be gruesome and very sad.

Hawaii is a beautiful place, with amazing beaches and greenland that is all so very dog friendly. However, with all of that beauty comes livestock as well as important, and even endangered wildlife, that needs to be protected. Dogs with off leash reliability allow responsible owners to keep those animals, as well as the people who share the land with those animals safe.

Electronic training collars are an amazing training tool and are primarily used under the direction of a trainer. However, many owners can find amazing resources online to train their dog themselves and teach their dog reliable on and off leash control with an e-collar.

Responsible owners deserve the right to train their dog to their best ability, and having that safety net of an "invisible leash" for their dog gives them peace of mind and protects the welfare of animals and public around that dog.

I hope that what I've shared has shed some light to just a few of the valuable, and literally life saving benefits, of electronic training collars. Please consider this, as well as any other letters in opposition of this legislation, as you all make your desicions today. The great state of Hawaii should stay safe and free for all dog owners and the pups living on these beautiful islands - I know I would LOVE to one day have one of my dogs running off leash through the

waves on the beaches of Maui...wearing her e-collar so that I can call her back to me 100% of the time if we see a sea turtle resting in the sun, or a seabird nest on some rocks. Your wildlife is beautiful, please allow responsible dog owners to protect it!

Thank you,

Dawn Schamus

Dog Trainer

From: [Alexandra Gass](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#)
Subject: RE: Hawaii Legislature SB677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:12:52 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am strongly opposed to banning e-collars in Hawaii. Though I live in Texas, this would set a dangerous precedent and make me feel unsafe to bring my service dog with me on any visits to Hawaii.

E-collars are primarily tools of long distance and off-leash communication between owner and dog. There are vibrate only functions, and 100 different levels to ensure you can use the most appropriate "working level" - the level the dog feels enough to understand your command and/or break out of an overly agitated state of mind but not painful.

As someone who relies on a service dog who performs tasks off leash, I need to be able to communicate with my dog long-distance, as a leash would interfere with his disability-mitigating tasks.

Banning e-collars would limit the ability of service dogs to safely perform off-leash tasks, such as searching a room before the handler enters for individuals with PTSD, or circling around the handler to create a buffer in crowded spaces for safety. There are many other off-leash tasks that service dogs can perform that would become a risk to the handler, service dog, and public safety if e-collars are banned. Please reconsider the importance of e-collars to those who rely on highly trained service dogs to lead as normal of lives as possible.

Kind regards,
Alex Gass

From: [Lauren H](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: re: Proposal Bill #677 e-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:00:02 AM

Hello,

My dogs have received obedience training using e-collars & I cannot be more pleased with the results. They have always been the best behaved/most confident dogs in the waiting room at the vet's, & of course angels at home & on walks. They didn't start out that way; I hired a professional trainer to work with them & it was the best thing I ever did for my dogs.

I tried an e-collar on my wrist. During obedience training, we never needed to use above level 4. I turned it up to level 10 on myself & it was not painful at all. At worst it felt like a tiny pinch. The way e-collars work isn't through pain, but by simply getting the dog's attention. During an initial training session I remember the look of surprise on my dog's face; he was thinking "How did Mom tap me on the shoulder from all the way over there??" It really is just like a tap on the shoulder, & in tenacious breeds it is an immediate drive interrupter.

I've seen other methods of dog obedience but I feel e-collars are extremely effective, especially for certain breeds. Used by professional trainers & educated owners they are a wonderful tool. We do not yet have Breed Specific Legislation in Hawaii & I hope we never do, which makes it important to me to have obedient, well trained dogs. My dogs will never be a bite threat thanks to well executed obedience.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Please do not ban e-collars. I plan to have more dogs in my life.

Lauren Hayashi
279 Kuliouou Road
Honolulu Hawaii 96821

From: [Steph](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: S.B. #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:17:39 AM

This is my testimony in reference to the use of electric collars on dogs. I have three dogs who are all trained on E collars and without those collars I would not have been able to keep all of my dogs. These collars are used as a communication tool in training dogs. They are not used as abuse.

These collars are used in training off leash reliability for dogs. This helps keep dogs safe in environments where they can be off leash, and the owner still have communication.

Many owners struggle with their dogs and different techniques are needed for different dogs. Without options to use in training our dogs we are going to have more in shelters which are going to result in death of more Dogs.

Banning of the E collar will result in the death of more dogs.

Stephanie Woods

From: [Stephen Duty](#)
To: [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: SB677 - E Collar REVISION!! Please read
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:33:53 AM

Hello from Charlotte North Carolina!

My name is Stephen Duty, animal advocate. Saw a post about writing to you guys to tell of the successes of using E Collar technology with dogs.

I have a Belgian Malinois, commonly used with police and military applications. Tulsi may be familiar with the breed.

With correct training, E collars can not only implement behavior, but correct bad behavior. They can be used WITH mechanical conditioning (slip leads, prong collars, etc.) to emphasize positive behaviors.

The method behind PROPER E Collar use is the NePoPo method. Bart Bellon introduced this training method.

MY SUCCESS STORY is that I have used an E collar to not only train my dog for apprehension and tracking, but with a service dog as well.

Through Operation Sidekick (See Instagram) we rescue pregnant dogs from high kill shelters (typically Bully Breeds) and raise the litter of puppies to become service dogs. The dogs that don't make the cut end up being adopted and are very well trained! 2 of 10 in the last litter have made the cut! Check out This Able Veteran on IG!

In the last year alone with E collar technology, I have been able to not only train my Malinois, but place one of these rescued puppies into a home with a veteran.

You can read more about my dog through my Instagram page (MurphyTheMalinois).

You likely have 1000's of emails to go through. I hope this short and sweet email will make you reconsider a portion of the bill to allow E Collar technologies, at least in the right hands!!

Please reach out with any questions!

All the best,

Stephen Duty
704.379.8314

From: [Jessica Hellweg](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:43:21 AM

To Whomever this my concern:

It's been brought to our attention that Hawaii is thinking about banning training tools, especially the e collar (shock) collar. The e-collar is a great communication/training tool for dogs. I've seen many dogs that are about to be euthanized, saved with this tool. If used correctly this collar helps shift a dog's focus without the use of a leash. For example, if a dog sees a pig, and wants to go kill it, we can recall the dog back to use. If a dog is focused on another dog, we can shift the focus back to us, and prevent a dog attack. Also, if a person owns lots of land, and wants to be able to have control over the dog, so it doesn't run off completely, it's an invisible leash, with a mile length to it.

There are so many great uses for this dog training tool. If you make this illegal, there will be more dog fights, more livestock being attacked, more dogs being put down. Have the people introducing this bill, see the before and after results of this tool with a dog, with an actual good dog trainer? It doesn't take an e-collar to be cruel to a dog. You can kick a dog, shoot a dog, starve a dog, feed the dog too much food, keep it chained 24/7. If this bill passes it's opening a path, for PETA or any organization to eventually say we shouldn't own dogs, that it will be cruel to have them as pets. Please don't let this happen.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hellweg
Certified Master Dog Trainer
904-701-2729

From: [Noel Watkins](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:19:22 AM

The first time I had used an e-collar was in the beautiful state of Hawaii. My Mother-in-law owned and operated a dog facility she ran out of a partitioned air-conditioned section of her garage. She worked closely with Maui Humane Society teaching staff how to use tools humanely and to improve and eliminate behaviors that would cause the dog to be unadoptable and put down. The e-collars are literally saving these dog's lives, the workers and volunteers are able to help place these awesome companions in loving homes which may also use an electric fence to keep their dog in their yard. Without these tools these people, couples, and families may never be able to keep their dog because of undesirable behaviors such as resource guarding, nipping, jumping up, pulling on a lead, separation anxiety, excitability, counter surfing, and running away.

I was against e-collars before being taught how to use them by a professional. Now my life and my dog's lives are 100% better. I had been dealing with separation anxiety, excitability, jumping, barking, guarding, reactions to passerby's, pulling on the leash, counter surfing, stealing food, and running away.

I also taught both of my dogs to be off leashed trained so we can play, let them out to potty, recall, calling them off small animals (prey drive), not to chase cars and bikes, and not to chase other dogs because I do not have a fence. I can let them out in my yard and not worry about the shenanigans that dogs can and will do.

They are amazing on the leash when we leave the property. They ignore people, other dogs, kids, cats, small animals and walk at a heel with me, not pulling me. In dog-friendly areas, they are well behaved because they know what is expected of them. I would not have been able to accomplish any of this without my e-collars. I think my Mother-in-law every day for showing me how gentle they can be when used right.

When I talk about Maui to friends and family they are most surprised about how close roads are to the beaches, you can see cloudless rainbows, and that Maui is so dog-friendly. Everywhere you look, people have well-behaved dogs (Compared to northern Indiana), If you keep these tools from the public and make them illegal dogs will be living like they do where I'm from; In a crate, in the garage, scared, anxious, aggressive, too friendly, and without manners. They will be confined to their houses, not able to experience what Hawaii has to offer. There will also be increases of dog bites, dogs being put down because they aren't adoptable, animals being surrendered multiple times for behavior issues... It's not good.

What if the reason a dog behaves ONLY because it knows it will be punished for biting or bad behavior? The dog knows the stimulation is uncomfortable and knows it will receive punishment if the dog does the naughty action. That dog should be afraid to bite people, be aggressive towards other dogs, steal food from humans, jump on grandma. pull on a lead so hard it dislocates a shoulder or causes breaks in bones. How is damage to the human, humane to humans? don't we matter as well? That dog also deserves a life. As humans it is illegal to end another human's life, shouldn't it be illegal to end an animal's life when they also do not have a choice in it? Over a behavior that can be fixed or controlled? Humans go to rehab to learn how to detox and learn to reprogram their brains so they do not relapse. Board and trains

also help dogs with addictive bad behavior, also. Tools and support help humans to achieve great things. Each and every person in this world deals with uncomfortable situations every day. If you do not go to work they get fired. If you do not work on your relationships, they end. If you don't tell your kids no in a meaningful way, they become brats and run the house. It's the same with dogs.

What kind of training will Hawaii allow if E-collar and E-training tools are banned? Purely positive only works to increase a behavior. You cant fix bad behavior by telling a dog yes. And once these tools are gone, people and trainers are going to have to use more physical force to get the dogs to display the behavior people want. How is this humane to dogs? Don't people matter? Don't the lives of dogs matter? Ecollare are humane, E-collars are clear tools to obtain good behavior that is desirable, E-collars will save the lives of thousands of dogs from unnecessary death. Banning them will cause dogs to die unnecessarily, shelters will be overrun, and people will be overwhelmed and not sure where to go for help. The state of Hawaii already has enough problems, this ban will cause another problem for humans and dogs.

From: [Jennie Rose D'Elia-Dufour](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Testimony for Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:50:07 AM

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I'm writing to you in reference to Proposal Bill #677 - the banning of sales and distribution of e-collars in the state of Hawaii.

Plain and simple, the e-collar saved my dog's life.

We adopted Merlin from a rescue that had recently pulled him from a high-kill shelter. He had been in 4 different foster homes in a month before we decided to adopt him - all of his previous foster families had returned him to the rescue because of his behavior. The rescue told us a lot of inaccurate things about him and within the first few days of having him in our home, we understood why he had been returned to the rescue so many times. He was wild. He didn't understand rules, he didn't understand what we were trying to communicate with him, and he would use his teeth as a way to get his point across. We tried using treats, but he just didn't care, on top of being scared and unsure of being in yet another new home. I did not want to return him, because I could see that at the heart of him he was a good dog, but we needed a way to make him understand rules/boundaries so he could fit better inside our home.

We met with a local, balanced trainer and with just one session with her and an e-collar, we began to communicate effectively with him. We were able to do basic training at home, using the low-level pressure of the e-collar, and it was a night and day difference. He finally understood what we were trying to tell him, he stopped using his teeth, and he was able to settle down and be a happy dog. After we got him comfortable with us to where he knew we was his family, we sent him back to the same balanced trainer for a board and train, where she did more advanced training. Merlin is now completely off-leash reliable because of the e-Collar. It's a fantastic communication tool for the both of us, and without it I do not know what we would have done.

Merlin is now an amazing public citizen. Even when he's off leash, he's at my side. There's no pulling, lunging, barking, etc. I can call him off with just a word and a tap on the e-Collar. We can take him anywhere, whether it's to state parks with lots of wildlife, outdoor restaurants, beaches, or even other people's houses and he's a complete joy.

When I first heard of the e-Collar, I was skeptical. I never wanted to "shock" a dog into submission, but that's not what the e-Collar does. It's similar to technologies used in physical therapy. Before I even put it on my dog, I tested it on myself and was surprised that the sensation was closer to a vibration than a shock. Our trainer has everyone put the e-Collar on their hand before they put it on their dog, just so they're aware of the sensation that's going on. The collar we have goes from levels 1-100, and Merlin generally operates between 10 and 20, depending on the location and his level of excitement. I can count on one hand the times that my dog has been so excited that I've had to go above 40.

I've seen so many dogs in my community benefit from e-Collar training, dogs that would have otherwise been euthanized or lived out their lives in a shelter because their behavior issues could not be addressed with "treats" only. I've also known dogs that no longer need to be

medicated to the point of lethargy because they've been trained with the e-Collar.

Please understand that this is a valuable tool, that when used correctly, saves lives. I firmly believe that the majority of people who are against these tools are uneducated and have no experience with them and haven't truly seen the good that they can do.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennierose D'Elia-Dufour

From: [Elsa Fecke](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB#677 - Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:21:33 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to submit my testimony for SB677 regarding the ban of what is referred to as 'shock dog collars'. I firmly disagree with this bill being passed.

I live in Pennsylvania, US and I have a wonderful dog named Clyde who utilizes an e-collar (sometimes, incorrectly referred to as a 'shock collar').

Before I present my argument against this bill, I would like to distinguish between a 'shock collar' and an 'e-collar'. A 'shock collar' distributes an electric current or static shock, depending on the type of shock collar. I do agree that these collars are unnecessary and a ban on these types of shock collars would be a good idea. However, an e-collar (electronic collar) functions much differently. An e-collar distributes a muscle stimulation, NOT to be confused with a shock, and is typically undetectable to humans at the low levels a dog would use. The muscle stimulation that the e-collar delivers is equivalent to the muscle stimulation disturbed by a TENS unit. This is something physical therapists use on humans.

The problem with Bill #667 is that e-collars fall under the same category as 'shock collars', which they absolutely should not. The bill states that the purpose of banning 'shock collars' is to 'improve the health, safety, and welfare of dogs and to protect public...'. This ban will likely have the opposite effect and I will explain why.

E-collars (in the bill referred to as 'shock collars', if used properly like any training tool, can be life changing for dogs and owners. With e-collar use, dogs can become reliable off-leash and in public settings.

Dogs trained with e-collars live fuller and happier lives. People who say otherwise do not have any experience with the tool. Without an e-collar, a dog can run away, injure a person, injure another dog or animal, get hit by a car, or consume something toxic. With an e-collar, your dog comes when called and you actually protect it from potential threats.

In my opinion, along with many other pet owners who have had life changing success utilizing e-collars with their dogs, this bill should be shut down or revised. A proper revision would discern between e collars and shock collars and allow for e-collars only.

Here are some links to humane e-collars that use muscle stimulation which I previously discussed:

www.ecollar.com
www.dogtra.com

Please help dogs and their owners live happier, fuller, and safer lives by shutting down this bill.

Thank you for listening,

Elsa Fecke

From: [Alexis Nowak](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Tether and E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:04:04 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention that the great state of Hawaii is considering a law that would ban the use of E-Collars, or the more popular name Shock Collars. If you wouldn't mind taking a few minutes and reading my story about how the use of the E-Collar has saved my dogs life, I would greatly appreciate it.

Five years ago, my husband and I decided to adopt a rescue dog to join our family. We had looked at a few, but still continued to look till we came across Sammi. At the time Sammi was a Nine Month old Lab Mix that had come through a rescue called I.C.A.R.E in southern California. When we first met Sammi, she was very scared and took us about fifteen to twenty minutes to be able to pet or even feed her. And by watching her, you could tell that she was afraid of just about anything around her. But we still wanted to give Sammi a chance inside our home. So, the rescue agreed for us to take her for a one week trial period. This was due to her being a difficult dog at the time. We took Sammi home and once she warmed up to us we could tell the great potential she had. She was THE perfect dog inside the house.

Her fearfulness of everything was due to lack of socialization, and is what is called fear aggressive reactivity. And outside was her trigger. I know that it might seem extreme to be reading, but Sammi was a dog that was scared of leaves blowing on the ground. I truly wish I was joking, but I'm not. And when we first got Sammi, I tried the counter conditioning and the positive reinforcement with her. But this only took her so far and only worked on her low level triggers (leaves, trash, dump truck from a distance). What it did not help with was her reactivity with bicycles, people, children, cars, and dogs. A few months in, using all of the tools in my tool box of dog training (which was a little rusty to say the least) did very little to assist my Sammi becoming less reactive. I sometimes like to say that she's a country dog at heart, but had to learn to live in the city. Because I truly feel that city dogs are held at a much higher expectation then one would have for a country dog.

This made my husband and I turn to doing more research on the E-Collar and finding the right trainer for us. I had heard about E-Collars and even had experience with a bark collar before adopting Sammi. But I hadn't really used one and my husband differently hadn't used one either. Through my research I came across Sean O'Shea from the The Good Dog, LA and Jeff Gellman from Solid K-9 Training. Both of these gentleman post a lot of material and tips on how to train your dog on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. I started to really watch Sean O'Shea due to the fact that he was in LA and I lived in Orange County, CA. And I also continued to look for a trainer that was in Orange County, but I kept coming back to Sean. Just everything that he was sharing was hitting everything that I and my husband believed in and knew we needed for our Sammi to be a better dog citizen.

I reached out to Sean and his team about three or four months after having Sammi and already working with her. My husband and I drove up to LA one day to work with Brittany, one of Sean's trainers at the time. We signed up for the Walk Doctor, because we still wanted to train Sammi on our own to form a greater bond with her. They agreed that this was a good idea. Brittany showed us how they do a structured walk and how to use the E-Collar. We

saw improvements within the first few hours of using these techniques. We went back home and continued to work hard with Sammi using the E-Collar, treats, and positive reinforcement. We also bought Sean's book about training and started to implement other techniques into our daily lives. Because every day is an opportunity to work with her and make her that much better than the day before. A couple years later Sean had started having weekend seminars at his facility and we decided that I would also go to that. Sean was very impressed with the progress that she had made. He remembered the videos that we had taken before seeing Brittany a few years before. He assisted on getting us over a plateau in our training. It was now the small details that would lead us to being about to pass other dogs with very little to no reactivity.

And as the months went by, those major triggers that I mentioned before became less and less. Now we are at about 5 to 10% reactivity. There are trainers that tell the public that the E-Collar is harmful and is a "quick" fix to any problem. I'm here today to tell you that five years is no quick fix. While some of Sammi's reactivity was poor socialization at a young age; it is also my belief that some of this is genetic from poor breeding. We continue everyday working with our dog. If we had not adopted Sammi or done the training for her that works for her, I truly believe that she would not be alive today. This email would have a different story. A story of sadness of explaining that due to lack of tools, knowledge and the ability to train the dog that is present, she had to be euthanized due to biting a child, adult or another animal. But luckily we live in the great nation of the United States, were we as a society recognize the importance of choice.

In the dog training world, there are many tools that assist in training dogs to be their very best. And it is very similar to teaching children with different teaching techniques. Not every child learns and comprehends the same way. This is true for dogs to. Dogs go through experiences and learn different ways. It is very important to leave all tools in the toolbox for trainers and owners alike to allow them to train their dog to the best of their ability.

So, with this I strongly encourage you to vote against the bill that is banning the use of E-Collars.

I thank you for your time and patience with reading my story about my dog Sammi. I have attached a few pictures for you to enjoy.

Thank you,

Alexis Wilkinson



From: [Emma Stapp](#)
Subject: The Proposed Ban of E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:21:48 AM

Hello,

My name is Emma Stapp and I am a dog trainer from New Jersey. I am emailing you about the proposed bill of banning the sale and use of E-Collars. I have always wanted to visit Hawaii. It is such an incredibly beautiful place, but after hearing this, it makes me not want to come as I question your ethics. You are trying to ban something you know nothing about, and have probably never even touched/picked up for yourself. From my years of personal experience, use on my personal dogs, and hearing other trainer's testimonies on the subject, E-collars have been a saving grace for many dogs, my own included. Too many dogs are having behavioral issues. Too many times the training methods used, that is, positive only (no consequences for wrongdoing), have failed dogs with behavioral issues. The E-Collar, used the right way, provides dogs with gentle information/direction. Its not zap, zap, zap like most, who have never even bothered to pick one up believe. Using low level E-Collar methods, that is, the lowest level the dog can feel, to teach alternate behaviors like basic obedience first, then using those behaviors to fix behavioral issues, is non aversive. All dogs who come to me for training, run to me when their E-Collar comes out. They know that good things are coming when I pull out their collar. They get to go outside or they get to train. It means good, not harm or fear. We don't need to ban E-Collars because they have humanely saved so many lives here, and I know they have by you as well. Give them another chance. Pick one up and feel how it feels before you decide to ban them. All I ask is that you give it a try.

Thank you,
Emma Stapp

From: [Megan Moberly](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#)
Subject: URGENT: Vote No for e-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:09:53 AM

Hello, my name is Megan. I am writing in support of the freedom of dog training tools and urge you to vote NO for banning e-collar. Ecollars are tools that can save dogs lives. It saved one of mine from escaping the fence and getting hit by a car, and it allows two of my dogs to have freedom off leash that they can't normally without the e-collar back up. Ecollars don't hurt the dog anymore than a dog pulling on a flat collar. It is simply a tool for training and NOT used all of the time. It also saves lives of many shelter dogs to help communicate directly with the dog when behaviors are unwanted, and helps provide consistency for a stable dog. Thank you for any of you who took the time to read this, and I hope my dog enjoying his freedom will help you reconsider banning the tool that is his safety net.

From: [Melissa Vélez Schemankewitz](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: About E collar baning
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:37:58 AM

To whom it may concern,

My email's reason is to give my testimonial about E collars as an owner and now a Dog Trainer. I am not a citizen of Hawaii, not even a citizen of the USA, however as a professional I have the need to talk about this tool.

E-Collars can be seen as abuse or terrible tools to use on a dog. In fact, if I was ignorant about dog training, I would doubt whether to try it on my dog or not, because a lot of people call them "abusive". But the fact is that the E-Collar is an amazing tool for a dog. It is not even electricity, otherwise my dog should have burns and look unhealthy.

I started using it on my dog when I was not a trainer. I had the guidance of a trainer that taught me how to use it in a humane way. My dog, right now, has been conditioned to this collar for 2 years. She's happy, she's healthy, she's always willing to use it, and even gets excited when she sees it because it means "we are going for a walk and you are going to go free". She has earned her offleash freedom by using her safety seat belt: her E-Collar. Before she would just pull and run away, she couldn't even hold a sit or wouldn't come; it didn't matter how much rewards and positive training I offered to her; the outside world was much more interesting.

E-Collars are meant to be use as a signal stimulation, the dog has to know that this tickle means coming back for a treat, or doing a command (it actually is a tickle when you use the correct brand and level). Punishment through E-Collars exist, yes, but they are not meant to be used irresponsibly. Punishment is a part of life, and dogs do go through consequences, even if we apply them or not. That's how life works. But a trainer that used this tool to just punish can't be called a trainer; address the aggressor, not the tool.

