



**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Chair Senator Mike Gabbard  
Vice Chair Senator Clarence Nishihara  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 416, HD2:  
Relating to Section 711-1109, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
Monday, March 15, 2021, 1 p.m., Via Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Committee Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the passage of House Bill 416, HD2, 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 by themselves.

Hawaiian Humane respects the importance of ensuring pet owners have options to keep their animals safe. We appreciate that HB 416, HD2, does not ban tethering, which would disadvantage pet owners who cannot otherwise secure their property or face lease restrictions that limit their options for housing their pets. Rather this bill requires that when tethering is used, it is safe for the animal. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

Having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows the county animal service providers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as keeping dogs isolated from human contact. Dogs are social beings who do best when fully integrated into their human families. Improper or prolonged tethering is frustrating to dogs, which increases the risk of serious dog bites. The victims of such attacks are often children.

I urge you to pass HB 416, HD2, to protect animals and people. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 12:39:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marian Hussenbux    | Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This bill rightly prohibits specified trolleys, pulleys, cables, or running lines designed to attach a dog to two stationary objects in a configuration that endangers the dog, including by even depriving the dog of sustenance, which is surely an act of cruelty.

It also prohibits the unsupervised tethering of a dog under the age of six months.

This gives dog owners the flexibility they need to keep their animals secure, protects the community from unsecured dogs if necessary, and ensures that dogs who have to be tethered are confined in ways that are safe and allow them adequate shelter, sustenance and freedom of movement.

We understand that proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement and that the provisions of the bill are meaningful and enforceable. Having a clear, enforceable tethering law allows the county animal service providers to educate companion animal guardians about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as keeping dogs isolated from human contact, which is undesirable as they are preeminently social beings.

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain would like to formally endorse this bill.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 6:08:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel       | Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

ARH supports HB4162. Please pass this legislation that has been needed for many years.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 10:31:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randyl Rugar        | Testifying for Sanctuary of Mana Ke`a Gardens | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Respect the life of your canine companions!  
They are your friends, not prisoners....



# HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

*Hawaii Island Humane Society / Hawaiian Humane Society / Kauai Humane Society / Maui Humane Society / Molokai Humane Society*

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Chair Senator Mike Gabbard  
Vice Chair Senator Clarence Nishihara  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in support of HB 416, HD2:  
Relating to Section 711-1109, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
Monday, March 15, 2021, 1 p.m., Via Videoconference

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The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAWA) supports the passage of House Bill 416, HD2, which prohibits specified equipment designed to attach a dog to two stationary objects in a configuration that endangers the dog. It also prohibits tethering a dog under the age of six months unless the dog is engaged in a supervised activity.

HAWA's members include the largest animal shelters in each of the four counties, as well as the leader in pet animal spay/neuter on Molokai. Our independent local nonprofits are united in support of HB 416, HD2.

The inappropriate tethering of dogs is an issue on all of our islands. Tethering a dog in ways that cause injury; prevent access to food, water or shelter; or isolate the animal from opportunities to bond with his human family are traumatizing and can lead to aggression. The specific and enforceable provisions of this bill will allow humane investigators to educate dog owners so they can correct violations while still keeping their pets safe on their property. We urge you to pass HB 416, HD2, to ensure animals and their human family members are safe from harm.

Mahalo for considering our testimony on this important issue,

Hoala Davis, *Executive Director, Molokai Humane Society*

Elizabeth Jose, DVM, *Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Island Humane Society*

Steve MacKinnon, *Chief Executive Officer, Maui Humane Society*

Anna Neubauer, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawaiian Humane Society*

Nicole Schafer, *Executive Director, Kauai Humane Society*

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 12:02:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keola               | Testifying for Domestic Violence Hurts Animals and People 501(c)3 | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am in full support of this Bill due to the increase in animal abuse and neglect.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 12:36:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>          | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Inga Gibson         | Testifying for Pono Advocacy | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

March 15, 2021

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB416 HD2** and have worked on this measure for a number of years, with the bill sponsor, law enforcement, animal care and control agencies and concerned community members, to achieve the current language in the bill.