E-Collars also increase the confidence of dogs when use properly, because they become a guidance in life. Mostly insecure dogs thrive with this tool and become amazing animals. Watch Larry Krohn's videos, he's a perfect example of beneficial use of the E-collar.

I know this tool sounds horrible, that a lot of "studies" show they create problems in a dog's mind. It is always going to be a problem, if I take 4 dogs and just light them up with an E-collar without previous training. Of course that's going to be stressful for them. Tools are meant to have a timing, technique and a way of using. Same thing applies to a knife, a person can use it to cut onions, but can also use it to harm another person.

Education must be the first option for people. Investigate, see real testimonials, real dogs that are happily trained with this tool. As I said I am not from Hawaii. Why would I care? In my country E-Collars don't even exist (I have to ship them here). I write because I care, I care about dogs that can have a happy life out of fear and confusion, and that can be saved from euthanasia.

--

Melissa Vélez S.
Dog Trainer & Clinical Psychologist

From: [Michelle Claas](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Animal "Cruelty" Legislation
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:23:50 AM

Hello,

I am writing to you in regards to a recent bill I came across about prohibiting the sale, distribution, and use of e-collars for dogs in Hawaii.

Taking something away from people who use it correctly and who use it to help their dogs in so many ways makes no sense. Here's an analogy: If someone stabbed you or hit you with a baseball bat, would you blame the knife or the baseball bat? No. You'd blame the person. Would you want knives & baseball bats banned? I doubt it. Anything can be abused & used in an incorrect manner when in the wrong hands. Taking away such a beneficial tool for so many owners who use it correctly takes away our freedoms. Taking away e-collars will result in overflowing dog shelters (that are already overflowing) and dogs being euthanized because people aren't able to find the help they need and use the tools they need in order to make their life and their dog's life better.

Please, do not pass this bill. It will do much more harm than good. The United States is supposed to be the epitome of freedom, so why take away that freedom?

Kind regards,
Michelle Claas

From: [Hunter Morton](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Benefits of eCollars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:53:38 AM

To whom it may concern,

Good morning my name is Hunter Morton and I wanted to take a minute and express my thoughts on why eCollars are beneficial to a dogs well being and life. I have hunting dogs that have high energy all the time. Through eCollar conditioning I am able to better manage them while they are yards and even miles away. Each aspect has a different command that corresponds with it for the dog. The tone means to come here, which proves to be very helpful when there are distractions such as a deer or another dog around. I can effectively take my dog out of harms way while not causing harm to anything or anyone. In addition to the tone when the stimulation is used it means for them to stop where they are. There have been numerous times where I have been able to save my dogs life because I was able to command them through the eCollar to stop. Many times it involves them running or chasing cars in the road but with the helpfulness of a eCollar I can stop them from even reaching the road. ECollars provide many more benefits than negative aspects and when used correctly can effectively save the life of a family pet. I urge you to really consider the negative aspects of banning the use of eCollars before you're decision is final.

Thank you,
Hunter Morton

--

Hunter Morton Clemson University Eagle Scout

From: [Kellee Zenk](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Bill #677 & 633 Ban of E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:34:49 AM

To Whom it Concerns,

My name is Kellee Zenk, and I am a professional dog trainer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am certified by a training school, a member of the IACP, and have been in business for the last seven years working with pet dogs to teach obedience skills and solve behavioral problems. It is my understanding that you have a proposed bill #677 & #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in your state of Hawaii. I strongly urge you not to pass this bill.

I have been using e-collars for the last five years, and so have many of my clients. Those clients that have chosen to use the e-collar, have had their lives, and the lives of their dogs changed in such positive ways. Most of these clients want to train their dogs to be off-leash so they can experience more of life with their dogs. Some clients are disabled, and e-collar training has allowed them to keep their dogs and go out and experience life.

Contrary to popular belief, the remote collar is not a tool for punishment, it is a tool for communication. If you assume every time I push the button of my dog's remote collar that I am going to punish him, it is like assuming that every time I use my voice, I am going to yell at him, which is, of course, not the case. I can use my voice to communicate all sorts of different things, and e-collars are used in the same way. It is a language to communicate with one another.

Individuals behind the writing of bills like this have no experience with the tool itself. They have never used one, and many of them have never trained a dog or are professional dog trainers. They are making claims based on a belief that an e-collar is only used to "shock" and cause pain when dogs have done something wrong. This belief is a fallacy. Passing a bill like this will hurt the lives of dogs and their owners. We need to provide dogs with appropriate outlets so they can live fulfilling lives, and remote collars allow dogs to do that. We also need to educate the public about proper use and training with these tools.

Below are three links to videos of me training dogs on an e-collar. I have connected a soundbox so you can hear when the collar is activated. Feel free to watch more videos on the channel of e-collar work.

<https://youtu.be/NhoXzaq3Qfs>
<https://youtu.be/if5SuW6BSek>
<https://youtu.be/4p0aehwkPOI>

Thank you for your time

--

Kellee Zenk

Good Dogs Minnesota

(763) 312-6086

Email: kellee@gooddogsminnesota.com

Website: www.gooddogsminnesota.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kellgdmn>



From: [Bryan Heafy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Bill 677 & 633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:50:19 AM

Hi,

Toronto tried to implement something similar to this not too long ago. They banned dog training tools (aversives) and soon were banning breeds. E-collars can absolutely be abused as dog training tools. So can brooms, belts, and the back of your hand. The most abused training tool in today's world is treats and obesity is simply a more socially acceptable version of animal cruelty. The reality is that when the tools are used correctly, they are not abusive. Most dogs "working" numbers are similar to a tens unit which is a device that uses an electric stimulation(stim) to provide muscle therapy on humans. When used properly, a low level stim can provide feedback from a half mile or more away to help shape behavior. It can call a dog off of prey drive, recall them if another predator arrives, let them know when not to interact with someone who looks nervous around dogs, all while giving them an immense amount of freedom off leash. When we commit to leashing our dogs, we commit to denying them access to interact naturally with the world around us. Additionally, by letting them off leash, we expose them to dangers like getting hit by a car, attacked by someone else's leashes but aggressive dog, or even risk that our dog gets too excited to see a child and knocks them over and the accusations lead to euthanasia or quarantine. E-collars open the door to more freedom and opportunity for our dogs to be dogs in a safe and controlled way. Banning a tool like this will put a lot of dogs in harms way when they are granted unfettered freedom without accountability. I understand that these tools can be abused, but the majority of people who use them are responsible owners who love their pets. A ban like this takes freedom away from dogs, it will not stop abusive behavior from people who will just find the next tool to hard their animals. Please think carefully about who this decision really impacts.

Best wishes,
Bryan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elijah Weiss](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 677&633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:13:00 AM

Hello there-

I'm writing on behalf of millions of dog owners who have dogs that use modern day e collars. The collars we use are not "shock collars" but use electronic pulses (exactly the same as the TENS machine in physical therapy) to communicate with dogs off leash. I personally use this collar to allow off leash walking and play while still being attached to my dog and being able to regulate them from afar. Without this communication system, many companion dogs would be in major trouble, not to mention the uses for deaf dogs, hunting dogs, and sporting dogs.

Just because the collar uses electricity does not mean that dogs are being "shocked" as they may have been in the 70's. The collars that trainers use these days are based on a system of communication to help teach and pattern good behavior. Like ANY tool, some people can use them inappropriately, but please don't take this option away from so many dogs and owners who deeply rely on it. My dog can play happily off leash expressly because of his e collar. But many owners are only able to turn their dog's behavior around because of e collar training.

Thanks for taking the time to listen.

Elijah Weiss

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gretchen Mann](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); sengabbard@captiol.hawaii.gov; senfevella@captiol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Do not pass Proposal Bill #677 on E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:38:40 AM

Hello,

I'm writing to encourage you to NOT pass Proposal Bill #677 that will ban the usage and sale of e-collars in Hawaii. This will have a devastating effect on not only the dogs and humans living in Hawaii but will continue to be taking away the rights of humans to own their dogs the way they want.

The truth about e-collars is that they do NOT harm dogs. They do not electrocute them. In fact, it's the same technology used for electromagnetic physical therapy as a muscle stimulus. E-collars provide a truly unique and clear way to communicate with an animal that lives among humans when there are very few other ways to do so.

But the fact is people are trying to ban them simply because they don't understand them. There is no consideration for the brand of e-collar used, the levels, and whether or not the dog knows what the stimulus actually MEANS. You CANNOT slap an e-collar on a dog and simply start shocking it.

You will undoubtedly hear "science" brought up in court. The first step of science is observing evidence, and there is TONS of evidence showing that e-collars not only work, but they don't electrocute dogs or make them fearful. The people who claim to be scientific based refuse to acknowledge the vast amount of people who use e-collars effectively. The "science" they have to back up their argument is based on a study where they slapped the e-collar on and just shocked the dog erratically, which we advocate for people to NOT do. We don't do what was done in those science studies.

My dog loved his e-collar. It meant playtime, hiking time, training time. He never feared it. It never harmed him, it made him an incredibly obedient, happy dog and gave him unparalleled freedom most people can't believe is possible to achieve.

The biggest problem with banning e-collar sales and usage in Hawaii is that it's not just banning e-collars, it's the beginning of the end for all dog related human rights. It started with pit bulls and greyhound racing. Next is e-collars and prong collars. Then it's agility, flyball, dock diving, more breed bans, allowing your window to be rolled down with your dog in the car, leaving your dog outside in perfect weather for longer than 20 minutes, and because so much will be banned, dogs will become more misbehaved, which will lead to shelters becoming fuller and higher euthanasia rates. Public locations will ban dogs because their general behavior has gotten worse.

And e-collars won't go away. The demand for them is too high by people who know how to use them and know their value that all it will do is open up an underground black market until the ban is overturned.

Do not pass Proposal Bill #677 on E Collars.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Mann

From: [K. Macqueen](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:35:20 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I would have had to euthanize my dog if I hadn't learned about ecollar training.

When I first adopted Miss Shadow, I knew immediately within the week that I had to get a trainer. She and I went through 4 different trainers: 3 of the 4 said she was chemically imbalanced, and needed to be euthanized. The other one said she'd be on medication the rest of her life, and I'd never be able to trust her around anyone else except me.

Then I found ecollar training. I went to the trainer, and within 2 sessions she was approaching people and taking treats from someone new. I cried. In the two years since rescue, only 5 people had touched her.

After a month she was out in public and no longer terrified of everything.

After two months she was at the dog park (with the ecollar on, but I never had to use it).

After 6 months she was welcome at family gatherings, with children and other dogs.

Miss Shadow is now AKC Canine Good Citizen Certified, and she loves everyone she meets.

All it took was a little bit of empowerment, a little bit of confidence, and trust in the right people. Through understanding the "pressure on/pressure off" technique, we used the collar to simulate leash pressure, and then taught Shadow what it took to turn the simulated leash pressure off. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to see the expression on my dog's face when she started understanding the ecollar game--I swear she lit up! Her tail stood up with excitement! She attempted to play with the trainer! It brought happy tears to my eyes.

To those of you who are trying to ban the ecollar, I understand where you're coming from. I understand that the way you are imagining ecollars are used should be banned--and yes, I agree with you. Traumatizing any dog into submission is not training--you don't need an ecollar for that. I've seen dogs choked until they blackout with leashes, and yet we still have mandatory leash laws in most states.

Ecollars are simply tools. The effectiveness of the tool is only as good as the trainer.

Rather than the ban on ecollars, I propose a licensing or certification program through which dog trainers must attend before offering ecollar lessons. At the same time, I believe no ecollar should be sold to an individual unless that individual has had training. (I believe that Ecollar Tech has a great program to find a trainer through their website, we could use that as a model).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Ann (Macqueen) Zalesky

From: [Angela Clark](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: e collar use
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:22:52 AM

Hi! I am emailing you all the way from Pennsylvania. My dog trainer just shared something that Hawaii was thinking of banning e-collar use. This upsets me. Just as not all children learn the same way - or even adults -- not all dogs are trainable in the same way. I was very against e-collars once - I always had dog I could use treats to train them with or some kind of reward.. All of my dogs have been rescues, and I have been lucky that the majority of them were rescued soon enough that not much damage was done to them. But almost three years ago, I rescued Ellie. She was terrified of everything. I wasn't sure I wanted to bring her home, but she bonded well with my dogs so after much thought we decided Ellie was meant for our pack. For a year I tried nothing but positive, she was not food motivated, she wouldn't even eat unless you threw it on the floor, she would not take a treat from the hand -- some days she is still a little like that - I got her to go outside and do her business with a soft voice good girl or just a simple no -- she would cower if I said it to loud. No toy no food motivated. Survival was her only motivation. So as I said for a year we tried using only positive methods of training -- I read countless books on helping a dog that had problems like Ellie -- but none that advice worked with Ellie -- and dogs don't live near long enough to enjoy a life if you are only going to use a treat or toy reward kind of training method. I hired a balanced trainer because we started going backwards especially on a walk in the neighborhood -- it was not a full life for her just walking at night and hiding from people. Notice I said balanced trainer -- we use an e-collar but only to let Ellie she was not doing what I wanted her to do -- but lots of praise and pets for when she did -- and maybe at first you are using the collar to communicate -- but the more we worked with the trainer the more confident Ellie has gotten and we use the collar less -- it is always on in case old instincts kick in for her -- but now I have trained her to do some trick with food as well. I would never have done this without using a trainer -- I think maybe the e-collar gets a bad name because people may use one on their own and are not using one correctly. I never regret using a balanced trainer and an e-collar -- my Ellie is living a full life -- we go on charity walks, we got to stores and outside restaurants she is now experiencing a full life at three years old . I think if I had kept using the reward method we would still be walking at night and my arm would have gotten pulled off or broken. She is a healthy and beautiful dog. I am currently thinking of taking on another dog and I will be calling my trainer and enrolling that dog in training as well (it is costly but worth every dollar). Please think twice about banning the use of e-collars -- they are badly needed for dogs that do not respond to reward kinds of training -- e-collar save lives they reeducate aggressive and reactive dogs into loving dogs with great homes instead of being left in a shelter. Before you make a decision please visit with a good balanced trainer -- The Good Dog Training, I think that is what it is called - you can find them on facebook is in LA so closer to you, and I am sure there are some in Hawaii as well) but contact one or more and check it out before you make a decision -- if you do not do this you are making a one sided decision on a gut reaction and we need less of those kinds of decisions. Educate yourself before you judge. Not sure this is a saying in Hawaii, but "don't knock it til you try it." Please.

Angela Clark
128 Yellow Breeches Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011

From: [j.kratt](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E collar use
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:44:28 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I receive messages from people weekly saying their dog bolts out every door and will not return when called. The training with an electric collar literally saves these dogs lives.

Other clients want to enjoy hiking in the woods with their pets off leash which improves the quality of the pets life.

Other dogs are dog or people aggressive. The collar allows a correction that is safer the client. I have many clients who say the use of an e collar has literally saved their dog from euthanasia.

Any training tool can be misused and can become cruel. Electric collars are a useful and humane method to convey information to our pets. You will literally cause the death of many pets if the use of electric collars is banned.

Thank you,

Johanna Kratt

From: [Sarah Freer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-collar Ban is certain death for many dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:05:50 AM

To whom this may concern,

The proposed e-collar ban is not what is best for dogs. I'm a professional dog trainer and have seen so many dogs lives saved from e-collar training. We need to educate people on how the tools are used and why they are used in order to keep dogs out of shelters and being euthanized due to overpopulation and lack of resources to keep them alive. They are used to promote growth, not to punish and hurt the dog.

Aggressive dogs in particular who have been bred with poor temperaments and require intensive training benefit from e-collars. They get to learn impulse control and take commands and cues from their handler. They get to live a happier, comfortable, confident life. On and off leash! They get freedom. They don't get put in a kennel jail sentenced to an unsure future.

Fearful dogs gain more confidence, and have opportunities to overcome their fears off leash while ensuring their safety. This was the case with my German Shepherd who tried to bite 3 people before training, and before an e-collar. Now I can take her anywhere and she is the sweetest dog who gets to run on the beach, through the woods, and walk with me through the middle of downtown.

For my other dog, she loves finding mischief. She is a dog in the most simple way. She uses her nose. Her nose will sometimes lead her into unsafe situations. Then it is my job to help keep her safe and give her the proper guidance. I do this with the use of the e-collar which she knows and truly loves. She bounces and wiggles with excitement when she sees it and wants it on. Even when we are already outside and she is unleashed. Is it fair to keep her on leash and deny her her natural instincts? No. What would happen without the e-collar? She would have a very high chance of getting injured, lost, and go crazy from not being able to have a proper outlet that she needs to thrive as a dog.

Please seek out education on proper e-collar use. Please help dedicated trainers and owners keep the dogs we love out of shelters and put into good, loving homes. A ban on e-collars is certain unnecessary death for so many more dogs that just need proper training and guidance. Please look to the success stories and see the benefit e-collars have had on dogs and humans.

Thank you,
Sarah Freer

From: [Eva C](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: e-collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:11:10 AM

Please do more unbiased research on the proper use of training equipment before a decision is made to ban ANY tool, including the e-collar.

As with any tool, it is the abuse that creates problems. With proper application, the e-collar is like communicating to a distant person with a cell phone. It simply gives the dog direction! Thousands of pets have been saved from euthanization because time was taken to train an otherwise unmanageable dog how behave and coexist with human beings.

In my own experience, the e-collar reinforced appropriate behaviors, redirecting my dog's reactions that otherwise could have endangered his life and broken my heart. We will be lifelong companions and we now live in harmony, and the greatest joy is that he now has MORE freedoms because he understands the laws and expectations of the human world.

Please, before a vote is cast, DO YOUR RESEARCH!!! This ban has nothing to do with animal cruelty.

Training tools save lives.

thank you for regarding my note,
Eva Cedra
Illinois, USA

From: [Paul Lawton](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:02:25 AM

Hi my name is Paul. My parents are in love with Hawaii and want to move there but after hearing the possible ban on E-Collars they are rethinking. Their dog requires an E-Collar as he had aggression issues. They tried a bunch of positive only trainers to no avail. They found a balanced trainer who introduced them to the E-Collar. Through the use of low-level E-Collar training, their dog is now able to properly interact with other dogs. Before, just at the sight of another dog, their dog would go nuts. Now, after working with the E-Collar, their dog is able to remain calm around other dogs. If this ban is gone through with, my parents will not be able to move to Hawaii. It would be a shame if they couldn't move to Hawaii because of your uneducated bans. Please consider taking a look for yourself at an E-Collar before deciding to ban them.

Thank you,

Paul

From: [Ari Sharp](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: E-Collar Bill 677 and 633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:38:51 AM

To Whom it Concerns,

I am a professional dog trainer and am very concerned to hear of the potential ban of e-collars in your state. Myself and many other trainers are worried this may trickle to other states.

I firmly believe that cheap e-collars should not be accessible to the general public, however to ban all e-collars could have dire consequences.

Rather than outlawing, there should be required training prior to owning one and there should only be sophisticated technology on the market. When the e-collar is used correctly, it can save dogs' lives. It's a way to give a dog freedom while off leash but have security that if they were to see a bird or person, etc. they might run towards, you have a sure way to communicate with them in a way they understand.

I've seen firsthand the positive impact the e-collar has had. I've seen dogs that were almost put down for aggression, completely changed because finally someone has found a consistent way to communicate.

Leashes, flat collars, crates, and all the other tools for dog training can be abused. Simply outlawing it will not solve the problem, it must be reformed and confronted, not shoved off the table.

Please re-consider the decision of banning them for the sake of the well-being of the dogs in your community.

Let me know if you have any questions or would like further information!

Sincerely,
Ari Sharp

--

Ari Sharp | Trainer | Off Leash K9 Training Delaware Delaware@offleashk9training.com
302.753.7136
www.wilmingtondogtrainer.com
www.facebook.com/OLK9Delaware

From: [Fayiz D](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: ECOLLAR TESTIMONY
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:34:29 AM

Good afternoon,

I heard the recent proposal regarding banning Ecollars. This would be a disaster for dogs and owners everywhere. The collars help provide a method of training and safety for owners and dogs. If you ban these collars, it will result in more dogs being killed and put to sleep. I have personally trained hundreds of dogs with these helpful tools and saved many dogs from being returned to the shelter. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Fayiz Dabdoub

Balanced Living Through Dog Training

From: [Jewel Alqui](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Ecollar Usage/ Reconsider the ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:08:44 AM

Aloha, my name is Jewel.

I reside on the island of Kauai.

It has come to my attention only recently the wanted ban on ecollar usage. I myself have spent a reasonable amount of money to be educated on the proper use and training of the ecollar... as well as having to purchase good quality ecollars. I have 2 dogs that are ecollar trained. In our experience... and my experience seeing others utilize this valuable training tool... the ecollar has kept my dogs safe. If my dogs just so happened to run out of the house and decided to run towards the road... I have that tool to communicate for them to come back... away from other unleashed dogs, cars that may hit them and away from any other animals. Hunters/police k9s/personal protection dogs/sport dogs/responsible dog owners/dog handlers... they all have a use for ecollars and they are being trained and used by capable dog handlers and owners. I've seen dogs tethered out in public corners or yards on simple flat collars with long leashes that have done more damage and abuse to dogs than an ecollar would.

Ecollars are NOT shocking dogs. Its not a device that electrocutes throughout their body.

Please, we cannot ban this collar or any training tool becasue every dog and every human individual is different to how they train/treat their dog. There must be another way. Why are we trying to rid a very useful and proven collar that helps us... a collar when used responsibly can benefit all dogs and keep them out of harms way and help reduce the numbers of dogs in shelters. Why are the responsible dog owners and capable dog handlers getting penalized for the blanket information of the "abused" dogs. Dogs are pack animals. They thrive off of rules, structure and boundaries. Ecollars help do just that.

Why wasn't this bill brought up for discussion before trying to be enforced...? We need a chance to educate our community. Please, we need to reconsider banning something that could benefit the dog world in a huge way.

Aloha, thank you for the time

Jewel Alquisalas

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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From: [Luke Sedacca](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-Collar Vote
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:31:21 AM

Dear Senators,

I am an avid dog lover and upland bird hunter from Ohio. I am writing to let you know the importance of E-Collars for training and dog safety in my life. An E-collar allows me to keep in constant contact and control of my dog when she is in large and occasionally dangerous areas. I have a 6 year old English Setter named Rye, who is one of my best friends and most loyal companions. She is very well behaved and truly benefits from the use of an E-Collar. The collar keeps both of us from becoming frustrated when we are engaged in activities that should be fun and healthy for both of us. I think any limitation or government control of the use of E-collars creates a disturbing and dangerous precedent for millions of pet owners and trainers. I hope you will use your commonsense and think of the millions of dogs that have benefited from the use of E-collars. These collars really can help a trainer or pet owner to take a dog from good to great and make that dog a wonderful companion in the home and in the field.

Luke Sedacca
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Don at Sofu's Dog Care](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Ecollars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:59:44 AM

To whom it may concern,

For the benefit of dogs and owners please take the time to understand how e-collars work. There are thousands of videos on youtube that you can take your time watch and learn.

It's more about people's feelings than it is about reality. I have used e-collars for the last seven plus years on several hundreds of dogs.

I'm a trainer that works with dogs that have behavior issues due to lack of training and tools for the dogs and humans. I use e-collars, prong collars, martingales and many other tools to help dogs become the dogs that they need to be to live in our society in a safe manner. I have worked with many dogs that were found to be untrainable using the tools and methods that are promoted by the same people that push for banning e-collars, that not only help, but work. I personally have saved many of dogs lives by using e-collars. Dogs that are now living a good life with their families instead of being euthanized.

Please, consider dogs and owners before you decide on an emotional fate for dogs and owners.

Thanks,

Don Wilson
Sofu's Dog Care
Training and Rehabilitation
480-261-0626
sofudog@outlook.com

From: [Paul Pollock](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:09:55 AM

To whom it may concern

I have personally been trained to use e-collars 12 years ago. I own a dog training business that trains roughly 600-700 dogs a year. There are many misconceptions about e-collars. It's very rare to hear someone educated and that has used them successfully complain about them being anything but a wonderful training tool. People have an emotional attachment to their dogs And look at them as family members. It's ludicrous to think that many people would use our company if they had a small inkling that it might hurt there dog. My personal location has trained roughly 7000 dogs over the years. Most of our new business comes from client and Veterinarian referrals. We have help turn dogs around that would have been other wise euthanized. We have also trained many rescues and family puppies and dogs along with their owners to have great relationships with their dogs.

Banning an effective training tool like an e-collar would result in raising of the dogs getting euthanized and dogs getting hit by cars along with an escalated amount of children and adults getting bit by dogs. Banning them would be disastrous in more ways than one.

Paul Pollock | Owner
Sit Means Sit Cleveland-Akron

Make it a great day!

Paul Pollock | Owner
Sit Means Sit Cleveland-Akron



Phone: 330.310.DOGS (3647) Fax: [844.378.5005](tel:844.378.5005)
www.Cleveland.SitMeansSit.com



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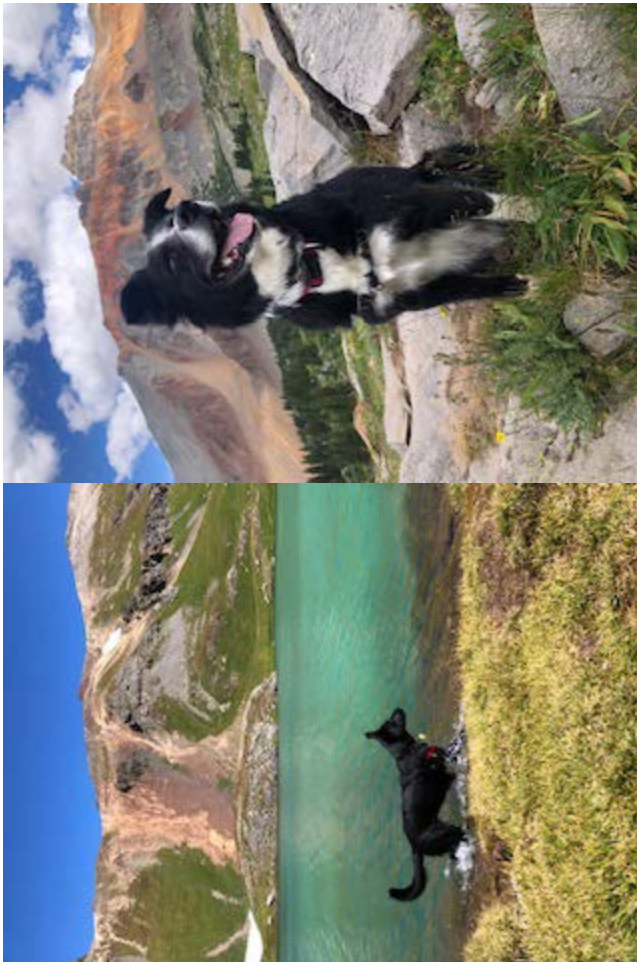
From: [Christine Bettlach](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); semkin@capitol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#)
Subject: E-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:54:31 AM

Dear committee and senators

I beg you to keep e-collars legal. They are life-saving devices and freedom allowing tools! My dogs LOVE their ecollars. They know it means adventure time! We hike, camp, and play — all with the dogs off leash — which gives them freedom, enrichment, and activity all while providing a recall tool for communication.

E-collars are not harmful or painful when used correctly. Have you tried one on yourself? They don't hurt!

Here are some photos of my dogs enjoying life in CO with ecollars on.





Christine Anderson
970-449-2703
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Janie](#)
Subject: Electronic Dog Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:32:54 AM

Hi there,

You don't know me but I heard you are considering banning electric shock dog collars and I wanted to reach out. I currently use an e-collar on my dog and it has saved her life. Off leash (in legal off leash dog areas), she would run up to strangers and bark to the point where I was worried they would call and have her taken away. On leash she would bark just as much in order to protect me. Since being on the e-collar we have a way to communicate with each other and she understands there is no longer a need to protect me 24/7. I don't use the e-collar to prevent barking, I use it to communicate with my dog. She works at a level 4 on her e-collar. I can't feel anything until a level 10. Every time I get the e-collar out she is so excited and runs right up to me to put it on without me even asking. She knows the e-collar means we are doing something fun and we have a communication tool so we are on the same page. She now heels perfectly with a leash and without a leash with me because she knows I have her back. Without the e-collar she doesn't know I have her back because it takes away our form of communication. It's like taking away someone's phone. It is both beneficial for the dog (it doesn't hurt her and she knows she can fully trust me with it on) and the public (she no longer runs up to strangers and no longer runs the risk of biting someone - she hasn't but we don't know that she wouldn't have gotten there).

I understand this tool can be used incorrectly. But can't all forms of communication ultimately be used incorrectly? Phones can be used for evil too, but ultimately they do more good than harm by putting people in communication with others when needed. E-collars are the same, they do more good than harm and I hope you choose to vote against banning e-collars after all of the good that has come from them.

Thanks,
Janie Reiter

From: [Michael Nease](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#)
Subject: Fwd: E Collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:23:52 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Nease <michaelnease@icloud.com>
Date: February 7, 2020 at 12:16:57 PM EST
To: jdctestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov, senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov, sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov, senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: E Collar

To whoever may concern

Hi my name is Michael Nease, I am a Dog Trainer that has been training dogs for about 10 years. I recently heard of a proposal to ban E collar sale/use in the State of Hawaii. This really hints home because I have 2 personal dogs that have been saved by the use of E Collar. I have worked with thousands of dogs to help with obedience/aggression/separation anxiety etc and the E Collar has helped many dogs go on to live better lives. I find it strange that society has no problem using tools like Signs,Books,Computers,Schools,Apprenticeship schools,Military bootcamps,Tech schools etc to help better ourselves but when it comes to dogs we automatically euthanize them if they cannot be controlled. I also find it strange that we try to rehabilitate criminals all the time and release them back into society yet again we always end up euthanizing dogs, why is this? If there is no structure rules and boundaries in a dogs life it creates a lot of stress, just like with humans. The E collar helps people communicate with dogs in a very clear way and set those rules and boundaries.

Sincerely
Michael Nease

From: [Erica Mirich](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Keep e-collars LEGAL!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:54:20 AM

To all of the representatives in Hawaii! Please keep e-collars LEGAL! As an avid outdoors person I use e-collars on my dogs for SAFETY. They are a tool that is effective in keeping my dog safe! Please please please do NOT pass Bill #677 & #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii.

You will be doing a tremendous disservice to animals and animal owners.

DO NOT PASS this bill.

Erica Mirich
530-448-3836

From: [Kathryn Barthol](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Please Don't Ban E-Collars in Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:56:06 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

Please don't ban e-collar sales and use in Hawaii. I'm not a trainer, but an every day pet owner who uses e-collars for my two pups. This not only allows them to go on epic off leash adventures, but has also increased the confidence of my shy and timid pup.

Franklin was a rescue. We got him when he was 6 months old from the shelter. Animal control had found him wandering the street, so no one knows exactly what happened to him before we got him. While he warmed up to me and my husband immediately, anyone else that passed through our door would cause him to go into a barking frenzy while cowering and running away. It would take at least a few hours of the "stranger" being around the house for him to calm down. We decided to get a professional trainer involved.

After months of research and following trainers on social media to see their methods and success stories, I landed on a trainer that used the e-collar. I sent both dogs away for a four week board and train to get them off leash trained as well as gain some tools to help Franklin gain confidence.

Franklin came back to us with much more confidence and with a perfect off leash recall. When he has his e-collar on he has a noticeably more confident walk. He is significantly less stressed when out in public and when we have people come over. Franklin owes his confidence, lower stress levels, and happiness to the e-collar. We can have friends over without stressing him out.

While the off leash aspect is a huge benefit to e-collars and their PROPER use; it's not the only reason I'm an e-collar advocate. It has made my timid and shy pup more confident. It has provided a clear form of communication between me and my boy. It has improved our relationship by ten fold.

I really hope you will reconsider banning the e-collar. Banning them could increase lost pups, more damages to the precious ecosystem, and prevent people like me from helping their precious furry family members being more comfortable in their own skin.

Thank you for taking your time to read my story.

Kathryn Barthol

From: [TERESA LUNDOQUIST](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Please don't ban E Collars for dog
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:29:51 AM

Hi, I would like to request you not ban E collars for dog training. I volunteer for a rescue and and well as have personal dogs who have benefited from E collars to help with training. These dogs only needed the collars for 6 mos to a year if that. These dogs had behaviors that were not responding to traditional methods of training. They pulled or rather dragged, the barked, they had fear aggression. One dog had aggression on a leash 98 % of the time, with training she has only 2 % and it's grumbles and not the crazy fear based barking. The training has allowed a dog who was owner surrender to a high kill shelter and rescued and then left in a boarding facility till she could have a foster home and now a home. These dogs need this option. Or they are dead. If you want to address the problem address the over population problem that puts high stress on these dogs. Profiting dog breeders don't care the out come and the behavior has become difficult. Have humane societies have classes, so people can teach their dogs before the need arises. Maybe require adopters to sit in a class room and watch a you tube about dog training!!!!!!! If done correctly these dogs don't need these collars forever. For those few idiots who like to jolt their dog for the life of the dog -that's abuse, not training.

Teresa Lundquist
Dog Foster

From: [Blair Sorlie](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Please dont Ban e-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:13:23 AM

Hi,

I wanted to write as a concerned dog owner who has seen the e-collar tool help my dog become a better society individual over the last year. The last thing I would have ever want to do is to hurt my dog. This tool is nothing like they used to be and are safe and keep my dog safe while we hike and I can call him back from wildlife safely. This level of communication that I can have without him being on a leash is amazing and life saving.

The level we work on with the e-collar I cannot even feel! It's crazy. And yes my dog gets excited when I pull out his e-collar because he gets to go on an adventure!

And while I do not live in Hawaii, this effects all loving pet owners who want the best for their dogs all across the United States.

Thanks,
Blair

--

406.212.6736

www.blairsorlie.com

blair.sorlie@gmail.com

From: smazza_sambucetalc.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Please dont ban the ecollars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:14:54 AM

This past week I was walking out to a field with my dog (offleash) for some playtime and we scared up two deer laying in some tall grass not even 10 ft away. My girl just watched them run off and looked at me like "yea, I see them too, so what, what about our game?" Jackpot! Game on!

Two years ago I had a dog that was biting people, biting dogs, and scared of everything. Positive reinforcement plus e collar training changed her life.

An e collar is not an abusive tool, its a tool to communicate with your pet off leash. It is not electric shock, its low level stimulation of the muscle, just like the machine used by a chiropractor.

In fact there are many dogs left tied up on a leash all day because they are never allowed to run free. That is abuse.

Many more dogs are abused by untrained owners with a leash and regular collar than with an ecollar. Bad e collar use can be abusive, but if you chose to abuse a dog you can use anything to do that. A leash, a stick, a shoe, your voice can all be terribly abusive.

Just something to put out there because I'm feeling good about my training with our ecollar.

Why do I use an e collar?

To let my dog run free, to be safe and happy. Because I dont believe in using forceful methods likes leashes, harnesses and head collars to restrict my dogs freedom.

Thank you,

Steve Mazza
(914) 648-0295

From: [terrie b](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Please keep E collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:43:30 AM

I have a deaf dog that I trained to communicate through the collar. It keeps him safe in areas he cannot hear me if he where to get away. It helped will focus and helped me teach he. My second dog benefits from an e collar as well she was also trained with kindness and it saves my dogs from potential harm in other ways. If I did not have this option my deaf dog was going to be put down for no other reason but hearing he is now 4 years old and so happy. Tethering outside for longer than 24 hours I agree with but limiting options on training no. With proper training they make dogs healthy lifestyle. If anything require training with the purchase of collar but don't take that away

Sincerely
Terrie Bland

Sent from my iPhone

From: [B.ayne](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 & #633 to ban the use and sale
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:26:11 AM

I am writing you today to please ask you to oppose this legislation and with very good reason. Yes, I am stateside, however I am also a foster. I am an owner of dogs and I do use these "opposing" methods on one of my dogs to which I am currently fighting the capability of doing. I have had to. Her life has depended upon the use of these measures (E collar, Prong and Chain collars) and so far they have worked.

Like with all tools, any one of them can be abused. We are not banning hammers yet they are the cause of more homicides than guns are (we know the gun debate). Why not? Because it's all in the intention of the tools use.

I owe my dogs life to her aversion methods. She is E collar trained. It keeps her where I can reach her and in the area I live, chains are illegal- which means I cannot tether her or chain her to keep her in our yard, which is already fenced that she can clear the fence to easily, being a long legged large breed. The E collar helps me keep her in my yard and allows her the freedom to roam directly in my fenced yard and an immediate correction to stay in my yard at all times. E fences have barriers. while many dogs do great with them, many more can go right through them. Prong collars. many people apply them improperly while many more benefit from their uses. I have personally put my dog through professional training classes, bachelor degree'd animal behaviorists etc and at the end of the day, what works best is the vibrate E collar that lets her know where boundaries are when my hands are not accessible right then and there even when under direct supervision at all times. Is it fair that a dog cannot have the leisure to roam its own yard, even a fenced yard because she will jump it without her collar on? Imagine how many owners are on your islands who DO depend on those collars. What happens to dogs like mine who are e collar dependent can no longer use these methods? What of their owners?

You will be shown horror story on top of horror story, but this, I can say- there are MANY owners who are NOT aware of this legislation who rely on these methods to keep our animals safe. Even service dog handlers /NEED/ them. They are a TOOL.

I urge you to oppose these laws that take responsibility methods away from caring and responsible owners. Just like with hammers- we are not responsible for what others do, but the laws pertaining to how those tools are used is where it matters. Animal abuse will always be a problem, but responsible people who use these methods properly are the one's paying the price overall for it. Please, as someone who was not aware of these bills in my own state due to being passed quietly, to which I would have also opposed, do not pass this legislation until consensus from your entire constituent area can be applied.

Thank you for your time.

From: [Phil Scott](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:35:54 AM

Sir/Madame,

I urge you to vote AGAINST Bill 677 in particular to banning e-collars.

The e-collar is an effective tool that provides a safe means to train a dog to be the best possible pet it can be. E-Collars do not “shock”, they provide a muscle stimulation identical to what a tens unit does that are used by chiropractors.

I have 3 dogs that have been e-collar trained for over 7 years. They are happy go lucky and obedient. The e-collar is used on them as a communication tool so that my dogs understand what I am asking of them. It allows me to provide guidance as a dog that is allowed to fully make its own decisions will do so badly.

Also, without the e-collar, one of my dogs would have been euthanized. It was the only training that provided him with structure and expectations of his behavior.

There are a number of excellent trainers on the islands that effectively utilize e-collars and have in fact saved families from dumping or having dogs put down.

Please do your research before banning an effective and humane tool.

Regards,

Phil Scott

From: [Katie Pfeifer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 and #633 regarding Ecollars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:18:05 AM

Hello,

I am writing you today because I heard about the proposal to ban Ecollars. While I am someone who cares deeply about animals and am extremely passionate about animal welfare, I think banning Ecollars would be a huge mistake. When used correctly, Ecollars are incredibly valuable tools that can help reform dogs that otherwise would have to be put down. One of my own dogs was extremely child and dog aggressive and while we used many different tools in her training journey, the Ecollar was the only one that allowed us to reform her into a controlled, safe and well behaved citizen. When used correctly, dogs are not harmed in any way and only a low level stimulation is used and feels like a little tickle. Because I worked with a trainer who introduced me to an ecollar, my dogs are allowed to have more fulfilling lives and have more freedom while ensuring I have 100% recall and control at all times.

Like everything, when used incorrectly it can be dangerous. Some people abuse their animals with a newspaper, but that doesn't mean newspapers should be banned. Ecollars have changed my life and saved my reactive dog's life. To ban them would mean a life sentence for many dogs.

I hope you reconsider this bill.
Katie Pfeifer

From: [Paws Perrydise](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 and #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:11:49 AM
Attachments: [Position Statement on The Use of Shock In Animal Training.pdf](#)
[Talking points on shock.pdf](#)

I am writing in support of the bills to ban the use and sale of E-Collars in Hawaii. Although I am in NY we are trying to seek legislation throughout the US, similarly to the UK. Studies have proven time and time again that the use of these collars destroys dogs, and as a trainer I can say without hesitation that 90% of the aggression cases I see in my business are as a result of shock collars and invisible fencing shock collars.

I have also attached a copy of the position statement from the Pet Professionals Guild.

Thank you for your time.

--

Melissa Henchen

Owner

www.pawsperrydise.com

Reservations for boarding and daycare are made online by clicking

[Book Now](#)

From: [casey Lara](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 and #633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:13:49 AM

I'm writing in response to the proposal which will ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii. I've used and taught others how to use ecollars for the past 7 years and can personally attest to their safety and success rate. I've had so many clients able to safely have their dogs off leash and under control. These tools are in no way "cruel" simply because some may not like how they look or agree with them, this is why we should have the freedom to choose.

To piggy back it on top of "no tethering" is incredibly misleading. All my dogs ages 7years (German Shepard) to 8months (pomeranian) have all been ecollar trained and can enjoy running free on our hikes or swimming in the lake and I have the peace of mind I can always get them to come back when I need to because of the ecollar. This training tool has saved dogs lives and opened up their world to more adventures and their owners can get them to come back and be under control.

From: [Chris Webb](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:30:48 AM

I would like to relate a story concerning the proper use of E-Collars for training purposes. I have always had medium sized working dogs, English Setter, Beagles, Labrador Retrievers, etc. Some of them hunt, ALL are house dogs.

IF you have ever tried to teach a working dog of these types, you will remember that they are “high-spirited”; they like to run, they NEED to run, they tend to have independent personalities.

As I was training 2 English Setters the basic obedience commands (Sit, Stay, Whoa, Come, etc.), I would do so at an urban park in Dallas Texas. Many people used the park for various activities ranging from kids soccer games to Yoga, to a Men’s rugby league. The park was roughly ¼ mile square; big enough for my long-legged setters to run at full speed, off-leash, so they could “burn out the cobwebs”. They enjoyed this daily ritual immensely, being the 4-6 month old pups teenagers that they were. The male dog was very biddable, he wanted nothing but i please me. He was easy to train. His sister on the other hand, had a mischievous streak in her. We were all running one day when we started approaching the edge of the park. I called them both to “Come”. The male dog immediately changed course and came directly to me. His sister on the other hand, looked sideways at me, pretending that she didn’t hear the command, and proceeded to run across the street and when faced with a 4 foot high concrete retaining wall, she blindly jumped it, ignoring the illusive “Come” command.. She found out a little late that the other side of the wall dropped 15 feet onto a freeway entrance ramp. Luckily, she landed on her feet, suddenly remembered her training after the shock wore off, and immediately ran back up the ramp and directly to my side. I bought an E-collar the very next day, and they both wore them during our daily exercise/training sessions. It took a couple of low-level reminders for her to realize that “Come” was a command, not a suggestion. While she wore an E-collar for another year, I never once had to activate it again. I credit her 14 year life, to the correct use of an E-collar. Without it, she would have been relegated to on-leash walks, or our small backyard for the rest of her life.

Sure E-collars have the potential to be mis-used by the ignorant owner. But they also save dogs lives and contribute to long and healthy lives for “spirited” dogs.

Please don’t penalize the conscientious owners based on the already criminally sanctioned mis-use of irresponsible owners.

Please do not ban the use of E-collars.

Chris Webb
cpwebbou@gmail.com

From: [Yvette Camacho](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:08:42 AM

To all concerned,

I have become aware that there is a bill proposal trying to ban the use of E-collars for dogs. I urge all of you to please thoroughly research the use of E-collars and the benefits they provide for dogs and owners. I myself researched them before using them on my own dogs. It was like a magic tool for me to be able to communicate with them at a higher level. It gives you the ability to provide a clear understanding of rules and obedience, and what is acceptable and unacceptable. They have benefited my dogs and family in so many ways. We are able to allow them off-leash freedom at the beach, parks, camping trips, etc. My female pit bull was able to walk in our cities Christmas Parade this year with my son's baseball team. Everyone was so impressed by her manners and level of understanding my communication with her. I have become a dog trainer myself because I am able to help so many other owners that are ready to give the dog up to a shelter because they have no idea what to do with their unruly dog. When dogs are communicated with in a way they are able to understand, they thrive and are able to become a part of the family instead of being put out in the back because they are "out of control". If any of you are unsure what they are, and the benefits they provide, again, I urge you to research them. I always encourage owners who are unsure about them to put one of their arm just to feel the sensation that the dog is feeling. They are always pleasantly surprised that the sensation is not a shock. It is more like a tickle. It would be a tragedy to have such a beneficial and humane tool banned because of a lack of education and fear.

Thank you for your time.

With kind regards,

Yvette Camacho
(626) 675-0359

P.S. E-Collar Technologies created an amazing tool and would be a great company to help with the understanding and benefits of e-collars.

From: [Kris McKenzie](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:07:00 AM

Good afternoon

My name is Kris McKenzie and an E-collar saved my dog's life. My dog used to be very reactive towards other dogs, no matter the size. Any dog that would approach her, she would bite in the face or pick up and shake. We were sure that we were going to have to put her down.

We started working with an E-Collar trainer in our area, and were able to work her out of those reactive behaviors. We strongly support the use of E-Collars as a training tool and wouldn't have our dog Sophia if it wasn't for the E-Collar training.

Regards

Kris McKenzie

From: [Garrett Rampulla](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill#677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:01:31 AM

As a professional dog trainer who trained his dog on an E-Collar, I oppose bill 677 on the ban of E-collars. There is a great misunderstanding on E-collars. The E collar or electronic collar is simply a tool. Any tool can be abused. Unlike prong collars and even flat collars, the E collar cannot physically harm the dog. In addition a study done on 45 Belgian Malinois' actually showed higher cortisol levels or stress on dogs by with holding reward rather than from the use of E collars. In fact prong collars were above E collars. E collars when used correctly provides the one of the safest and human way of training a dog.

Please contact with me any questions.

Garrett Rampulla
410-253-7305

Sent from my iPad

From: [PatriciaBrazas](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposition 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:37:16 AM

Please note that the e-collar works. We kept our son's personal dog while he served in the Navy. He was a 6 month old rescue dog, combination Rottweiler/Chow. The collar was needed because we do not have a fence. I always kept an eye out on him so he never was unattended. The people who started it up actually walk around with him so he hears the warning buzzer before the collar would activate. Different setting for each individual dogs.

He went after the mailman's truck but the buzzer hindered that. We have feral cats here and he like to chase the through the yard bouncing up in the air where the e -fence is located This allowed him more exercise. Regular fences are way more expensive. The electronic part of the fence can be taken with you when you move. I may not live in Hawaii but I believe time and money should be spent on wildlife and feral animals. Please don't pas # 677

Thank you,
Patricia Brazas

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Grace Lee](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Re: SB677 - please do not ban the use of ecollars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:33:25 AM

Dear Senators:

I am writing to ask you to not pass SB677, which would ban the use of ecollars in Hawaii. Ecollars, like any dog training tool, are safe and effective when used properly. I have used an ecollar on my dog for 4 years, and it has given her freedom and me peace of mind. Our bond is stronger, as ecollars are a wonderful way to communicate with a dog when it is off leash.

Today's ecollars are nothing like shock collars of the past--they do not provide an actual shock, but more of a momentary tingling sensation, similar to a TENS unit used on muscles. In addition, the ecollar I use has 100 levels--I usually use a level 6 out of 100, which is like a slight tingle, NOT a shock (I have tried the ecollar on myself, all the way up to 100). As one trainer I work with puts it, ecollars are meant to be a tap on the shoulder, NOT a push. Yes, ecollars can be used as punishment if used incorrectly or punitively, but the same can be said for any dog training tool. Banning ecollars is a slippery slope, leading to the ban of other training tools.

Ecollars provide backup when dogs are offleash. Although my dog has wonderful recall, dogs are dogs, and can sometimes be more tempted by their nose than by their owner's voice. Knowing that my dog is wearing an ecollar gives me peace of mind if she happens to be tempted to chase wildlife. No other tool provides this kind of backup. Banning ecollars would also negatively affect deaf dogs, as it would severely limit an owner's ability to communicate with their deaf dog.

I respectfully ask that you please reconsider this ban, or at least do more research into today's high-quality ecollars (such as the mini educator) so that you can understand for yourself how safe they are. Yes, there are trainers who abuse the ecollar and use it in compulsion training. However, there are many more trainers and owners (like myself) who use it simply as another way to safely and respectfully communicate with their dog. I would be more than happy to provide a list of trainers who use the ecollar as it should be used.

Thank you so much for your time; please feel free to contact me with any questions or information about ecollars.

Thank you,

Grace Lee

From: [Chad Chausky](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:55:25 AM

My dog was trained by sit means sit with an electronic collar. It was the best money we could of spent on him... He came home happy and trained to be able to take walks in public, attend our kids sporting events and even eat at restraurants with patio seating. We use the electric collar daily to take him on walks in our neighborhood mostly off leash. They do not hurt the dog and are a great training device.

Sincerely,

Chad Chausky

From: [Lance Nogosek](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: HB 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:05:55 AM

The use of electronic dog collars have saved the life of thousands of pets across the US. If used incorrectly they can be bad just like anything else but that use is far and few in between. The number of pets euthanized will be out of control because the means to communicate with them correctly will be limited. Let abuse is atrocious please become educated before such a monumental vote. The humane society of the United states says the use of remote collars is by far the most humane way to train a dog. Most of the activists against are trainers that have no real knowledge of them or are trying to close down there competition. Please educate before making this vote or u might be taking away a means for hundreds of thousands of residents to communicate with there pet.

From: [Derek Dickard](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SB BILL 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:56:27 AM

I am emailing to ask why you would put a restriction on having an e-collar on a dog? I have used one on my labradoodle for the last 4 months and was able to train my dog better using this than almost any other method. this has been proven to be safe and effective across the nation. I even had my 5-year-old put the color over her hand and push the button so she could see that it was completely harmless. she just laughed and said that tickles whenever we used the electric current wave. It is not a used to hurt a dog but to train them to make them more respectful and to make them obedient.

The mere fact that you are trying to make this illegal just shows your ignorance and the fact that you have done no research about this. Yes there are people who are going to abuse these and harm dogs with them but this law is not going to prevent that. They are still going to use it and find similar ways to abuse their dogs.

What's next, are you going to try to make it illegal for dogs to swim because some owners may try to use waterboarding to teach their dogs?

The bill described below will result in nothing but more untrained dogs, a hardship on mini dog owners, and will result in nothing positive.

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 for reading this,

Derek Dickard

From: [Colette Naylor](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Support for E-Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:10:42 AM

Hello,

I have recently been informed that Hawaii is looking into banning e-collars statewide. The only way this law will go into place is if its put in place by people that have never had to use an e-collar. ANYONE who has experience with one will praise the technology to no end.

If you do not have experience with one, I urge you to meet up with a dog trainer/dog owner currently using one. Spend some time with them and their dog. Learn why it makes life with a dog so much easier. Educate yourself on the positives. People who are not familiar with e-collars think they are this big, bad, scary, awful thing & that dog owners who use them must be bad people. I get it...I thought the same thing before we tried it out. We felt we had no other option. I was afraid my dog would be taken from me if we didn't figure something out.

I got my puppy at 8 weeks old. Over the past two years, I have grown to love him more than I ever thought possible. He is loyal, hardworking, a good listener, loves to please. He's a snuggle bug, he follows me everywhere, and he's smart as hell. He is the best dog I've ever had. Everyone in my extended family constantly praises how good he is and I've even had a couple relatives jokingly ask to have him. Unfortunately however, he gets nervous. Nervous of bigger dogs, nervous around kids that might push or pull at him, nervous about several dogs getting in his space at once. He is not a mean dog, he is a nervous dog.

We worked through positive reinforcement training for many months before deciding it wasn't enough for us. It's just like a child...the same type of upbringing doesn't work for everyone. If a child does something bad some parents might use positive reinforcement while other parents might need to ground them or take their electronics away. We encourage responsible parents to do what is right for their family. Why not encourage responsible dog owners as well?

Ultimately we found a qualified dog trainer who specialized in e-collar work. We wanted to learn how to properly use this tool. It was in our interest and our dogs best interest to understand together what this tool meant, how and when to use it, what was expected from one another. We tested the e-collar out ourselves on our palms so we knew exactly what it felt like. We have an expensive e-collar that goes from 0-100. On the 12 setting, it felt like a phone vibrate. It was so incredibly minimal I was shocked.

It took us several lessons but now we are at a point where my dog knows the e-collar typically means we are doing something fun like going to the beach or on a hike. He is excited but he also knows he needs to be on good behavior. We now typically only use settings of 12 or less. As I mentioned above, we almost couldn't feel it on that setting but it is enough for our dog to know we don't like something he is doing, we want him to redirect focus or even that he is too far away and needs to come back to us. There are are even simple vibrate and tone alerts, which many people do not know about!

The e-collar has been an ultimate life saver. I truly cannot imagine life without it. Banning the use of e-collars would mean more dogs in shelters and many, many more dogs being euthanized. These are great dogs, they just need a little extra help.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Colette Naylor

From: [Ashtin Chamberlain](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Urgent Proposal Bill #677 to ban the E-Collar.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:16:02 AM

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to share how the E-Collar systems have benefited me, my dogs, and their safety.

I have two (2) rescued dogs. One is a five (5) year old Old English Sheepdog and the other is a four (4) year old pit mix. Before I was educated on the use of the E-collar, I had many complications and restrictions with my dogs. The OES had behavior issues and anxiety to work through and the Pit mix has a high prey drive and would have "selective hearing", no matter how trained he was.

Since introducing the E-Collars to my dogs, I have felt more secure in their safety, it clarified a lot of communication for the OES that was struggling with anxiety that caused him to not focus, and it has quite literally saved both of their lives at least once.

My OES went from head shaking, heavy panting, and other signs of anxiety to calm, collected, and focused due to the use of these collars.

You see, there are right and wrong ways to use any device. An E-collar could cause harm just as much as a flat collar, a harness, a face lead....but if you utilize each and every tool correctly - they are safe and AMAZING tools to utilize. If you look up a well known trainer's videos or book, Larry Khron, you would see just exactly that....these collars are meant to be POSITIVE for the dogs and the owner.

I am able to give my dogs more freedom while still having my safety net with them..because at the end of the day... no matter how well trained. Dogs will still be dogs. I have NEVER punished my dogs over their E-collars. In fact, when they see these collars - they get suuuper excited because they know something fun and great is about to be done. Whether it is just training, a trail, or a simple walk.

The E collar for me is not a punishment device but more so, a communication device. When you learn the correct ways, and you purchase the correct collars, and learn the dog's levels of what actually would feel like a tap on the shoulder more than anything rather than "shock" your dog...you'll learn that the collar is much more beneficial than what people believe.

E collars DO NOT shock dogs! it is a stem! and as i said, it is meant to feel like a tap on the shoulder. a reminder, hey im right here, listen to me, and do not focus on that bird flying in the air.

Just with everyone else, there is good and bad with everything. If we could offer proper education rather than banning the tool as a whole that would be wonderful.

I have NO idea what i would do with out my collars now. My dog's lives would not be as stimulated for them if it didn't give them the freedom they need to thrive. I wouldn't do anything to hurt my animals. It is my responsibility to be sure they are well taken care of and safe, and the E Collar plays a huge role in making that happen for us.

you cant look at these photos attached and say these dogs are not happy.... we depend on the e collars for more than i can even explain. These photos show dogs who have to live in a small apartment with no yard and a disabled owner having freedom and able to have the security to not have a leash 24/7 because the e collar serves as an "invisible leash" for us.....Please see how much they are enjoying life while actively wearing/using these devices.

I am newly disabled, as in i didnt become disabled until ive owned the dogs prior, and my choice was to properly learn the e collar systems to keep my dogs benefited in their needs or to re-home them. Re-homing is not an option, I'd rather die. Please consider this in your decision. Many people use it for many reasons, in a positive way that does not hurt the dog but benefits their livelihood.

From: [Leannet Genaro](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Urgent Proposal Bill #677 to ban the E-Collar.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:41:05 AM

Hello,

I recently found that E-Collars & Prong collars will more than likely be banned in the state of Hawaii. As someone who uses both of these tools on all 3 of my dogs, I am a little upset to hear this news. Both of these training tools have saved my dogs countless of times. My dogs used to run away before i e-collar trained them. One of them was good at recall but would get easily distracted when she would hear animals or catch scents in the woods. I started using an e-collar to sharpen her recall and just to help with keeping her close to me. This has helped me tremendously and it would be a shame to get rid of it. It does not harm my animals at all & it can be used with minimal stem. I have another dog who is terrible at recall and walking next to me. He tends to drag me everywhere & just has no control at all. I introduced E-collar training and prong training and it has helped me so much with how he walks and his recall as well. He doesn't go far from me and walks absolutely amazing on a leash. Prongs and E-collars has helped me shaped my dogs in the most positive aspect with no harm being done to them. Like me, many other trainers and dog owners feel the same & it would be a shame to take these tools away from people that could benefit from them. These tools have given my dogs confidence as well as myself to take them out in public was trusting them to not leave my side. I hope you take everyone's opinions & emails into consideration.

Thank You
Leannet G.

From: [Tracey Krill](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Urgent! Support proposal Bill #677 and #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:13:48 AM

As a dog owner and concerned Hawaii resident, I ask you to please SUPPORT this bill! Prolonged tethering and E-collars are cruel and unnecessary. Modern dog training and science have proven that E-collars and other punishment based dog training methods are detrimental to a dogs mental state, painful and plain cruel. There are positive, reward based training methods that have been proven to work much better. E-collars are a lazy uneducated trainers way of training a dog. Unfortunately many uneducated innocent dog owners believe these trainers know what they are doing! Let's make Hawaii a progressive, dog friendly State!

Thank you for taking the time to read your residents concerns and please SUPPORT this bill.

Sincerely,
Tracey Krill
Kailua, HI

From: [Alexa](#)
To: [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); senkeohokalol@capitol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Why to ban e-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:01:26 AM

I am messaging you, not only as a dog owner and trainer who has dedicated their life to the continued study of canine behavior and husbandry with countless hours of work with dogs who have been harmed by the use of e-collars, but also as a citizen who is deeply concerned by how our resistance to move forward in banning inhumane training tools makes us look to our global peers who have already banned such tools.

Please follow the trend of most developed countries and vote to ban the use of e-collars. Because dog training is unregulated in the US, many untrained and unskilled individuals fall back on outdated, unnecessary and harsh methods. More importantly, the use of e-collars gives people a false sense of security and entitlement, making them think that their dog can run amok in the delicate ecosystem just because it's afraid of being hurt by the collar, but studies have shown that there is a significant risk of behavioral fallout from the use of these tools (meaning a dog can think that humans/livestock/wildlife they are close to caused the shock and then become aggressive towards those things.) The use of e-collars, along with being unnecessary and inhumane, is dangerous to the people, flora and fauna. Help lead the country away from these tools so we can join the rest of the world in treating our best friends better

Sincerely,
Alexa Guttenberg

From: [Ale R.C](#)
To: [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#)
Subject: Against Proposal Bill #677: DO NOT ban e-collars!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:11:04 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alejandra and I have a Belgian Malinois trained with a Sports Dog collar from Sit Means Sit. This tool, used properly (as it is by balanced trainers) allows me to have full off leash control!! The way we use this tool, is NEVER for punishment, it is an attention grabber. My dog, Mara, understands that the - totally safe and non painful - pulse means "Look at me" or "pay attention to me"; it has no negative connotation in her mind, but it is rather a neutral touch.

The way we train allows me to have an amazing, perfectly behaved dog that loves life and the freedom of being able to go hiking, playing frisbee, even going to a crowded brewery and never have to worry that i won't be able to get my dogs attention.

PLEASE DO NOT BAN E-Collars!! They are an incredibly helpful tool that has had nothing but POSITIVE effects on my and my dog's relationship.

Alejandra Rios
Trainer
Sit Means Sit Apex
(919) 612-9370

From: [Annie Calubaquib](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: AGAINST THE BANNING OF E-COLLARS
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:20:55 AM
Attachments: [IMG_8332.HEIC](#)
[IMG_1544.HEIC](#)
[IMG_8769.HEIC](#)
[IMG_8421.HEIC](#)
[IMG_8769.HEIC](#)
[IMG_5013.mov](#)

To whom it may concern,

Please reconsider the banning of ecollars. This tool has helped my pup Sawyer go from a severely people & dog aggressive dog, to a pup that can be around any distraction without being phased.

I went through several trainers who told me I needed to up my treat value by boiling chicken and throwing it in his face when we saw people and dogs. This didn't do anything as he was WAY too distracted by life.

I was skeptical at first by ecollars because I had seen trainers that have used shock collars incorrectly, but thanks to my professional trainer, I was able to find a better way to communicate with my pup.

When used correctly, his tool is only used as an attention getter, not a correction!

Unfortunately I do not have any videos of before training because I was too embarrassed, but if I did, you would see that he dragged me down, put holes in dogs and would ferociously pull towards any person that walked by. Now, he welcomes people into our home with kisses and happily plays with other dogs he meets. Without an ecollar, he would have NEVER gotten to this point.

Since switching my first pup to the ecollar, I now use the same tool for my happy go lucky Lab & Great Dane. I still use it as an attention getter and am now able to enjoy having my dogs off leash in any situation such as baseball games, days at the beach (paddle boarding!!), or hikes.

PLEASE reconsider the banning of ecollars so that more people can help save their dogs.

From: [Pam Francis-Tuss](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Bill #677 & #633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:35:30 AM

To whom it may concern:

As a certified dog trainer I urge you to pass these Bills. There is no use of Shock in dog training. These are the dogs that end up with positive force free trainers trying to correct all the bad associations and rebuild the trust between the dog and it's owner.

I urge you to go to :

www.shockfree.org

and read all the studies and hear from some of the best trainers and animal behaviorist.

Please PASS

Pam

Pam Francis-Tuss, CPDT-KA

Obedient Pups Professional Dog Training

916-6013688

www.Obedientpups.com

From: [Hannah Beeler](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill #677 E-Collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:21:13 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly opposed to Bill #677 to ban the use of E-Collars on dogs.

My dog, River, was trained at Sit Means Sit in Knoxville, TN nearly two years ago. Through the training we were provided an E-Collar and hands on instruction on how to use it. It has made the biggest difference in her behavior and confidence. Before training, River was dangerous. She has a fight response to fear. She was attacking people and other dogs and impossible to take on walks. Since beginning training, she has learned to trust me. She responds to my emotions and commands which I communicate through the E-Collar. The collar is not meant to be a punishing tool but a form of reinforcement and communication. She is not afraid of the collar. She embraces it because it helps her understand what I want from her.

I have personally felt the "shock" at each of the collar's levels. It is uncomfortable, but not painful. I love my dog and would not use it on her if I felt it was inhumane or physically/emotionally damaging.

I am incredibly proud of how River has grown since training at Sit Means Sit. The trainers there are very educated and helpful. I can see how the collar could be used to hurt animals so I would be in favor of limiting their sale, but not banning them altogether. I would suggest the bill be revised to ban "over the counter" sale of E-Collars and make them available only through certified trainers with required professional hands on training.

I have attached two pictures of my happy, healthy, well adjusted, confident dog.

In the first picture, you can see her wearing the E-Collar. River (red leash) is shown walking civilly on a leash with another dog she had not previously met. This introduction and peaceful walk would not have been possible prior to our training with the E-Collar.

In the second picture, River is seen sharing a bed with my other dog who had recently had knee surgery. Without the E-Collar, I could not have trusted River to be calm and gentle with her "sister".

Thank you for your time. I sincerely hope you will not ban the use of the tool that has helped me gain control of my previously fearful and reactive dog.

Hannah Beeler
Sit Means Sit Client
Knoxville, TN

From: [Denise Stringfellow](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Do Not Ban E-Collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:33:28 AM

Hello,

I am writing you as a canine professional with over 25 years experience to urge you to avoid banning the use of electronic collars in dog training and ownership.

The urge to ban these tools stems from a misunderstanding about how new technology and techniques have provided us wonderful ways to use these tools without trouble the dogs. Just as you might use extraordinarily low levels of electronic stimulus to repair muscles in physical therapy, so low that you can barely feel the stimulus, we now know that you can communicate with dogs at a great distance with a similar use of very low levels. These low levels act as a communication tool, not a punishment tool, to the dog.

It's hard to imagine if you have not used these new e-collars, because all of us know of the longstanding, high-shock level use of these collars that was prevalent for so long. I urge you to education yourself on the new technology and use of these tools, to see how much better, kinder, and easier they are to use. These tools allow people and dogs to coexist in a humane and positive manner, and allow dogs more freedom and understanding with their owners than ever before.

More dogs are given to shelters and abandoned for disobedience and lack of training than for any other cause. Restricting the humane use of any training tools unnecessarily limits the ability of dog loves and owners all over to care for their dogs, and increases the amount of unwanted dogs in our community.

Please do not vote ban these tools based on the misguided feelings of people who don't understand the modern world of e-collar training. They will cry that the tool is often misused. The misuse of any tool – collar, leash, food even – is not a reason to ban the tool. There are plenty of people who use the tool properly and humanely.

Please vote to allow these tools to remain part of a very wide, appropriate, positive and individualized training toolbox that can be applied to each dog and owner as the situation is needed.

Thank you.

Warmly,

- D

Denise Stringfellow, CPDT-KA

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From: [Katelyn Hogstrom](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Don't allow banning of E-collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:20:38 AM

Dear capitol of Hawaii, my name is Kate i would love if you could take a minute of you time to read why i believe you should not ban the use of the E-collar.

I work for a dog training facility that use e-collars, i believe that the e-collar could/can save a dogs life. We have worked with many different types of dogs with many different types of behavior problems ranging from extreme dog aggression towards people and dogs, High anxiety, low to no confidence and basic obedience . And if it weren't for the E-collar some of these dog may have been put down but are instead now have the chance to live a happy non stressful life for both the owners and dogs. We are able to help so many family's keep their furry family members. And I believe if you are to ban the use of the E-collar you will be taking and away a tool that can be very useful in keeping people and dogs safe.

Also i use an E-collar with my dog sam and before it she would jump on everyone she saw and would not walk on a leash properly. Now that I am able to use the E-collar with her she does not jump on people and is now able to walk off leash where ever i go.

I truly truly believe if you take the E-collar away you would be taking away a tool that will help people and dogs stay safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

- Kate

From: [David Wilbert](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); senkeohokalole@capital.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Don't pass Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:43:32 AM

To Whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter urging you not to pass Bill #677. Specifically, the ban of e-collars. The use of e-collars has nothing to do with the rest of the bill regarding tethering. I personally have had my dog's life saved using e-collar training. In 2009, I rescued a dog, Maddi, that was labeled as dog aggressive and anti-social. When she saw dogs, she completely freaked out and was extremely skittish with people. Typically, barking and backing away, but when approached, she would lunge. I was told by two positive only trainers that she would never tolerate dogs and that she should potentially be put down.

Then, I found an e-collar trainer that showed me how fast I could turn her around. I started training with an e-collar and completely changed her life. She was soon able to tolerate and accept dogs and became very friendly with people. She lives with two other dogs and loves to see people.

There are so many dogs that this bill would hurt in the long run. When used properly, e-collars can be one of the best tools for training.

Please, do not pass this bill.

Thank you.

David Wilbert

From: [Frank Bush](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:27:44 AM

Electronic Dog Collars. I am sending this letter as my confirmation on how much needed the, Good Electronic collars are needed. First of all let me explain, I am not a professional trainer, I am actively involved in and around a lot of dog people and trainers. My personal use has and is extremely beneficial as I am disabled. I use a wheelchair or scooter when outside. I have been using E Collars for about 20 yrs. now. The E Collar is best used when enhancing a known command. For me it is a blessing as not all owners control their dogs. Mine is primarily used to allow my dog to roam where available, while being

under as close to possible total control. I cannot use a long line as they get caught under the wheels, no matter how careful you are. If another dog approaches I am assured my dog will come to heel with the touch of a button. I would challenge many, many dog owners to have that safe of control. Voice or whistle whatever they choose. My dogs are my best friends for sure, together pretty much 24/7. Please make note that I trained my own dogs. I did go and seek confirmation that I have been doing it correctly. I would put my dog's demeanor up against any other of same type breed. By that I mean they are very loyal, dedicated, very social

dogs and very happy. They love to be among people and most dogs. I am not sure what it will take to help people realise that this tool is just that, a tool. For Electronic Collars to be abusive, It has two known reasons. 1: that it is a cheap unreliable version, 2: the handler has not or will not use proper methods. Please note that this can be the same for all tools. Many other tools IE: Halties, Flat collars etc: may be harmful by design. That is not a false, misleading fact it is the simple truth. People are now starting to see the true benefits of Electronic Collars. Only last few years that we have had so much Great free videos and full blown courses on the correct use of these fantastic

tools. I am not just talking about E collars either. I have just touched on my personal usage and needs. There are so many various ways to effectively use the E Collar, to save dogs lives is a big one. There are several well known professionals out there worldwide. That have offered to show step by step how they use these collars to save dogs otherwise doomed for Death Row. Dogs that have returned to society to become everything from Best Pets to Police dogs. To date I know of no one taking them up on that offer. There are many ways to train dogs but I have yet to see any method as effective and actually easy to use when used

appropriately. My personal view, Do not ban the tool. Banning anywhere to date has shown futile or even worse. IE: the UK dog bites increased dramatically when they banned the use of E Collars. Do you really want to help the animals. Start putting the onus on the owners. Make it a law or expected that (at Least) New owners complete a course on pet ownership and related costs and issues. That in my mind would be so much better for the Dogs and the owners. Dogs are family, but they are animals that need proper guidance and decent care. Allow That to Happen. So many Free videos of bad dogs gone Good. Complete with start to finish training using E Collars and what ever tool

deemed necessary for that dog. The results are amazing and often life saving. PLEASE Do Not Ban Good tools.

Frank Bush

Fjbush2013@gmail.com

From: [Jennifer Marenich](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:12:20 AM

I have been training dogs professionally for 18 years. Not every dog needs the use of an e-collar for training, but some do.

Think of the dog who escapes by bolting our a door as company comes and refuses to come when called for anything, including a treat. This dog is at high risk of becoming lost or hit by a car. I have successfully trained individuals such as this by humane, fair and correct use of an e-collar when all other methods failed.

So again, I urge you, please do not ban a tool that can potentially save the lives of dogs who might not otherwise be able to be trained.

Thank you,
Jennifer Marenich

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sit Means Sit](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#)
Subject: E collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:19:29 AM

I understand that bill #677 is being presented to ban E collars. Is there also a bill to ban drones? Robot vacuums? Your cell phone? The medical 10's machine you use for your muscles? Lasers? Anything we use, and in today's world any technology we use can be used appropriately or inappropriately. It is not the devices but the humans behind devices that we need to worry about.

I have been an e-collar trainer for 9 years. Can I train without an e-collar? Of course, but this very special technology has revolutionized dog training IF ONE USES IT CORRECTLY. I have watched "old school" trainers who "leash train" choke dogs and slap them with leashes and string them up so they will listen. They use that tool in my opinion in an evil harmful manner.

The principle methodology of e-collar training is to use the lowest level that a dog initially feels. That is determined by tapping each number and looking for the dog's response. The dog will either look like they're looking at a bug or shake their head. That is the level that they first feel and the level that you use with the dog. After training hundreds of dogs I can safely say that the reason the collars work is because you are consistently engaging the dog's sense of touch. When dogs interact with each other it is all head and neck that is the way they communicate. When done in a kind and gentle manner the collar operates like a little tap tap tap I'm talking to you to get your dog's attention and at that point you are then able to mark their commands in a happy and consistent manner. I tell my clients that no matter what kind of training you use it is all about slow and steady repetition and consistency so that your dog becomes a happy dog under control. It's a wonderful feeling to be able to take your dog for an off-leash walk in the woods because you have the confidence that your dog understands that the little tickly prickly means that you need to come back even when they can't hear you or they are so focused on a scent. Engaging their sense of touch gently gets their attention back on your nice little walk in the woods.

My other question is why are we discussing banning E collars and not banning assault rifles?

Thank you for your time and consideration to not pass this ridiculous bill. If you educate yourself clearly on what an E collar is you will understand that it is not a method of harm or torture for any dog. But as mentioned any tool can be used in a harmful way if the human who is behind it so chooses.

Sincerely Liz Peck

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Curtis Day](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#)
Subject: Ecollar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:51:00 AM

I am a E collar trainer. Without the use of the great tool we would not have been able to save so many dogs from being euthanized. I think if anything they should not be used without professional training to go with.

From: [Kati Peppe](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-Collar legislation
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:52:59 AM

First off, thank you for taking the time to read this (and all other) communication that I'm sure you will receive in regard to e-collar legislation.

E-collars may be the most misunderstood dog training tool on the market. People think they are torture devices, and although most of them so have the ability to deliver a very uncomfortable correction, they have so many more uses in dog training. Modern collars are used on low levels (most collars have levels 1-100) to give dogs clarity and encouragement! I have used them many times to teach fearful dogs NOT to fear humans. The e-collar can even be conditioned as a reward. Of course the ability to correct your dog when they are not near you, gives owners a safety net to fall back on if there dog makes a bad decision. This safety net keeps people and animals safer. It's a phenomenal way to disrupt prey drive or to deter dog on dog interactions that could lead to a dog fight. Without this tool, responsible and loving owners will suffer, and so will their dogs. People who want to abuse dogs will do so. They don't need a tool.

For owners and dogs everywhere, please don't ban the user of e-collars.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Kati Peppe

From: [Sammy Jo Rudy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: e-collar testimonial
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:43:26 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am very disappointed to hear that Proposal Bill #677 and #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars is up for vote in the state of Hawaii.

I am a long time dog owner who is passionate about training, advocacy, and doing everything possible to give the healthiest and happiest life to my dogs. I've certified in canine nutrition and taken a number of training courses and psychology courses so I may give them the best.

Before using a modern e-collar, no matter how much practice, I never 100% trusted my dogs' recall in a designated off leash area if we were to ever encounter a dangerous situation, whether that be wildlife, a cliffside, or another dog who might be aggressive. I worked with an incredible trainer to condition my oldest dog to an e-collar, and he has never been happier. The way this tool enhanced our communication and provided him with more predictability helped him turn to me for guidance, relax, and enjoy nature so much more happily. His body language became much more relaxed and confident with the use of this tool. He understood what I expected of him and training became less confusing. Dogs are tactile animals - they communicate with one another tactically, not verbally. This form of communication is therefore so much easier for my dogs to understand, and has made their world bigger. Knowing that they are 100% reliable means they get MORE freedom and inclusion in my life and also means that we do our part to better protect the sacred environment and wildlife areas. I will never have another dog who doesn't learn on this tool. My youngest dog is starting her training now!

There are so many misconceptions about e collars, and tools in general. These tools were designed to benefit our dogs. With improper use, ANY tool can cause harm. With proper use, they can all be of benefit. A flat collar on a leash can collapse a trachea if an owner yanks it one too many times, but we don't see anyone trying to ban flat collars? A harness if worn incorrectly can affect the gait and joint health of dogs, but no one is trying to ban those either.

Please, let's do more to better educate dog owners through legislation that requires rescues to do stricter home checks and offer training, that puts an end to backyard breeders and puppy mills who put dogs into the hands of bad people and perpetuate the need for rescue, for example. Let's NOT ban tools that not everyone understands, but are backed by a vast amount of science and experience and keep animals safe and alive.

My dog jumps with joy and runs to me with his tail wagging anytime I pick up his e collar because he knows it's time for a great adventure. Please don't take that away

from him.

--

Kind regards,

Sammy Jo Rudy
(619) 309-7924

"The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are." -Joseph Campbell

From: [Nightsong Of Six Stars](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar Testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:30:40 AM

Writing in response to the proposed bill banning electric collars.

I have a rescued hound dog who is very prey driven. Being a hunting breed, what he loves most is to be able to run and explore outside... but for a long time it was never possible. I spent upwards of an hour almost every day for two years trying to teach him to come when called using treat training, a long leash, games to make myself more exciting than the animals. He would come when called wonderfully in the backyard or indoors, but as soon as he got loose accidentally or was out of the fence, he would be gone. Hunting dogs will focus very intensely on what they're hunting, and it's just like when a person is so focused they can't hear someone calling their name. My dog focused so fast and so intensely on prey that he couldn't even hear me calling his name when an animal was nearby. We were terrified that he would be run over, because even with all the training and management we were doing, sometimes you can't prevent 100% of human error.

I reached out to a local trainer, who told me about the ecollar training she does when I told her my problem. I ordered an ecollar and started taking lessons. I learned how to find the very lowest setting on the collar that my dog could pick up on. His lowest level is a 6 out of 100. I tried the collar on myself and I can't feel anything at all until level 17. The increments are very tiny and specific to each dog. Next, we spent months keeping him on a long leash while I trained every day and taught him how to feel the signal from the collar and immediately come back to me. It finally saved his life one day.

Just out of pure human error, one day the backyard gate was left open a crack and the dog got loose. I was in the front yard when it happened and saw him go sailing past me, already chasing a squirrel towards the road. There is no way that any human could outrun my dog and catch him before he closed the distance to the main road full of speeding cars. I knew that he was already too focused on the squirrel for calling him to do any good. I stopped running, called him, dialed on the ecollar, and all of a sudden my dog stopped in his tracks, shook himself off, spun around and ran back to me, squirrel forgotten.

Now my dog and I are able to go for long hikes where he can run loose in the forest and enjoy being a dog, and I'm able to call him back to me every so often and keep him safe. The joy in his whole being when we go for runs and hikes is so, so worth it in spite of any judgement we might receive from people who don't understand what it's like to have a high risk dog.

Ecollars save lives. Please, do not deny dog owners the chance to offer better lives for their dogs.

From: [Ashlyn Lane](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: E-COLLARS FOR DOGS
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:56:17 AM

PLEASE SEE MESSAGE BELOW REGARDING E-COLLARS. These are wonderful tools that have allowed my dog and so many others incredible freedom that they would not be able to have otherwise!

Ashlyn Lane

Customer Care Manager | Nulo Pet Food
512.476.6856 Ext. 130
ashlyn.lane@nulo.com

#HealthierTogether

[nulo.com](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

From: Ashlyn Lane

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:11 AM

To: senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov; senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov;
senkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov; sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov;
senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov; senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: E-COLLARS FOR DOGS

Dear Senator,

I am urging you to NOT ban the use of e-collars in Hawaii. E-collars are absolutely not an inherently abusive tool and offer incredible, gentle applications to help a handler communicate with their dog effectively, without pain.

Please take my story into consideration: my rescue dog was adopted from a shelter a 2 years old and had had six homes before I took her home with me. She was hyperactive, had no manners, and refused to listen. We tried positive-only, force-free training, and it did not work. For six months, I struggled with a dog that did not want to do anything except what SHE wanted. I then decided to send her to a well-known board-and-train program in our area to introduce e-collar training. Four weeks later, I picked up an even happier dog that would always come when called, always paid attention to me, and could go out in public without any issues. Today, we have even been able to use the e-collar to teach her how to interact with dogs appropriately and kindly – she was previously aggressive with other dogs. The e-collar has offered my dog more freedom than any other method of training, and I am imploring you to allow this tool to continue to be used.

Military working dogs, police dogs, TSA K9s, and many other working dogs are trained with e-collars – there is simply no other way to train a dog at such a high level to perform reliably and energetically. The e-collar is not abusive or painful to the dog – it is a motivator and a communication tool.

PLEASE, take this into consideration. Abuse happens every day in so many other ways – the e-collar is not your culprit here.

I appreciate your time.

Ashlyn Lane

Customer Care Manager | Nulo Pet Food
512.476.6856 Ext. 130
ashlyn.lane@nulo.com

#HealthierTogether

nulo.com | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

From: [Joey Mack](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: FW: Proposal Bill #677 Testimony of Experience with E-collars for Dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:22:14 AM

Senators

The banning of e-collars would be a tragedy and an infringement on personal freedom. When used correctly, they are an amazing training tool. To be able to control your dog off leash and give commands without the use of the stim function (ie what people refer to as shocking or zapping them), you are able to use a tone or a vibration of the collar to get a recall (come) or some variation of trained command. The reason I use the word stim is because when done correctly and/or with no ill intent, an e-collar does not function in any form of abuse or real physical harm to the animals.

To ban the use of an effective tool is not only wrong but an infringement on my rights for personal property, any tool or item can be used maliciously, if you are looking to prevent the harm of animals, specifically pets, then someone could simply find another tool. There is nothing stopping a person from taking a house hold item and using it on their dog to inflict harm.

Please vote no on SB NO 677 or amend to remove the portion pertaining to E-collars.

Thank you and God Bless

From: [Sit Means Sit South Orange county](#)
To: [JDCtestimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Remote Collar Usage for Dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:19:28 AM

Testimony from Sit Means Sit South OC client!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jentry Barton** <coachjentry@scgolfacademy.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 7, 2020 at 11:11 AM
Subject: Remote Collar Usage for Dogs
To: <JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: <sitmeanssit.socal@gmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to write on behalf of the Sit Means Sit Organization in regards to the use of remote collars in dog training.

I have a 10 month old Lab that was trained in a 20 day program with Sit Mean Sit, and the use of the collar was able to accelerate his learning past what I ever could have imagined.

The idea of being able to 'tap my dog on the shoulder' with the collar, and keep his focus, allows him to fully learn the commands being taught with little to no frustration from him, or myself.

It is amazing the connection this has increased between him and myself. By nature dogs are people pleasers, so when they know they are doing what we ask, it increases their happiness tenfold. He has also had more freedom to do what he wants, and come with me whenever he can due to the collar security. The remote collar specifically keeps him on track to behave in public places, but it rarely even pushed. The training aid is powerful enough to allow learning to truly stick!

I have tested the collar on myself to be sure the buzzing is more of a reminder than pain, and it absolutely is. Even on the higher settings, there is nothing that is painful, it just gets your attention.

I am so grateful for Sit Means Sit, and their use of the remote collar. I feel like I am able to continue the training in my own home, and this tool makes that possible.

Thank you,

Jentry Barton

[South County Golf Academy](#)
Director of Golf Fitness and Mental Game

--



Like us out on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date with training and group classes!

Also check us out on [YouTube](#) for more training videos!

Sit Means Sit Dog Training
(949) 373-5357
SitMeansSit.Com

From: [Matthew Robeson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Hawaii Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:05:21 AM

Hi,

I am writing to you to detail my experience with ecollars, in relation to the proposed ban and my objection to banning these tools.

I started using ecollars with my own dog. When I adopted her, she was fine with other dogs, but due to being rushed by off leash dogs in the park near my house, she became INTENSELY leash reactive. We tried everything from harnesses to "gentle" leaders to slip leashes to filet mignon and nothing worked until we started learning how to use the ecollar. The ecollar took her from a dog who literally choked herself out on a slip leash from such intense reactivity to an AKC Canine Good Citizen who not only doesn't bat an eyelash around other reactive dogs, but actually helps me train reactive dogs. She is also fully off leash trained and we recall to me anytime I call her, all thanks to ecollar training.

In addition to her, I have helped train and rehab MULTIPLE dogs that were slated to be put down as "aggressive" when in reality, they were they just needed help learning how to slow down and be taught what was appropriate and what was not. Ecollars have helped me save dogs in shelters, save dogs from going to shelters and not to mention the heartbreak of a family either turning their dog in to a shelter or putting them down.

Ecollars are fantastic tools and I strongly urge you to reconsider this ban. The consequences of an ecollar ban will be struggling families, more dogs put down and more dogs being turned into shelters.

Thank you for time and consideration in this matter.

Thanks,
Matthew Robeson

From: [Logan Mardhani-Bayne](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: HB 633 and SB 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:21:53 AM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to provide input on the proposed bill related to the ban on sale and use of electronic dog collars.

I have been active in dog rescue and training for several years. Used appropriately, electronic collars ("e-collars") are a valuable and humane training tool. They allow handlers to train dogs reliably off-leash, which is invaluable for safety as well as wildlife and livestock protection - many dogs who could not be reliably controlled off-leash without e-collars can be close-to-100% reliable with the use of e-collars. As used in modern training, the collars are used primarily to deliver a low-level signal to the dog to communicate commands at a distance and to communicate through distractions. E-collars are used in conjunction with reward-based training - we communicate a command with a low-level signal, and reward the dog for completion.

Because e-collars allow handlers to communicate clearly and directly with their dogs, they are also an invaluable tool in rehabilitating traumatized and anxious dogs who are easily overwhelmed by other training methods, and who in many cases do not respond to positive reinforcement (e.g. because they are too fearful to accept food rewards). E-collars are also an important tool for rehabilitation of reactive or aggressive dogs. **If trainers and owners do not have access to appropriate tools, many of these dogs will simply be euthanized.**

E-collars are mis-labeled as shock collars - they deliver either a vibrate, tone, or pulse similar to a TENS machine.

Scientific research has shown these tools to be effective and less stressful than alternatives.

For instance, see the following from <https://tylermuto.com/2017/11/24/is-negative-punishment-really-more-positive/>:

"if we look to the scientific literature, there is mounting evidence that this assumption is false. To begin, consider the work of Schalke, Salgirli, Bohm, and Harbarth (2008). In a pair of parallel studies, the researchers tested the cortisol stress levels, as well as the overall effectiveness, of three different consequences: (1) the Prong Collar; (2) the Electronic Collar; and (3) a Quitting Signal on 42 police dogs.

The "Quitting Signal" is a verbal cue that tells the dog that its behavior will not be rewarded (negative punishment). The dogs were trained with the Quitting Signal ahead of time using food and toys for a period of 4 months¹.

In this study, the dogs were asked to heel, and then a "helper" appeared on the field attempting to provoke the dog. If the dog made a mistake (failed to heel), the appropriate correction was administered, either a prong collar correction, electronic collar correction, or

they were given the quitting signal (non-reward). The researchers then tested the level of stress each correction produced in the dog.

The researchers found that the quitting signal produced the highest levels of stress (measured by cortisol), and the electronic collar produced the lowest"

I would urge you to consult the International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP), the largest association of professional dog trainers and handlers, on this topic.

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

Please also consult the Western Canada Association of Dog Training Standards:

<https://www.dogtrainingstandards.ca/electric-collars.html>

Regards,

Logan Mardhani-Bayne

From: [Corey Davis](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Cc: [Foyt Ralston](#)
Subject: Important information about HB633 and SB677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:30:21 AM

Hello

My name is John Jenkins and I am the President of the American Houndsmen Federation. It has come to my attention that the great state of Hawaii is considering banning the use and sale of e-Collars in there state. As someone who works extensively with dogs primarily hunting and working dogs I believe this legislation would have grave impact for the hunters and outdoors man in the state of Hawaii. Hunting is a heritage with deep roots in Hawaii ,mainly with wild boar, and the AHF believes this law would make the hunters and their hounds less safe. The goal of e-Collars is not to harm the animal with what opponents would call "electric shock" but to communicate to the animal that you want them to stop or return to you. Most e-collars produced today are equipped with tone (sometimes more than one tone), vibrate and stimulation. I have personally held the collars while being stimulated and on the low-end is unnoticeable and on the high end feels like a 9v battery on the tongue. The goal of e-Collars are to obtain the dogs attention so he can respond to your demand and when a dog is traveling at a high rate of speed through the woods in pursuit of game it might no hear a tone or feel a vibrating collar. Furthermore if you have a house dog pursuing a cat to a busy road the owner of that dog should be able to use the best technology to save his or her animal from such demise. I appreciate you reading this and would like for you to reconsider HB633 and SB677.

Thanks
John C Jenkins IV

American Houndsmen Federation
Board Of Directors
904-692-1571
americanhoundsmenfederation.org

From: vizkid1@cox.net
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: judicious use of e collars is appropriate
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:14:23 AM

Positive training methods are very useful and should be used whenever possible. However, there are times and situations where E collars are very useful. Even renown animal behaviorist Temple Grandin views negative training methods (not punishment) vital in some situations. Especially in dogs, chasing other animals, for example is seldom dealt with successfully in any way other than an E collar.

Another point, any training can be cruel in the hands of certain people. Leashes, chains, collars, etc can all be misused.

Please accept my email as a vote against regulation in the use of e collars.

Thanks

Kita Morris

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Meghan O'Donnell <meo2088@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:19 AM
To: JDCTestimony; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; Sen. Karl Rhoads; Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Sen. Kurt Fevella; Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole; Sen. Mike Gabbard
Subject: Opposition to E-Collar Ban
Attachments: Video_1.MOV; Video.mov

To whom it may concern,

Meet Griffin! A 5 year old, spunky, wirehaired pointer. I rescued my handsome guy when he was a year old from an abusive situation and immediately enrolled him in the 21 Day Board and Train program with Sit Means Sit Dog Training. He was dog aggressive and too hyper for me to control on my own - I knew if I didn't get help fast we would be in a tough position. The E-Collar allows my boy to be his happiest, best self around other pups and on his own. If I'm ever in a situation where I need his focus on me, the E-Collar comes to our rescue. This tool is NOT a shock collar and not harmful to my pup or any other by any means. When trained correctly, this collar instills confidence in dogs that never existed before. Griffin is now excited to go to work each day around other dogs and always looks to me for guidance on everything. He genuinely gets excited when he hears his collar turn on each morning and runs full speed ahead to my side. If it wasn't for this tool and the training behind it Griffin would have been put down, there isn't a single doubt in my mind. We both live for the beach and without the E-Collar, off-leash adventures would never be possible. He lives his best life running around playing, but he also lives an even better life having a job and doing everything to please those around him. So please, before you finalize your votes, consider pups like Griffin. Those who deserve a second chance on life, I don't know what I'd do without my best friend in my life and I will be forever in debt to Sit Means Sit for everything they have done for us.

From: [Phillip Mahoney](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Oppose Proposed Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:26:20 AM

Hello,

I am writing to oppose Bill #677 banning the use and sale of e-collars in Hawaii.

As a professional dog trainer in the state of Colorado I have personally trained hundreds of dogs using e-collars over the last 6 years in business. Many dogs have been giving a higher quality of life due to the control and safety proper e-collar training can provide. Many dogs have been on the brink of being re-homed or euthanized have had a new start in life with their families.

I urge you to oppose Bill #677

Phillip Mahoney

From: [Robert Falkenberg](#)
To: [JDCTestimony; senihara@capital.hawaii.gov; Sen. Karl Rhoads; ssenkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Kurt Fevella; senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:27:59 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I was recently made aware of the proposal to ban the use and sale of e-collars in the State of Hawaii.

Although I do believe any pet-related technology can be abused, I do not believe a blanket approach to banning all sales and use is necessary. I'd like to share my personal testimony with you.

I have a 4-year-old AKC registered black Labrador retriever (Cash), who weighs nearly 100 lbs. Cash is well bred and comes from a line of championship hunting dogs. He is not neutered as he is of great breeding quality. I have selectively used an E-collar with him over the last two years.

Cash is treated very well, has plenty of exercise, and is an inside/outside dog. Our whole family loves him and our kids play with him, climb all over him, and keep him very happy. He is a trained bird-hunting dog as well. I have been teaching him basic commands and etiquette since he was 10 weeks old. We have spent hours and hours going over commands.

Cash ALSO has an extremely free spirit and is incredibly strong-willed, as well as incredibly physically strong.

Without the E-collar, Cash will not easily obey any leash commands. He will constantly pull on the leash to the point where I cannot even walk him. Without the E-collar, Cash does not follow basic commands indoors, which causes issues when the weather is really bad and we cannot leave him outside. He also jumps on our children and will jump on strangers.

However, WITH the E-collar (again, the use is extremely limited), Cash will walk with a loose leash. He will obey every single command I make. He lies down when told, and will not jump on people or the furniture. All I have to do is put the E-collar on him and activate it once or twice and he immediately changes his behavior. It's an instant change.

This change allows him to be an inside dog who gets walked and trained and played with at all times. I've tried other techniques, rewards, voice only commands, etc. He simply will not respond to them due to his strong will and physical dominance.

I usually take the collar off and simply hold the remote and let him see it. He will still obey. However, if I don't use the collar for a week, he will start to disobey and break commands. But if I put it on for one day and activate it once, he goes IMMEDIATELY back to being very well behaved.

Simply put, Cash is one of many extremely strong willed, physical powerful dogs that WILL NOT respond only to verbal commands. Dogs such as Cash will not respect the owner without some sort of reinforcement, such as an E-collar.

The E-collar actually allows Cash to be more involved with our family, in our home, to go on walks, and to spend more quality time together. Nothing else has worked for us. E-Collars are absolutely necessary for dogs like Cash.

I hope you take my testimony and others like it to vote AGAINST the ban on the sale and use of E-collars.

Thank you,

RJF

--

Robert J. Falkenberg
Attorney at Law, P.L.L.C.
Phone: (830) 438-0339
Facsimile: (830) 299-3942

PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER

160 Creekside Park Drive, Suite 203
Spring Branch, Texas 78070

Email: Robert.falkenberg@gmail.com

NOTICE

The information contained in this communication is a transmission from Robert J. Falkenberg, Attorney at Law, PLLC, and is information protected by the attorney/client and/or attorney/work product privilege. It, along with any attachments hereto, is also covered by the Electronic communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Sections 2510-2512. The Texas Bar Disciplinary Rules requires all Texas lawyers to notify all recipients of e-mail that: (1) e-mail communications are not a secure method of communication; (2) any e-mail that is sent to you or by you may be copied and held by various computers through which it passes as it goes from sender to recipient; (3) a person not participating in our communication may intercept our communications by improperly gaining access your computer or even some computer not connected to either of us through which the e-mail passes.

END OF NOTICE

From: [Ren Marshall](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Please don't ban e-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:54:55 AM

Hi,

I just want to share how important e-collars have been in my life. They have saved my dogs life as they have helped me with behavioral issues I would have had to euthanize my dog for. Ecollars can help to keep dogs out of shelters and help with behavioral issues that can allow dogs to stay in their homes and not be rehomed or put down.

E-collars help to keep the public safe as they can be used to train dogs to come back to their owners. Hawaii has a lot of livestock as well and dogs off leash without ecollars that need them are more dangerous for livestock and the public. please don't take this decision lightly.

Thank you!

Lauren Marshall
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hannah Swope](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Pro e-collar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:33:41 AM

To whom it may concern,

The photos attached are just 2 of many dogs that have off leash freedom and clear cut communication between dog and handler.

Hundreds of thousands of dogs are trained with electronic collars, ranging from advanced Obedience (IPO, PSA), service dog, and down the line to family pet.

When utilized appropriately, remote collars are one the best and most effective way to communicate with the average pet.

The black lab shown in the photo, at the time was a 6mo service dog in training, who did the majority of his work off lead. How were we able to teach a pup to do advanced training at such a young age? Boundaries. He was on an electronic collar.

That pup is now placed with his handler, and serves her currently.

The beauceron (10mo) is also an off leash dog. Trained in a similar fashion, this young dog enjoys off leash activities and training, due to the clear cut communication device, the mini educator.

This dog also is being trained to compete in high level Obedience, and having a device that is so concise makes the training more enjoyable for the dog as well as the owner.

Taking away a valuable tool like this will lead to horrendous consequences, including death to more wildlife, more strays, more bites, and ultimately the death of more dogs.

The problem isnt the tool. It's the lack of education.
Please consider this on your vote today.

Hannah S
K9 Kompliance

From: [Joey Mack](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #633 Testimony of Experience with E-collars for Dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:15:26 AM

Senators

The banning of e-collars would be a tragedy and an infringement on personal freedom. When used correctly, they are an amazing training tool. To be able to control your dog off leash and give commands without the use of the stim function(ie what people refer to as shocking or zapping them), you are able to use a tone or a vibration of the collar to get a recall(come) or some variation of trained command. The reason I use the word stim is because when done correctly and/or with no ill intent, an e-collar does not function in any form of abuse or real physical harm to the animals.

To ban the use of an effective tool is not only wrong but an infringement on my rights for personal property, any tool or item can be used maliciously, if you are looking to prevent the harm of animals, specifically pets, then someone could simply find another tool. There is nothing stopping a person from taking a house hold item and using it on their dog to inflict harm.

Please vote no on HB NO 633 or amend to remove the portion pertaining to E-collars.

Thank you and God Bless

From: [Herrejon Eric](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 & #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:35:03 AM

Hi my name is Eric Herrejon and this is my response to the proposal Bills #677 and #633.

I believe that the misuse of dog training equipment definitely puts a negative impact on our dogs. But not all of us misuse them! I am a dog trainer with Off Leash K9 training and I am extremely proud of what I do for my community. I have helped countless families and their dogs become obedient and well mannered with the utilization of the e-collar! I have helped aggressive and reactive rescues turn their lives around and what has that accomplished? It has accomplished the safety and well being of these dogs. I'm talking about the kind of dogs that would be deemed dangerous and "untrainable" to most. These are the dogs that get euthanized. These are the dogs that I help! And it's done with all balanced e-collar training! What sets me apart from bad parents/dog trainers is that I received extensive, professional training from a mentor who was highly educated and who had been trained by the founder and owner of this dog training franchise called Off Leash K9 Training. His name is Nick White who is a former Marine and Security for the White House, and who is now a talk show judge on A&E's America's Top Dog. I believe Nick White has revolutionized the e-collar training and he has taught me and thousands of others really well on the proper uses of the e-collar as a training tool. If you need proof of our success with this tool go on YouTube and search our thousands of Before and After stories when you type in "Off Leash K9 Training". These videos are living proof that we know how to utilize an E-collar correctly and humanely.

I believe this Bill is meant for the irresponsible dog parents/trainers out there and unfortunately there are too many. I believe that all these people need is proper instruction and education on Ecollars. These people are just buying them witho it knowing how to utilize them and that is the reason dogs are being hurt. It is always the fault of the people. You can misuse a leash, a collar, an e-collar but that doesn't mean they should be banned. What should be heavily monitored are people backgrounds and people should only be able to buy Ecollars form dog training professionals like myself but after they receive the proper knowledge, instruction, and teainjng. If you pass this Bill it will deeply effect the dog training industry and it will negatively impact the lives of dogs. Dogs need balanced training and the proper use of an E-collar has been nothing but a positive experience for me and my dog clients! This bill could ripple effect to other states and put thousands of people out of jobs.

Eric Herrejon
fb_eric58h@hotmail.com
707-671-6885

From: [Ginger Parr](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 & #633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars in the state of Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:31:18 AM

Good Morning,

I felt compelled to reach out when I learned of this proposal because the use of an e-collar in the training of my two dogs has dramatically improved our quality of life, dogs included. We have been residents of Hawaii for the past 10 years, our dog Beatrice is a rescue from the west side of Oahu who came to us with extreme people reactivity that was diminishing our ability to socialize her, bring her on walks for exercise and even hindering our ability to bring people into our home without locking her up for fear she would hurt herself or others. I spent so much time each week planning out routes to take her so avoid all people and animals in an attempt to keep her mentally and physically stimulated. I do not believe in giving up on dogs and so this was just my life. Until I reached out to a trainer here on island, Hawaii Dog Training Services. Contacting and working with Deanna has completely changed my life through the use of E-Collar training. It improved the quality of my dogs' lives and given us an opportunity to turn Beatrice from a fearful and reactive (read aggressive) dog to a model citizen who is comfortable in her environment, able to take hikes and greet people who enter our home. The e-collar with proper use enabled me to form a communication with my dogs who were so spun up in their reactive state that I could not reach them before. This training tool, in addition to prong collars, keeps animals out of shelters or on the table to be put down. Please consider diligent and caring pet owners such as myself who look to training tools like the e-collar, kenneling, and prong collars to improve communication between ourselves and the dogs we love so much as well as keep otherwise "out of control" or "untrainable" dogs out of shelters. Thank you for your time and I hope you will use the testimony I have provided here to weigh your decision on this proposal.

Very Respectfully,
Ginger Reyes

From: [Deby Spangler](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal bill #677 & #633 to ban the use and sale of electronic collars in Hawaii.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:28:47 AM

Good morning,

Electronic collars are important for off leash control to protect the public as well as livestock and Hawaii's beautiful wildlife. Hawaii has incredible green spaces and dog friendly beaches, and it also is the home to many protected seabird and sea turtles.

To give you an example of how an electronic collar prevented a child injury and a probable death sentence for my dog. Several years ago I had my Great Dane at a DOG PARK, also there that day was a young girl who was wearing her hair in a pony tail. The girl was flipping her pony tail around and it caught the attention of my 160 pound Great Dane. I saw him going to grab her pony tail, the verbal command of no did not draw his attention from the girl but the 1 second "shock" did and he abandoned his quest to grab the girl by her hair.

E-collar training saves lives - lives of dogs who need training to stay out of shelters, as well as the animals and public living around dogs. Don't limit responsible owners by limiting the tools that they can use for training. Banning electronic collars will negatively affect the dogs and families who benefit and live better lives together with the help of e-collar training!

Thank you,

Deby Spangler

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jee Hae Choe](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 & 633 to ban the use and sale of E-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:24:51 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Talofa! My name is Jee Hae Choe (Jee for short), and I am a Samoan native residing in Brevard County, FL. I would love to share with you my experiences and feedback concerning the Proposed Bills in question that are looking to ban the sale and use of electronic collars.

I own and run Miss Jee's Dog Academy in Brevard County, FL - we offer dog training services that range from basic puppy raising to basic obedience and advanced off-leash training. During my time as a dog foster and a professional dog trainer, I've been able to work with a little over 300 dogs and owners - many of which were faced with serious behavioral challenges like aggression and anxiety. Many dog owners I've worked with have felt desperate, hopeless, and were at their wits' end, contemplating re-homing, surrendering to a rescue/shelter, or euthanizing their dog(s).

The e-collar is a valuable communication tool that helps owners provide clarity for their dogs in varying situations that warrant guidance. It provides them the ability to clearly communicate with their dogs, while improving quality of life for them, their dogs, and their entire families. We've helped families restore peace and order in their homes, where their dogs were formerly running amock and terrorizing their family members. We've helped families with fighting dogs heal and rebuild trust. We've helped extremely aggressive dogs learn to trust and rely on us to be their leaders and advocates. All these were made possible with the *help* of this training tool.

Owners are able to keep their dogs because of the e-collar and the training we provide. Dogs and humans are living their best lives off-leash hiking, road tripping, kayaking and boating - all because they feel confident and empowered that they have the tools they need to communicate with their dogs effectively.

Our entire country was founded on Freedom. We reserve and retain the freedom and right to choose what training style and tools we want to apply.

In this case, ladies and gents, Blame the Fool for Not Knowing How to Use the Tool. A hammer can be a deadly weapon, but no one is going to ban hammers, screwdrivers, knives, or even chainsaws now are they?

Irresponsible/Ignorant dog owners, dog fighting rings, and backyard breeders are the real culprits of the pet world, not a tool that has saved thousands and thousands of human and dog lives.

Proposing to ban this effective training tool will affect the quality of life of thousands (if not millions) of dogs and owners in the State of Hawaii, let alone their ability to control their dog at the dog beach, dog parks, and around all the local and endangered wildlife - we've seen our fair share of dogs dragging their owners on their faces going after a squirrel or a bird.

Thank you for reading this, Fa'afetai and Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,
Jee Hae Choe
Owner/Lead Trainer
Miss Jee's Dog Academy LLC
www.SpaceCoastDogTraining.com
Work Cell: (321) 754-0663

From: [Michelle Sanecki](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 and #633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:50:21 AM

I am writing to express my concern on the banning of ecollars. I think this is a huge mistake and only caters to the extreme side of positive only dog training. England has imposed this ban and has seen a dramatic increase in attacks and bites to livestock, and from a training perspective it doesn't make sense to use positive only.

I've been training competitively in dog sports for over 20 years. Training dogs has several steps. The first is introducing the behavior. Most trainers are positive only on this first step. What most positive only trainers aren't telling people is through this multistep process the dog has to be given a choice. A choice to choose right or wrong. Think about if you refused to do something your parents told you to do. Did they pat you on the back and give you a cookie? Most likely you got a correction, grounded, sent to your room, etc. A properly conditioned ecollar can be awesome as a correction for not coming when called. It immediately tells the dog it chose wrong and they then proceed to make the correct one. It allows the dogs more freedom. I used one on my last dog and was amazed at how great it is at communicating with our dogs. Don't let people fool you. Most people are not shocking the crap out of their dog. We love too. Instead we use a low level stimulation. I had it on my neck at 40 and while uncomfortable and got my attention i was fine. However the working level for Upgrayedd was a ten and I can't even feel that.

Tools should not be banned. When used properly ecollars and the communication they provide is crucial to protect people, livestock, and the animal itself. Let me know if you have any questions.

Michelle North
3073430814

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Chelsey Hennessee](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:04:47 AM

To whom it may concern,

I have recently been made aware of the proposal of bill #677 which would ban the sale and use of e-collars in the state of Hawaii and am writing to you in response to this.

My name is Chelsey Hennessee and although I live in Tennessee, the effects of this Bill could cause ripple effects through our great country and is cause for concern. My dog and I are search and rescue volunteers. My dog is trained in mantrailing and human remains detection. The use of the e-collar in our training has been instrumental in my dog being able to perform her job tasks not just effectively but also safely. When we are called to search an area for cadaver, my dog is searching for the scent of human remains. She is focused on the search for that scent which means I have to be an advocate for her safety. If she has branched off too far from my vision she could easily walk into a road while searching for her scent and never realize that she is in harms way. Dogs trained for any type of scent work get extremely focused on their job and do a good job of blocking everything else out which can be dangerous at times. The e-collar has allowed me to know that my dog will be safe. It has given me piece of mind on searches where her safety is at risk. I know with the e-collar that I can sound the tone and my dog will come no matter what. Dogs aren't perfect and although she is immaculately trained, there is always room for error. That error could be the difference in my dog walking into vertical coal mine on a search or her coming back to me so I can ensure her safety.

Ecollars should be regulated and should require proper training techniques however when used appropriately they can make all the difference. Each of my dogs is trained with an e-collar and literally jump up and down with excitement when I bring out the ecollars because they know they're getting fun, off leash time and/or are working.

I cannot imagine if this legislation passed and other states followed suit how this would impact our ability to help loved ones be found for families that have no answers. I applaud you for wanting to take the steps to ensure the wellbeing of our animals is a priority however I implore you to do your due diligence in researching both sides of the spectrum here. My dog is trained to help and the e-collar helps her, help others. Without the e-collar I would never feel comfortable enough to allow her to search an area for human remains off leash. My dogs safety has and always will be my top priority and without an e-collar her safety cannot be guaranteed. I urge you to not let this legislation go through !

Thank you for your time and consideration.

K-9 Daisy and I thank you!

A Place to Belong

aplacetobelong@gmail.com

From: [Danee Day](#)
To: [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill 677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:43:46 AM

E collars have changed our life so much. We rescued a dog who had already been through 2 owners. He was too much for anyone to handle. Since introducing the e collar he very obedient and can be in public off leash if we want.

Our other dog was surrendered from someone else because she would knock children down and pull on their clothing. She also ate multiple walls in the house she lived in. She as well has had a large turn around since introducing the e-collar. This last Halloween my 2 year old walked her down the mall without her pulling on the leash. She is now one of the happiest most obedient dogs I have ever owned.

Please do not ban e collars. Many dogs would not have the great life they have now without them. Many dogs would continually be moved from home to home or live in a shelter because there is no help for them.

From: [Alicia Wells](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposed Bills #677 & #633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:23:41 AM

Dear Senator,

I am reaching out to you in response to the vote being taken today on Proposal Bills #677 & #633.

These tools do so much more good than they do bad. When I first got my dog she was 18 months old and had had very little training in her previous homes. She was and still is very energetic so allowing her to run loose on our walks around our farm is a wonderful way to help keep her happy. The use of an e-collar allows me to be more secure when I let her do this. She has high levels of training but sometimes requires just a little reminder that she need to listen to me. She gets so excited when I get her e-collar out because she knows that means she gets ti go explore without having me interfering with her. I rarely actually use the collar but when it is needed, it makes such a huge difference in keeping her attention on me and not chasing wildlife.

Instead of working to ban tools that can be used to harm animals, let's focus on going after the people that acrually harm animals.. the people who can hurt a dog with a plain flat collar and leash.

The tools are not inherently bad, they have been used to rehabilitate many dogs into better companions. Tools are only as abusive as the people using them and I have found most people who use e-collars use them because they love thier dogs and want them to be safe and happy.

Thank you for your time for listening to a concerned dog owner.

Alicia Wells

From: [Ale R.C](#)
To: [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [JDC Testimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#)
Subject: Re: Against Proposal Bill #677: DO NOT ban e-collars!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:17:26 AM
Attachments: [Video.MOV](#)

Following up on my testimony, here is a video of me and my dog Mara OFF LEASH in downtown Raleigh. Something that would only be possible BECAUSE OF her training with e-collar!

Alejandra Rios
Trainer
Sit Means Sit Apex
(919) 612-9370

> On Feb 7, 2020, at 2:10 PM, Ale R.C <alexa.design87@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> To whom it may concern,
>
> My name is Alejandra and I have a Belgian Malinois trained with a Sports Dog collar from Sit Means Sit. This tool, used properly (as it is by balanced trainers) allows me to have full off leash control!! The way we use this tool, is NEVER for punishment, it is an attention grabber. My dog, Mara, understands that the - totally safe and non painful - pulse means "Look at me" or "pay attention to me"; it has no negative connotation in her mind, but it is rather a neutral touch.
>
> The way we train allows me to have an amazing, perfectly behaved dog that loves life and the freedom of being able to go hiking, playing frisbee, even going to a crowded brewery and never have to worry that i won't be able to get my dogs attention.
>
> PLEASE DO NOT BAN E-Collars!! They are an incredibly helpful tool that has had nothing but POSITIVE effects on my and my dog's relationship.
>
>
> Alejandra Rios
> Trainer
> Sit Means Sit Apex
> (919) 612-9370

From: [Sit Means Sit Annapolis](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Regarding Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:32:25 AM

Hello,

My name is Shantelle. I am writing to tell you about my experiences with the e-collar and why you should consider not banning it. An e-collar is an effective tool in which many of clients and our personal dogs use and rely on for their training. Ecollars can be used in a gentle and effective manner when used correctly. Professionally, I have trained over 100 dogs in which no other dog tool would suffice. If an e-collar were not an option for these dogs, the dogs would have been forced to be euthanized. Because of our e-collar training, these dogs now belong to loving homes and are safe to enter and acclimate outside of their homes.

By limiting trainers, dog owners, rescues, humane societies, SPCA and police K9's to other tools of training, you are withholding so much potential for these dogs. Specifically, lets talk about Police k9's. If they are to charge and attack a criminal off-leash, the easiest and most effective way to control that dog off it's leash is with the proper use of an e-collar. Let's say that the e-collar has been banned and the police are only able to rely on their voice. A k9 could easily become distracted and attack an innocent person next to the criminal or who may be in the path of the criminal activity.

Ecollars are a HUGE safety feature. We can keep dogs from running in the road, running away, recall away from an aggressive dog, stop dog fights, and allow dogs to interact with humans and children safely. In my professional opinion, if you ban e-collars, theres a certainty that you will only be

- 1) Killing innocent animals
- 2) Denying animal rights to get proper training
- 3) Denying human rights in which they can responsibly keep a dog
- 4) Putting many trainers and their families at risk because of limited access of tools
- 5) Rescues will be forced to euthanize as other methods have not worked
- 6) Causing hardships to many owners who struggle with a difficult dog
- 7) If a dog isnt euthanized because of the lack of resources to train them, the shelters will be overloaded with animals that wont be deemed appropriate to enter the public

I ask that you please reconsider Bill #677.

Shantelle Nease

From: [Jentry Barton](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: sitmeanssit.socal@gmail.com
Subject: Remote Collar Usage for Dogs
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:11:24 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to write on behalf of the Sit Means Sit Organization in regards to the use of remote collars in dog training.

I have a 10 month old Lab that was trained in a 20 day program with Sit Mean Sit, and the use of the collar was able to accelerate his learning past what I ever could have imagined.

The idea of being able to 'tap my dog on the shoulder' with the collar, and keep his focus, allows him to fully learn the commands being taught with little to no frustration from him, or myself.

It is amazing the connection this has increased between him and myself. By nature dogs are people pleasers, so when they know they are doing what we ask, it increases their happiness tenfold. He has also had more freedom to do what he wants, and come with me whenever he can due to the collar security. The remote collar specifically keeps him on track to behave in public places, but it rarely even pushed. The training aid is powerful enough to allow learning to truly stick!

I have tested the collar on myself to be sure the buzzing is more of a reminder than pain, and it absolutely is. Even on the higher settings, there is nothing that is painful, it just gets your attention.

I am so grateful for Sit Means Sit, and their use of the remote collar. I feel like I am able to continue the training in my own home, and this tool makes that possible.

Thank you,

Jentry Barton

[South County Golf Academy](#)

Director of Golf Fitness and Mental Game

From: [Lansen Leu](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); senkeohokalohe@capitol.hawaii.gov; [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: SB No. 677 E-Collars (specifically)
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:33:11 AM

To whom it may concern,

Firstly, I love my dog, my world pretty much revolves around my dog, and I would never want to hurt him. I support everything in the bill except for the ban on e-collars in section two. The ban on e-collars is simply overreaching and misinformed.

I believe in training using positive reinforcement with some correction. I use an e-collar and find it an effective tool. An e-collar when used incorrectly can injure and be a negative experience for a dog, however when used properly is safe and effective. Most often I find that people who tend to use e-collars similarly are obsessed with their dog and have done the research to properly use one. The e-collar has multiple settings which allow you to adjust the intensity, and the setting should be determined when the dog displays the first sign that it recognizes it (i.e. ears perk). I have tried it on myself before and it is similar to a physical therapy stim machine. The e-collar when used properly is not inhumane.

I also find that the collar can save dogs lives and be safer for the community (i.e. giving the handler control over an off-leashed dog running into the street or chasing a person).

Please remove section 2 of SB No. 677 related to the banning the distribution and use of e-collars.

Sincerely,

Lansen H. G. Leu, Esq.

Leu Okuda & Doi,
Attorneys at Law
222 Merchant Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
ph: (808) 538-1921
fax (808) 523-9585
email: lansen@leu-okuda.com

Business hours: Mon. - Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (HST).*

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THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY, THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, BUT ONLY ENFORCEMENT OF A LIEN AGAINST THE PROPERTY.

From: [Caitlin Bailey](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: SB677 HB633 Electric Collar Testimony
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:39:59 AM

To the Senate, House of Representatives and JDC of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Caitlin Bailey and I am a former dog trainer and current dog owner. I live in the sunny state of Florida with my husband and two Australian Cattle Dog mixes.

When I got my first dog Dixie at the age of 19, I was extremely lucky to receive an 8 month old sound temperament dog. She was the perfect companion for me while I was in college and we excelled in our training together. At the time, I was using purely positive reinforcement training with her. She was young and eager to learn which made using treats and toys with very little punishment easy. She learned basic obedience and tricks easily but always struggled with relationships with people and other dogs. She was never aggressive but did not care for the company of anyone other than myself. For a long time I only knew of positive reinforcement training, but with a dog who is not friendly due to circumstances out of my control, positive reinforcement failed me consistently when she was over stimulated. Thankfully I was young and only a college student with a lot of time on my hands to work with her which made her flaws manageable.

About 1 year later, I got a call about a heavily abused 8 month Australian Cattle Dog (ACD) mix who needed a foster home immediately. His current owners didn't know how to handle the high energy of an ACD mix which resulted in abuse on their part for his high energy and puppy-like action. Due to the abuse, he became extremely fearful/distrustful of humans and reacted back. Thankfully I was in town for the holiday weekend and went down to south Florida to pick up this sweet puppy named Apollo. Upon arrival at the meeting point, Apollo was lunging on his leash, barking non-stop and bearing his teeth at the new strangers who were about to change his life. Because of his intense reactivity, Apollo had to be placed in the back of my SUV in his crate because he was lunging at us to bite us. I will never forget the 2 hour car ride home with him. He did not stop growling and barking at us from his crate even when bribed with treats and food. My husband had to wrap towels around his crate in order to get him out of the car without him biting my husband's hands. This sweet puppy of only 8 months old had already had such a traumatic life, all we wanted for him was to experience human love. Over the next few weeks, Apollo began to trust us. We kept him in a muzzle for all new human encounters and through a lot of positive reinforcement, he began to settle and understand that not every human wanted to hurt him.

Unfortunately for him though, treats and toys didn't always provide a higher reward that would overcome his fear. He was consistently fearful anywhere we took him to the point where we could not let him off leash (despite his near perfect recall) or take him to public places on leash. After college, I got a job working for a dog training facility in a Orlando and began taking Apollo to work with me everyday. This is where we first learned about the realities of electric collars (e-collars). For the longest time I had been against e-collars because I did not understand them. Through becoming a dog trainer and using e-collars on many different types of dogs, including my own, I truly began to understand the beauty and freedom they give dogs. Apollo's fears were rooted in mistrust of humans due to inconsistent and harsh training. Introducing the e-collar to him finally gave him and myself the capability to communicate efficiently and clearly. When e-collars are used correctly, the result is

attention and clear communication between human and dog which results in freedom for all parties involved.

Today I am able to:

- hike with both my dogs off leash in applicable parks;
- take both reactive dogs to outside restaurants and markets AT THE SAME TIME by myself;
- travel to any state in the country without hesitation due to their 100% reliable obedience;
- allow them to meet new people with no fear of their reactivity getting in the way;
- experience joy and freedom with my dogs in the abundance of things I can do with them due to the miracle and science of e-collar training.

Any tool can become a weapon for destruction. For Apollo, all it took was a simple smack with a human hand to turn him into a fearful and reactive dog for the rest of his life. This could have been done with any number of tools that purely positive dog trainers use that are not being discussed in this bill. But the tool that is being discussed in this bill, changed both of my dogs lives and possibly saved them. Had it not been for e-collars and a very determined owner, Apollo and Dixie may have ended up euthanized at a dog shelter. To ban e-collars is to guarantee death for many dogs like mine.

Thank you for reading my testimony and please consider the damage you will do to mistreated dogs before you ban a tool that could save their life.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Bailey
Former Dog Trainer
Florida Resident
Mom to two beautiful and loved Australian Cattle Dogs

--

Thank you,
Caitlin Bailey

From: [Mary Healy](#)
To: [legalgoofyto](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:15:15 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing to implore you to figure out a way to protect the animals WITHOUT banning the use and sale of e-collars. While I understand that there are those that use such devices to torture and abuse animals there are so many more that use those tools to save animals that would otherwise be euthanized due to aggressive behaviors that CAN be altered. How do I know this, well, I had a dog that was incredibly aggressive and reactive on leash. He was fine with people in the house and all women but with men he would react and lash out. He had never bitten anyone but the issue was that no one could come to my house. I finally found a local trainer and sent him to a two week board and train program where she using a balanced approach, including the e-collar (it is called a mini educator and the range goes from 0 - 100, and just to give you an idea I don't even FEEL anything until it is at 11, and even then it feels much like my Tens unit that I use for pain), all my dogs are corrected typically no higher than an 8, most often it is set to 2. Honestly, seeing dogs choking with people using a flat buckle collar as their dogs pull them or worse the flexible leash that allow dogs to get all tangled and way far ahead of their owner (check out the video of the woman getting on the elevator with her dog on a flex leash and the door closes with the dog still outside the elevator, if the gentleman hadn't been there that dog would have been strangled).

Full story about my dog: he is a black lab mix and was rescued from behind a dumpster in SC, where he was left in a Tupperware container lid on. He suffered from a severe case of mange and a broken leg. He was rescued and brought to NY where I adopted him, not knowing he would react so violently to certain people, specifically men. Luckily he was fine with my partner and my family, but most other men he would lash out and had to be kept away (most often we just didn't have people over). When I took him to the vet I had to call from the parking lot to let them know I was there so they could bring me in the exit AND I had to ensure the Vet was female. Same situation when he was groomed. After the training not only can I take him to the vet and walk in the front door, I can have people over and he knows that if he doesn't want to interact he has a safe space (all my dogs are crate trained). I can take him out on walks and KNOW that if another dog passes by he will ignore them, and if need be I can gently remind him that I am in charge with a simple tap on the remote.

I have attached a picture of my Sparky (the dog mentioned above) hanging out in Home Depot, there is NO way this would have been possible without the training and the use of the e-collar.

I should note that I currently do not reside in Hawaii, my concern is that this would be a precedent to be followed in other states. Again I do appreciate the consideration given to the protection of animals, however, there are many ways animals are being abused and taking the e-collar away from responsible pet owners and trainers will be detrimental. I thank you for taking the time to read this and by all means feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Warm regards,
Mary

From: [Maria Hagood](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Stop HB633 Amedment 711/eCollar Amedment
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 9:15:51 AM

Opposing HB633

In my experience as a dog trainer, the eCollar is safe, humane, and effective additional safety system that enables leash free obedience and is also a godsend tool that allows reactive dogs to find their place and live/thrive in our modern world. I teach the eCollar as a communication tool along with treats and leash pressure. Dogs learn to engage and look forward to wearing the eCollar to outings (hikes, beaches, parks etc.). Dogs that usually don't leave their house because the owners are too scared to take them out due to being uncontrollable, reactive or aggressive.

The combination of the eCollar, obedience and structure keeps dogs out of shelters and give owners a chance to work with their dogs. Also, the eCollar can be the difference between the rescue dog finding a forever home, or meeting it's death in a shelter. I have personally worked with aggressive and reactive dogs that respond very well to the eCollar to a point where they are looking forward to wearing the eCollar because they have a job to do rather than follow their reactive or aggressive impulses. eCollar can help an anxious dog get desensitized to triggers and be less fearful in our world.

eCollar is a wonderful and effective tool that should not be banned. I have personally seen the eCollar save the lives of dogs that would otherwise get put down. It is vital training tool that can help owners with problematic dogs and owners that want leash-free obedience protecting the public and Hawaii's beautiful wildlife.

Maria Hagood
Island Dog Obedience
808-428-9917

From: [Linda Keehn](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Support of banning Shock Collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:33:47 AM

I want to thank the state legislature in Hawaii for taking on this issue. How we train dogs make a difference. Shock Collars hurt dogs. They give a false sense of security and encourage people to ignore leash laws.

Using pain, force and fear to get compliance does not help aggressive dogs in fact it can create a more dangerous dog and put their families, other pets and the public at risk.

Please vote yes to support banning their use in the beautiful state on Hawaii. I was fortunate to have visited your beautiful state and hope to come back soon to the state that had the courage to stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves our dogs.

Thank you,

Linda Keehn CPDT-KA, DN-DBC, CSAT
Positive Canine Training and Services, LLC

www.positivecaninetraining.com

LkehnPCT@gmail.com

917-865-2609

Like my Facebook page, I'm always posting fun stuff and training tips.

<https://www.facebook.com/positivecaninetraining/>

From: [Kerry](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: The HANDLER of any tool dictates the manner in which it is used.
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:42:03 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kerry Hall and I am the owner of a dog training company in Oregon state. I heard of the bill proposed to ban electronic collars. The thought of taking away such a life-saving tool is frightening. Modern e-collar training is not the fear mongering “shock” collar training people believe it to be. That was old technology. How can you compare Henry Ford’s first model T to a 2020 Ford mustang with Wi-Fi?

Modern e collar training is virtually the same technology is a tens unit used in massage therapy and acupuncture. Dogs respond to levels that aren’t even tangible to humans. In the event of emergency, let’s say a dog running up to one of your beautiful native wildlife species with intent to harm, an e collar is the only guarantee at reliably getting a dog back, keeping it and other animals safe.

All of my clients want the e collar training package. The only dogs we do not use them on are puppies, as they are too young for such advanced training. Proper e collar training builds confidence in fearful and insecure dogs as well as help stop aggressive behaviors, keeping dogs out of the shelter system and from being euthanized.

This tool is no different than any other tool. A pair of scissors isn’t inherently dangerous. It is up to the handler of the scissor to determine the manner in which they are used. You can cut paper, or you can stab someone. The scissors themselves should not be banned or blamed for the actions of its handler. I invite you to see the e collar in the same exact light.

Dogs will lose their lives or the ability to safely run free and have a quality of life, if this tool is banned in your state. As a professional that works with this tool on a daily basis and has seen the life-changing and life-saving results it reaps, I deeply encourage you to vote NO on bills #677 and #633.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kerry Hall
Flash Dog Training
Owner & Head Trainer

From: [Sarah Truax](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: BAN ON ECOLLARS
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:05:27 AM

I am a dog trainer from Pennsylvania and I have seen so many dogs lives transformed from remote collars...

Something as a dog that's resource guarding and would be euthanized if he was never taught an "out" command with the remote collar.

This dog would be PUT DOWN because he was once starved and didn't want anything taken away from him because of what a HUMAN did to him. The remote collar SAVED his life.. and has protected trainers and his potential owners. We need to EDUCATE these positive only trainers that there is no such thing as "positive only training"

Remote collars shouldn't be banned, prong collars shouldn't be banned. POSITIVE ONLY TRAINING NEEDS TO BE BANNED.

If you remove balanced dog training and training with tools there's going to be NO HELP for these animals... the prong collar is a WALKING TOOL and it is to teach a dog that the OWNER is in control and there is NOTHING wrong with it.

Children NEED structure to be successful in this world and to be a respected adult.

Why can't DOGS get the same type of structure.. they respond to TOUCH!! just like their mothers would've done.

--

Sarah Truax

From: [Garrett Rampulla](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill 677 Malinois Study
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:46:42 AM
Attachments: [Comparison-of-learning-effects-and-stress.pdf](#)

Please see the attached study I had mentioned in my previous email. I was mistaken about 45 Malinois. It was 42 Malinois.

Thank you,
Garrett Rampulla

<https://www.epkdogs.com/Studies/Comparison-of-learning-effects-and-stress.pdf>

Sent from my iPad

From: [Matilin Novak](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Bill#677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:14:20 AM

Bill#677

My dog has been saved due to this method of training and can now be reliable off leash with humans and other dogs where this was not possible before. If you ban this form of tool you are limiting training methods and will have to euthanize many more dogs instead of saving them. Please do not ban E-collar in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Matilin Novak

From: [Joanna Cendrowski](#)
To: [JDCTestimony: Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#)
Subject: DO NOT Ban "SHOCK COLLARS"
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:04:40 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joanna Cendrowski <jmcend@gmail.com>
Subject: DO NOT Ban "SHOCK COLLARS"
Date: February 7, 2020 at 2:49:56 PM EST
To: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov, senkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov,
sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov, senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov

To Whom It May Concern-

I OPPOSE HB633!! For starters, shock collars is a very broad term that covers a range of collars including the Dogtra and Einstein collars that deliver a stimulation using the same muscle stem technology that is used on people. But furthermore, I am a co-director of a small rescue, and dog Mom to three wonderfully happy dogs, and I can tell you the Einstein ECollar has literally saved the life of my own dog, and others in our organization. I can tell you about my dogs...

Argo: Lover of life, lover of trails, lover of dogs when met off leash. But on leash, he looked like KUJO. Like he downright wanted to kill a dog walking by. Fast forward to using the Einstein ECollar with a trainer, Argo is not reactive at all. He can walk by any and every dog, completely on or off-leash with wonderful manners and respect. We hike and walk on trails all the time, pass by others in tight spaces, and Argo is happy as a clam.

Penny: Anxious love bug. Penny was an incredibly anxious dog. Afraid of new places, terrified to walk near or over any metal, scared of people in hoodies. When walking over metal, she used to drop down to her stomach, and shake tremendously. It was always a challenge to walk her, but since working with the trainer and e-collar, I was able to help control that nervous adrenaline, and give her clarity and communication she could understand. Now she walks right over metal likes it's walking on sand. She's walks with her head held high, and that jumpy, nervous, spazzy energy is a thing of the past!

Luna: Little runaway terrier. She was found at the park next to my house and used to escape from her previous owners all the time which is why they ultimately surrendered her. It took less than a week of e-collar training to create some rules and boundaries, and now she is off leash ALL the time. Even when we sit on our front porch, she calmly sits at our feet and doesn't take off for everything that moves.

To ban these devices is to have a misunderstanding of what they are doing. I do not deliver a stim to my dog when they are doing something wrong. It's a communication tool for dogs that are adrenaline junkies. And that adrenaline could stem from over excitement or from extreme nerves or both. When that adrenaline is pumping, the dog is not capable of hearing words, taking treats, etc... so I need a to communicate with them that will help drop their adrenaline and deliver information to them that they can comprehend in that moment. It's important to remember, a mother dog corrects her young with her teeth. She doesn't reward them with a treat, or give them a pat on the back, she corrects them in a physical way because that's the easiest way to communicate. The benefits of balanced training, is that we

can use both, tons of rewards and praise, and the e-collar to communicate to them when the stakes are high and their adrenaline is rising.

Here are my three, and anyone will tell you they are the happiest, free-est dogs you have ever met!!

Thanks for listening!

Joanna



From: lcelani7@gmail.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Lisa Pierce](#)
Subject: Ecollar
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 12:35:50 PM

To whom it may concern,

I recently was informed about Proposed Bill #677 in Hawaii. I highly suggest you need to further educate yourself on how Ecollar are an effective and safe training tool. They are not harmful to dogs in any way when used properly. Here is a story for you—

My dog was almost 2 years old. He was starting to become aggressive and very protective of anyone that came near him. I wanted to have the relationship with my dog where I wouldn't have to worry about him when we went places or people came to my house. I found the training program Sit Means Sit where they use ecollar as a tool to help decrease your dogs concerning behaviors. After just a few training session I saw a huge difference in my dogs confidence. Actually, over time you use the ecollar minimal because the dogs have learned the commands. But just like humans dogs need some reminders on how to control themselves at times. Five years later I can go on off leash walks with my dog, take him to places where dogs are permitted with no concerns, and introduce him to new surroundings with an ease of mind. Actually, when Simon sees me grab his ecollar he get very excited because he know we are going to go on a fun adventure.

I hope my story and the story of other allows you to veto this bill.

Lena Celani

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ashley Blasberg](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:23:29 AM

Hello,

I am a dog trainer and I fully support the ban of e-collar and prong collars!

It's unfortunately extremely common for a person to get a puppy and not train the dog and then around 6-9 when the dog causes havoc in the home, they purchase these "tools" and shock the dogs into fearful submission. Dog training is an unregulated business and it's about time for there to be a stance by somebody on what you can do to your animals.

Thank you for doing this.

Sincerely,
Ashley Blasberg.

From: [Jessica Williams](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:46:11 AM

I urge you to reconsider the banning of e-collars in Hawaii. To remove these tools from the realm of legal use would be devastating for high drive, unconfident, or problematic dogs and make the chances of effectively and reliably training or rehabilitating those animals slimmer. Although a misused e-collar can be devastating for a dog, I know from personal experience that educated and thoughtful use of the collars have made my dogs more confident, more engaged, and more successful. They are worlds happier than they were when we were struggling to address their reactivity towards dogs and people, they can participate more in my daily life and in society without posing any threat or disruption to society.

Please do not let the propaganda about e-collars lead to law that prevents people from learning about ways to engage better with their difficult dogs. If anything, enact legislation that requires education and a vet note confirming the dog's health prior to purchase and use of an e-collar.

A cruel person will be cruel with any tool. E-collars can be fun and positive for dogs if used the right way.

From: rachel.counts@outlook.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-Collar Ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:03:09 PM

I am Rachel Quinn, and I have been working with dogs for 12 years. I compete in national obedience, I've trained in Gundog working trials, have had multiple search and rescue dogs, and have competed in various dog sports. I have my BS in Animal Health and Veterinary Sciences. I hope you will take the time to read my short summary of how E-collars work, are used, how dogs are affected and why misinformation has been spread.

I am a military spouse and move around the world to multiple states. Your bill affects my livelihood, my dogs quality of life and other dog handlers everywhere.

There is a lot of confusion surrounding exactly how an E-Collar works and the effects it has on a dog's psychology. I'd like to break down a few points as succinctly as possible.

1. E-collars operate using the same electronic technology as TENS units - the same device used in physical therapy and chiropractors offices. They do not shock. E-collars are safe to use, even when wet.
2. Because E-collars do not shock, it is impossible to leave burns, redness or other marks caused by the electronic stimulation.
3. When training with an E-Collar, you must find your dogs working level. To find this level you dial the collar to zero and increase by a few levels and test the button. When the dog reacts by blinking, scratching, shaking head or any very small indication they felt the E-Collar - that is the working level. Most dogs work at a level that humans cannot detect on their own skin.
4. The E-Collar provides a vital part of communication to the dog about what they should be doing. An example is recalls: to train a recall with an E-Collar you begin by calling your dog. You then provide stimulation via the collar until the dog begins moving forward towards you. Then you remove the stim. This teaches the dog they can: turn the stim off, there is a "right vs wrong" answer when asked to perform a (sometimes lifesaving) command, and helps them learn a sense of urgency to complete tasks.
5. Multiple studies have shown dogs trained with an E-Collar learn commands faster and with less stress than pure positive methods. There is less guess work, and immediate reward when doing tasks correctly.
6. It is important to note that E-collars are only introduced after a dog has learned basic commands and has an understanding of them. E-collars are purely reinforcers and help with long distance/off leash communication.
7. Working dogs still use E-collars today. Gundog, police k9s, tracking/trailing, search and rescue, service dogs, competitive obedience, herding and more. E-collars ensure the owner or handler has a line of communication to their dogs. When a dog is working, or chasing prey, barking or more - it is near impossible to offer something of value that they are willing to break their self-rewarding behavior. E-Collar Training is a safe and reliable way to help dogs

break away from those tasks as needed.

8. E-Collar Training is the next logical step when training a dog. You begin in home, teaching basic. Then you teach around distractions. Then on a long line to add distance. And finally on an E-Collar to remove the sense of a leash while retaining leashed safety.

9. Dogs that livestock worry, dogs with aggression, and dogs with high drive can be successfully rehabilitated with E-collars while still providing freedom to the dog. Other training solutions involve always leashing, muzzling, or containing a dog at home. This impacts quality of life.

10. Finally, freedom of choice should not be impeded. Many animal activists do not have the welfare of our pets as their best interest. They wish to make owning, managing and providing for our dogs a difficult task (by limiting our tools, placing breed bans, limiting the number of pets we may own, regulating private breeders, etc) with the ultimate goal of removing our right to own pets. They are very good at making their options appear more humane, while glossing over the success and scientific study of the E-Collar.

I worked very hard to keep this short, as I understand you are very busy. If you have questions, concerns or would like me to elaborate on this tool, please feel free to reach out to me. Below I've including sources to address my points above, again keeping my list short.

Thank you for your time. I hope this sheds some light on the capabilities and truths behind the E-Collar.

Rachel Quinn

1 and 2. How an E-Collar works: <https://hiddenfence.com.au/shock-collars-versus-electrical-stimulation-collars/>

<https://youtu.be/mFHFK7kEaBE>

3 and 4. How to train using an E-Collar: <https://www.dogtra.com/blog-and-events/training-manual>

5. Studies comparing stress: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RgdMmkVOOMD8SahYMrNz-N_980ELG04-/view?usp=drivesdk

6 - 9. Working dogs, or addressing behavioral problems:

<https://www.policeone.com/police-products/k9/articles/how-e-collars-can-improve-k-9-training-tQxVZlnXH2hTYqQo/>

<https://youtu.be/GQRyino6dZI>

<https://www.dobbsdogs.com/library/stockdogs/1ststock.html>

<https://www.dedicatetdogtraining.com/e-collar-training-for-territorial-aggression/>

10. Breakdowns of PETA and HSUS and their goals, including quotes by PETA's director

stating her intent to remove pet ownership:

<https://certifiedhumane.org/does-peta-have-the-right-to-determine-whats-humane-considering-their-view-on-animals/>

<https://www.consumerfreedom.com/articles/184-7-things-you-didnt-know-about-hsus/>

From: [James Whiteheart](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collar banning
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:30:31 AM

To whom it may concern,

As a canine professional, please do not ban to use of these training tools! We understand there are hundreds of unprofessional people in the industry who abuse these collars. I personally make sure every person I know that uses one, knows how to use the collar effectively. More times than I can count an E-Collar has saved my dogs, the patrol dogs I have trained, lives!

My K9 Maestro took off after deer one day, stuck in prey drive he was not recalling because he couldn't hear me. Thankful he had his E-Collar on and 1 half second tap at not even 30% he capped his drive and returned to me. Had he not he was fixing to cross a major highway and would have been killed.

Deal with the unprofessional people and praise the ones who use these tools correctly. Everything has a place and proper use, please don't listen to the ones who just think they know. Listen to the trainers with experience who use all avenues of training a dog to be a partner vs walking robots.

James Whiteheart
Lone Wolf Kennels
336-909-4029

From: [William Baer](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Ecollar issue
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:14:09 PM

I have a 120 lb Rottweiler that I have trained using an e collar. Used properly is the most productive lasting training I've ever seen.

I was stopped once by a women concerned that I was using a (shock collar) To show her the value of the tool, I told my dog to down and I walked approximately 200 feet away. I then tapped on my remote 2 times, my dog jumped up and ran to me excited and happy. I then showed her the control remote was set at # 7 of a possible # 100. I then put the collar on my arm and activated it while I increased the remote to # 10 until I felt the stimulation. It's just a communication device. that she now understands also.

By the way when this dog was in for her first puppy check the vet felt she was too aggressive and should be put down, saying once grown she would be a dangerous animal. She is utmost 4 years old now and is a sweet gentle non aggressive pet.

To restrict the use of the e collar would surely be a loss to trainers and more so to dogs.

From: [Leslie :\)](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-collar purchase and use
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:27:51 AM

Please do not stop the purchase or use of E-collars in Hawaii or any other state. The training that my dog, and I, received through Sit Means Sit Hawaii with the use of an E collar has changed how our family walks our dog. Prior to the training tool of an E collar, it took two of us, with two leashes, to walk our dog. I can honestly say that our dog loves his Ecollar. The 3 referrals I made to Sit Means Sit Hawaii and one to Sit Means Sit in Detroit Metro Michigan, all have found the same freedom as we have, and a much happier dog. Like any training tool, or with any apparatus/tool that assists someone to make a task or job easier there is always a percentage of humans who will miss use these items and use for harm or punishment. Not every parent has the same parenting style. Some use their hand or tool (belt, bar, etc) to teach. The same is with every dog owner, not all are loving, patient and responsible dog owners.

I beg of you !!! Please do not stop the purchase and use of an E collar for those of us who have done so under the care of a professional. We have experienced the joy in our investment; dog training that has included the use of an Ecollar. Everyone that I know who has received training from Sit Means Sit Training has much happier dogs! My dog loves his collar!

My dog is much happier since his collar!

My dog has the ability for more freedom on land and in water with his collar.

My dog loves his collar and when I pull it out of its box. He is excited and ready to go on a walk with a struggle or pulling on his neck.

I'm so grateful to Sit Means Sit Hawaii and to sit means sit in metro Detroit for their expertise and gentle handling of our dogs, and us during training AND continued support. I have personally seen Scott Sanchez at Sit Means Sit Hawaii perform miracles with Dogs who have been miss managed due to lack of experience and knowledge who otherwise would have been destroyed.

DO NOT TAKE AWAY THE USE OF AN E-COLLAR

Mahalo,
The Johnsen Ohana

From: [Barbara TAYLOR](#)
Subject: E-COLLAR TESTIMONIAL
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:33:49 AM

I am the owner of German Shepherds that without the collar training

would be very unhappy dogs. My dogs, including my Chihuahua, were obedience trained to the collar. This is the comparison they would have as a life without that training...they would be walked individually with the metal collar that pinches them if they pull, but with their weight they literally pull you down the street. This is my dogs life trained to the collar. When I get ready to go shopping or almost anywhere I grab their collars and they go crazy with excitement because they know that they are going to have fun. They jump into the back of my truck and we're off. Along with what I am going to do, I take them to the harbor or to an empty field and throw the ball for them, never worrying about them running away or not listening to me when I call them back. They race each other and I can tell each one to let the other one get the ball and they listen. Which dogs do you think are happier with their lives..those that have to be walked with the leash around their necks keeping them to a slow walk or my dogs?

Michele Cabatingan, Pukalani, Maui

From: [Catherine Johnston](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: E-collar training
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 1:59:47 PM

All,

I want to speak on behalf of my dog, Dewey. Dewey was returned to a shelter at 9 months old, with bratty behavior that was actually dangerous. He would snap his teeth at me when he didn't want to listen, and his separation anxiety was so intense that he risked going through our old glass windows.

We found a wonderful trainer, who e-collar trained Dewey. I learned so much from a reputable balanced trainer - and corrected many misconceptions that I had previously to adopting Dewey.

It is a misconception that all e-collars "shock." High quality e-collars use TENS technology - the same technology as the therapy we humans receive at chiropractors' offices. It is a muscle contraction, and I've tested the collar on myself, so I know the sensation.

Proper e-collar training is subtle. It uses low-levels to train the dog to turn off "the pressure" by returning to the handler.

Finally, it's a huge misconception that e-collars are the "easy" way to train a dog. My husband and I have been committed to Dewey's training - everyday. And so has he.

What does training "everyday" look like? Off leash hikes with recall practice, excellent eye contact before setting off on a walk, healing instead of pulling so hard on his collar that he risked trachea damage like before, and being rewarded with a taste of delicious cat food for shaking hands.

Like humans, dogs learn in different ways. Of course an e-collar isn't for every dog or every situation either. It can be a crucial tool though.

Used correctly, e-collars save lives. Dewey's behavior before he was trained was unmanageable. He was unhappy and stressed, and so were we! He likely would not have survived a second surrendering to find a third home.

Instead, thanks to balanced training that includes an e-collar Dewey runs off leash through the woods, swims in our stream, visits the local post office for dog treats - and he eagerly waits to put on his e-collar before setting off on these adventures.

Please reconsider your position on banning e-collars!

Sincerely,
Cathy Johnston

From: [Scott Martin](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: E-Collars as a Positive Training Tool
Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020 7:27:43 AM

Hi,

I've been training with Sit Means Sit in Las Vegas for a couple years now. Sit Means Sit LV and Sit Means Sit Hawaii asked if I could send you and email about my experience with the E-collar.

I adopted an Australian Shepherd mix dog that was 18 months old and had 5 homes. He was generally full of energy but was always a great dog at home. Outside on the other hand, I couldn't take him on a walk without getting pulled all over, had him lunging at other dogs, chasing bikes, skateboards and scooters. If the he was committed to go after something and I intervened, he'd turn around and bite me. This type of behavior started spiraling out of control to the point where I thought I'd need to rehome him. We actually ended up getting kicked out of a "positive" training class for him trying to bite someone, even though he was great at most of the obedience. When we switched to training with the E-Collar, most of his bad habits were gone in the first couple weeks. Within 6 months, he could be in highly uncomfortable situation and I no longer worried about getting bit. Even though his recall is good, It's also a bonus to have the control over your dog over long distances. Obviously the collar isn't harming him or he wouldn't let me willingly put it on with no fight. I will continue to use an E-collar for all my dogs not just for the obedience but being able to give them freedom to roam and be confident in the dogs recall in different situations. As for my dog, his first trainer feared he'd need to be put down, yet his vet, groomer, family and our friends all love him. If we didn't start using an E-collar, I don't know that he'd still be alive today.

If you need anything else, please feel free to reach out.

Thanks,
Scott

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennifer Dawson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Electronic collar ban
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:33:46 PM

I realize this inbox is likely flooded with letters, so I'll try to be brief, and to the point. The delicate way in which an electronic collar can be used to communicate & encourage, (at a level literally undetectable to humans) is beyond the understanding of the average pet owner, until educated by a professional. Please understand that there are only so many educated dog trainers available to fight the ludicrous claims of animal rights extremists, with social media at their fingertips. Please do **QUALITY** research, and educate yourselves, before trying to pass laws driven by extremists that don't understand animals, and climb on crazy soap boxes because their self worth is fueled by feeling kinder, (aka better), than their neighbor!

These collars work like a TENS unit. The exact same type used for physical therapy. The **ONLY** possible way to injure a dog with one, is to create necrosis, or pressure sores, from leaving the probes in the same place too long. This can also occasionally happen if the dog has a nickel allergy. This also happens with a plain buckle collar that's too tight, & left on for too long. A slip chain can damage the trachea, hands and leashes can, and have, absolutely abused, & injured dogs. Police & military dogs around the globe, use these collars daily, as do millions of pet dogs that can enjoy biologically necessary off leash freedom, because of them! This doesn't even brush the surface the ones that are alive today because the electronic collar training they received, prevented the owner from relinquishing them to the pound!

This is an **EXTREMELY** popular method of dog training, because communication is **INCREDIBLY** precise, and not offensive or threatening to the dog, like directly physical pressure from the handler is. It also affords **MUCH** better timing. These are things that take dog trainers years of practice to perfect, yet the electronic collar affords this ability to the average pet owner in no time. It would be a crime to dogs, to ban this valuable communication, & training tool!!

The outrageous claims of animal rights extremists, fueled by the fires of social media, are at the heart on this irrational nonsense. Please don't fall victim, and close your ears to common sense.

Thank you.

Jennifer Dawson
All Living Things Dog Training

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pet Peeves Training](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: HB633 & SB677 - PLEASE DO NOT BAN THE HUMANE USE OF ECOLLARS OR PRONG COLLARS
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:23:03 AM

As an animal advocate, of course I support the criminalization of abuse toward animals. I fully support a ban on using prong collars to TETHER UNSUPERVISED dogs, but it is extremely important that supervised use not be banned. It is vitally important to understand that a prong collar, used properly, does NOT harm and in fact is one of the most HELPFUL tools there are. I know they don't look like it but they are! I use them all the time to help dogs RECOVER from anxiety and aggressive behavior.

Likewise, it is imperative to understand that not all ecollars are created equal! I cannot speak to low quality, cheaply manufactured ecollars as I will not buy them or use them on dogs, but the high quality ones that I use everyday in my behavioral rehabilitation work absolutely do not shock and are EXTREMELY helpful to dogs! They deliver an electrical stimulation that feels just like the TENS unit I used for my own physical therapy... more like a tingle. I think the term "shock collar" is used for dramatic influence but it's extremely inaccurate as far as what the sensation actually is. A shock is jolting... like what you get from static electricity or a taser. My ecollars simply do not deliver that type of sensation... not even on their highest setting. That said, even high-level ecollar training has its purpose... for example, in rattlesnake avoidance training, which is undeniably life-saving training!

Our country is overrun with emotionally damaged, insecure dogs and these tools GREATLY benefit from humane use of ecollars and prong collars so please take care not to pass legislation that might set up a slippery slope to the detriment of our dogs before FULLY investigating the issue. I would be so happy to talk in greater depth about this topic with anyone interested.

Thank you for your time and for caring about the well-being of animals,

Laura Rice
Pet Peeves Training
310-977-4978
www.petpeevestraining.com

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [Yelp](#)

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Mayer, Johanna <Johanna.Mayer@blc.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:10 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Urgent Proposal Bill#677 to ban E-collar

To whom it may concern,

I used to be a positive only trainer - until I came across dogs I couldn't help, only using rewards, one being my own. He was displaying signs of protective aggression. I was helpless to help him. Then I learned how to properly use an e-collar. I call it an e-collar because the purpose of it is communication- NOT electric shock. It's used similar to that of a pager or a cell phone - sending your dog a text and asking them to tune into you. I pair the e-collar with positive reinforcement on the lowest level a dog can feel - which is usually so low that I cant feel it. The dogs enjoy it. They have fun with it. It becomes a fun game. E-collars have been able to rehabilitate thousands of dogs and help their owners get reliable responses. When the dog's instinct kicks in, all training goes out the window - whether that instinct is to guard or chase prey or chase cars - no food is good enough. I personally have used e-collars on many dogs and have seen nothing but good things come from them - if taught with the well-being and care of the animal as the highest priority. That is the key. The animals well-being has to come first. I am so thankful that I took the time to learn about this tool. I have a deaf dog that can be reliably and safely off leash. She has a perfect recall. Her quality-of-life is so much better because she can play her favorite game - fetch. If it weren't for E-Collars, she would have to be on a leash her whole life. I urge you to think about dogs like her and my other dog as you vote for this bill. Their quality of life is so how much better than it would be without these tools. Thank you for your consideration.

Johanna

From: [Hietala Kathleen](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020 12:15:28 PM

An e-collar saved my rescued Aussie. The collar was not used as a punitive measure. It was on a low setting and I was able to provide instant feedback. If he was staring at another dog, a light tap from the e-collar acted as a tap on the shoulder to remind him to not stare. Without the e-collar he at times would bite me.

He is now 8 years old and living safely in my home with my 2 other dogs.

Any tool in an uneducated or malevolent hand is dangerous, even a flat buckle collar or harness.

Taking away this tool will result in many dogs, who could have been saved, being euthanized.



This is Blue. He is registered with the AKC. He has his Canine Good Citizenship title, and 1 leg in Rally Novice. We used an e-collar in his rehabilitation and he went on to earn those titles.

Thank you,

Kathleen Hietala

From: [Maddison Haffer](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677 to Ban the Sale & Use of E-Collars in Hawaii
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 12:21:12 PM

Good Afternoon,

I write to you today as not only a dog and animal lover, but a concerned citizen. It has come to my attention that a bill has been proposed to ban the sale & use of e-collars in Hawaii, this rash decision could cause unexpected and unnecessary impacts that you may not have considered.

At one point in my experiences training my own pet dogs I was vehemently against e-collars, I believed them to be scary and dangerous. However, I went to a trainer with a lot of success in their use and my dog, who was becoming dangerously reactive (at 65lbs, he is over half my weight and pure muscle) has benefitted greatly from the correct introduction of the e-collar to his training. I no longer am afraid of passing dogs in the street, of taking him out to lunch and enjoying a patio in the sun, of attending parades and events, the stress of being out and fearing running into another dog is no longer a problem.

Our e-collar of choice is high quality and consistent levels, it has settings to both vibrate or stim, as well as beep, this gives us the option to respond as the situation as necessary and escalate if need be. 99.9% of the time a beep is simply all we need, that point 0.01%? That stopped him running across a busy road when he spotted a deer and potentially dying/causing a wreck. This was chosen for their safety, by a responsible trainer who understands their use. It was not a \$15 amazon special, which is where the issues typically arise (inconsistent stimulation, higher charge than necessary)

Not only does this protect wildlife, but it protects our dogs and gives them boundaries. Hiking in the woods and spot a deer? They know not to chase. A bear crosses our path? Our dogs know that they can't chase. If we hadn't had the e-collar in our training, our dogs wouldn't have the freedom they have today, they would likely be on a short leash and unable to live their freedoms.

E- collars are like any tool, in the incorrect hands they can cause damage. Have you seen the damage "gentle leaders" can do to a dogs neck if used incorrectly? Or the impact that no-pull harnesses have on a dogs gait and their shoulder muscles?

Correct e-collar training protects dogs, protects wildlife, have you ever seen one being used correctly? Have you met dogs that have benefitted so greatly from them that they can now live their lives? I've attached images of my dogs, both of whom are highly trained in agility and scent work (one is a search and rescue dog in training) and have freedom to hike off leash, and be out and about with us on a regular basis, because of the e-collar. I've attached photos of my dogs out and about, do they look unhappy and shut down, negatively affected by the collars on their necks? Or happy to have the freedoms the e-collar no allows us.

Regards

Maddison Haffer

From: [Tracy Burlingame](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Proposal Bill #677
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:10:53 AM

To Whom it may concern:

Banning the use of electronic collars as a training and management aid for dogs is wrongheaded! Any tool can be used incorrectly and cause harm – leashes, collars, crates, head collars, harnesses... But with proper use electronic collars provide an clear and understandable method of communication between handler and dog. It is not abusive, nor painful with correct use. In fact, my dog gets so excited when she sees us get her e-collar because she knows that it is time to go have training and working fun! She isn't shut-down, scared or anxiety-ridden, she is eager to engage!

And e-collars are not just for electronic stimulation (no different than the e-stim muscle devices we use for back pain), but they can also beep - or vibrate which is especially wonderful for blind and deaf dogs! Again – it's a tool for communication, NOT punishment. One must know the 4 learning quadrants and how they work as well as the different types of dogs and context for using those learning quadrants. You cannot effectively teach a dog (much less a person) using only one quadrant (R+ or positive-only reinforcement as some dog trainers advocate). Imagine if you only used positive reinforcement – i.e. no consequences - with your children! How would they ever learn what NOT to do?

I beg you to visit, spend time with and talk to a balanced dog trainer who uses all of the tools available in the toolbox. See how an e-collar really works, see the dogs that have been trained with them and hear about the success stories of dogs who may have otherwise been put down for behavior or aggression issues. Some breeds of dogs are more easily motivated by treats and toys. Some others are working breeds with drive and impulse that throwing treats at is pointless as the object of their focus is a greater reward. But it is amazing to see what good training technique with the right tools can do!

There are bad trainers out there who have abusive techniques – not just e-collar trainers. It is an industry that is not regulated and any fool can call themselves a dog trainer. And there are some people who take it upon themselves to use these tools without the proper instruction or training themselves. But you cannot ban the tool simply for those bad apples.

Banning this tool based on the uneducated opinions fur mommies and positive-only trainers who only deal with easy pet dogs is wrong. It is a slippery slope to creating a population of nothing but ill-behaved pet dogs and frustrated, aggressive and working dogs who can no longer do their jobs (such as police dogs).

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Thank you for your time.

Tracy Burlingame

From: [Emily Fisk](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Proposed Bill #677 & #633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:33:58 PM

Hello,

I was recently made aware of the proposed bill #677 & #633 regarding banning the use of e-collars in Hawaii.

This bill is attempting to achieve improvements in animal cruelty, which is commendable, but to ban the use of e-collars with dogs does not achieve that goal. The use of e-collars is a tremendous training tool for dogs, not a tool to abuse them. We personally use e-collars for both of our dogs for training and they have been extremely helpful, especially in off-Leash situations. It allows us to be confident in their recall ability so they can enjoy their off leash play and running time and we can enjoy the fact that our dogs will respond when needed for their safety.

Please reconsider this bill. E-collars are not an abuse device, but an effective training tool which benefits the safety of dogs and the peace of mind for owners. I do not live in Hawaii but I understand the ramifications this bill will have in the rest of the country, and I urge you to please reconsider.

If you are truly interested in improving animal cruelty, you should focus your efforts on banning factory farms, as they are home to the true horrors of animal cruelty in this country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen
Emily Fisk
Philadelphia, PA

JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov
senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
senkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov
sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov
senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov
senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Daniel Barrett](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: Stop Bill #677 from including E-collars
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:46:40 AM

My fellow citizens of this community.

I own a Dog training company here in Hawaii, ShadowK9 a part of Shadow Consulting Services LLC.

IG handle is @shadowk9training

I have been a dog lover, owner, dog sport competitor and trainer for a total of 30 years. I cannot understand the ill informed knee jerk reaction to e-collars, prong collars or to be honest with any training device.

The facts:

- 1) The correct usage of any of these tools by a trained handler and/or professional, OR a civilian trained in the correct application, can only do good things for our dogs and wider community.
- 2) Simply put, the right tools, including the e-collar when needed, can save lives. Save human lives, dog lives and create a better coexistence between dogs and humans in our human world.
- 3) Every single Law Enforcement K9 is trained at some point with an e-collar. Are LE organizations being inhumane towards their officer partners? Is that the implication of this bill? That is FALSE at every level

I would be happy to sit down with you and anyone who has a lack of knowledge on this subject and share my experience in training over 400 dogs. Probably only 3% absolutely needed an e-collar, but trust me, it saved them from being euthanized.

Let's discuss. Let's not react adversely to something that is a good thing for our community.

Sincerely,

Daniel Barrett
Founder of ShadowK9

From: [Jessie Munshaw](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Stop Proposal bill677!!
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:11:25 AM

Hi there - I want to express my deep concern and sadness around the proposed bill. The e-collar is a fabulous tool that has helped many dogs, and even has saved some dogs lives. It is used for many reasons. To share a story, it has given our hound dog freedom. An e-collar is like having a very (very) long lead where you can communicate through, similar to walking a dog on a leash and applying pressure. For us, we use the tone and vibrate. We're able to communicate with our hound dog and keep his focus with this tool.

Like any tool (or thing for that matter), whether it's a knife, hammer, chair, gun, leash, harness, e-collar, etc has a core purpose or use. In the wrong hands, ANYTHING can be dangerous, and banning e-collars isn't the solution, or we'd have to ban everything that COULD inflict discomfort or pain.

If anything, we should put tougher animal abuse laws in place and stop all the terrible or neglectful dog owners, vs. trying to restrict something that is a great thing in the training world.

Thank you!

From: clifford.duong@gmail.com
To: clifford.duong@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony on electric collar use regarding proposed animal cruelty bill 677 and 633
Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:10:12 AM

Hello,

Please find below my testimony for advocating for the ethical, humane use of electric collars for dog training.

The regulated and professional use of e-collar methods saved my dog's life, which was fear reactive with bite history. I had spent over \$1,000 utilizing ineffective corporate "food-based" training methods only which did not work despite false advertising. My dog was tracked by the state after two bite incidents in the US, once in CA and once in NY. Only through the use of controlled stem technology gradually taught via humane escape mode techniques was my dog manageable and socialized around other dogs and people. The e-collar allowed me to communicate effectively with my dog when another bite incident would have caused it to be euthanized. Allowing the use of regulated e-collars significantly reduces the likelihood of shelter kills, which is inhumane when these dogs can be changed.

Best,
Clifford Duong

rhoads3 - Dennis

From: Jenna Sheehan <jennamarin22@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:12 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Protesting proposal bill #677

To whom it concerns:

In September 2016 I adopted a rescue from Hawaii Humane Society on the island of Oahu. As he was settling in to his new home on Maui I started to notice some behavioral issues. When other dogs were in sight, he would act out and lunge at them. I was dragged across the entire park while trying to use a choke chain as a correction aide. The event in October 2016 which led me to Sit Means Sit was an unfortunate dog bite on a smaller unleashed dog at the beach and my dog trying to lunge out the front window at any dog walking by the house. Sit Means Sit saved my dogs life. He was never aggressive toward people but any encounter with a dog, male or female was disastrous. Almost four years later, I am able to take him and my other dog to any park/beach with limited need for an e-collar/command collar. After years of training with the command collar I barely use it any more and both pups are able to interact with other dogs with no issues. They both love children and smaller dogs. Banding e collars would be a disastrous outcome for the community- a community which has seemed to thrive toward animal recuse and avoiding euthanasia for years. Please please please consider the animals that do not have any other option and deserve a life with caring and compassionate humans.

Sincerely,

Jenna Marin Sheehan
Wailuku, HI

8082814999

See attached:

Please do not use photo of child and dogs outside of this email.

LATE

From: [Rachel Rice](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Pass SB677
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 4:05:02 PM

Pass SB677, representing voiceless and neglected animals. I have seen 'pets' chained and neglected for years in the same spot here on Kaua'i. Please allow them to live a life of mobility, as all animals are intended to and is their given right.

Sincerely,
Rachel Rice
Kapa'a, Hawai'i

From: [Royelen Boykie](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Please Support and Pass SB677: Protect our canines
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020 12:21:02 AM

LATE

Aloha Committee Members,

Please pass SB 677, we must do what we can to stop cruelty to animals. It's an issue that either side of the aisle has constituents who agree.

This is a historic moment when you can do something that will create a humane life for our non-human friends, family, beloveds. Image the love you will feel for yourself when you have done something so good for so many.

Here is a link to the bill: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=677&year=2020&fbclid=IwAR3IG2o5jPfvFscok4aclpIMhsl-o0I7aL7MHvOYxl7ZYJfyX0sa5-v23Y

I live in Puueo in Hilo and am a registered voter.

I'm grateful for your time and for your service.

Aloha,
Royelen

Royelen Lee Boykie
[@Royelen](#)
[LinkedIn](#)



From: [faustine_07_ala](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT SB677 SD1
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2020 11:23:32 AM

I support SB677.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

LATE

From: [Mary Despe](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB677; Dog tethering
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:36:47 PM

Hello,

My name is Mary Despe, a resident of Kahuku, on the island of Oahu. I am an owner of two dogs and learned of SB677 that is up for consideration in the legislature. I am in support of SB677 and urge you to pass the bill. Tethering dogs, especially young dogs under 6 months, have such a negative impact on the health and well-being of these animals. When I lived on the Windward Side in Kahaluu, I had many neighbors that would cage their dogs, and chain them up outside their homes for over 8 hours a day. These dogs would have limited socialization experiences with other dogs and humans, and would appear to be of extreme dispositions in their interactions. Dogs need exercise, socialization and care, and by tethering them, especially from a young age, they are denied a fair chance to experience these things.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at mary.despe@gmail.com or at (808) 343-3881.

Warm Regards and Aloha,
Mary Despe

SB677, would prohibit the most dangerous forms of dog tethering, including chaining of dogs under 6 months.
Email "Support SB677 SD1; Dog tethering" to JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Mary Despe

Email: mary.despe@gmail.com

Cell: +1 (808) 343.3881

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/mkdespe>

www.mkdespeconsulting.com

From: [PAUL WESTMAN](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Kurt Fevella](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: SB677
Date: Monday, February 17, 2020 4:32:26 PM

To whom it may concern,

SB677 is an egregious measure that should without a single doubt in my mind be at a minimum edited to exclude the portion which “prohibits the sale, distribution or use of electric shock dog collars”. I believe that it is fair to say that all rational persons are advocates for animal welfare, however, this bill is simply a waste of taxpayer dollars and will prove to be a detriment to the community of Hawaii at large.

First, SB677 uses the term “shock collar”, a term that blatantly reads as propaganda distributed by certain sectors of the dog community that are simply seeking to eliminate competition due to their lack of understanding as to how a remote training collar operates. Personally, I refer to said collars as remote training collars because that is exactly their function, they provide the opportunity for owners/professionals to train their dogs remotely. If you or a loved one has ever personally benefitted from a tens unit the sensation is similar, I and many other dog owners/professionals will happily attest to this fact. The propaganda put forth by groups such as PETA is disingenuous and shows a willful ignorance as to how these collars function.

Second, regarding training using remote training collars, there are widespread applications ranging from working dogs, to pets, to dogs that would otherwise be a liability to the community. These collars provide a safe, effective, and consistent form of communication to dogs and therefore enhances the relationship between dog and owner/trainer. They provide the ability to communicate with a dog at a wide range of distances with consistency that was hitherto undreamt of which as a result enhances the ability of the average dog owner to train their dog to a high level. Specifically, the recall (where a dog owner calls their dog and the dog then returns to the owner) can be taught in an expeditious manner using a remote training collar. The reason for specifically referencing the recall is because when at large in the community I and many other dog owners/professionals have anecdotally noted that dogs who will not return to their owners when called pose the greatest disturbance to the community at large. I believe that it is not out of line to surmise that the average person would conclude that it is a positive event when a dog who may have wandered off returns to their owner consistently when called due to it reducing the likelihood of a disturbance occurring/continuing to occur.

Finally, many individuals including myself are gravely concerned with the operationalization of this measure. How will enforcement officials be trained to spot the difference between a vibrate only collar and an electric collar? Will they fairly enforce this measure? Will it cause undue and borderline unconstitutional intrusions into the lives of dog owning citizens? These are all serious questions that must be addressed and unfortunately likely cannot be addressed due to the complexity of enforcing such a measure.

In closing, I wholeheartedly condemn SB677 and hope that the legislature will as well. If I can provide further input regarding this matter that would be of benefit please feel free to respond to the email within which this note is contained.