Chained dogs are 3 times more likely to bite and become aggressive than unchained dogs. Of those bites, children are 5 times more likely to be the victim. This bill allows for the prevention of dog aggression and potential neglect by allowing law enforcement to intervene to educate dog owners before an animal becomes aggressive or the dog endangers itself, by being chained or tethered in a dangerous manner.

This bill is a modest but necessary step to protect both animal welfare and community safety.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 4:42:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| joanna p milo       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

as an individual citizen..i agree..



**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 4:50:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Saul          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I would like to thank the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment for considering these important requirements relating to dog tethering which will transform a practice from one that inflicts cruelty into measures that are safe and appropriate for the animal.

Please support passage of this Bill.

Aloha,

Alice Saul  
Honolulu (Hawaii Kai)

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 4:52:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>    | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ilene Cohen Harrington | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Tethering is cruel and abusive. It causes physical and psychological damage to our best friends who thrive by being with their pack who is their human family. Please show Aloha to our dogs who, when trained, will detect cancer in humans, be the eyes of the blind, work tirelessly with our police force and so much more. It is time for our state to stop condoning animal abuse which we do when we don't do anything to stop it. And please don't forget, over 30 years of research has proven animal abuse and domestic violence are perpetrated by the same people. When you work to end animal abuse, you are also helping end domestic violence.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 4:56:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashley Wilcox       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support hazardous tethers and restraints. We must do the right thing for our animals.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 5:13:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>    | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ilene Cohen Harrington | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am concerned that variations of this same Bill have not been passed over the last several years. We all are aware of the damage constant tethering does to our pet dogs both physically and psychologically. Why then, in the Aloha State where we are suppose to stand for kindness, do we continue to allow this abusive treatment of our dogs?

Those of you in control of deciding whether or not to pass this Bill should ask yourself, when am I going to step up and stand for ethical treatment of our pet dogs? When will I have the courage to stop animal abuse even if I know my family and neighbors could be the ones involved in this behavior? Remember silence is the same as approving. Please be the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves and let's pass this Bill.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 5:18:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Jenkins        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support this bill and help prevent this unnecessary cruelty.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 5:31:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Wilcox       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Let's protect animals from hazardous and improper tethering.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 4:01:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Chiwa      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please support HB 416 HD 2 as this bill prohibits use of tethering equipment and techniques that would injure dogs, requires safety of dogs when being tethered and, to my understanding, would provide for a clear, enforceable law. As a bill to help the welfare of dogs, again please support HB 416 HD 2.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 9:00:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Having a clear, enforceable tethering law allows the county animal service providers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as keeping dogs isolated from human contact. More importantly, it saves lives.



**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 9:13:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Summer Whitmore     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a resident of Pahala, Hawaii I have seen some awful ways in which dogs are treated. When I call the police to file a report and they come out and check, they just shrug their shoulders and say there is nothing they can do because the laws for the animals do not protect them. We need stronger laws. Dogs should not be able to be fed once a week, or occasionally be given water. They should not live out their entire life tethered to a broken object. All the fur from around their necks should not be rubbed completely off due to the tethering. Dogs are companion animals. They are curious, loving, adventurous, and kind. When they are treated in these inhumane ways they become sad or aggressive. Please make stronger rules to keep dogs safe. If you would ever like me to give you a tour of animal abuse in Pahala, please let me know. My email is summerdwhitmore@gmail.com Thank you for your consideration, Summer

Please, everyone support this bill! So many dogs are injured with tethers used deliberately or unknowingly by people who don't care about the dogs welfare.

This Is animal cruelty and abuse! It must stop now!

Dogs can sustain multiple injuries and die from these tethers!

This bill is long overdue, please do your part to help our loving canine community. Pass this bill and make it effective ASAP!

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 10:28:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam Rohlf           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please pass this bill to help those pets that are suffering. There should be no tolerance for cruelty

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 11:55:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marja Rennholm      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Chained and/or tethered dogs are often poorly socialized which can lead to aggressive behaviors. Education for the public and pet owners is essential for the safety and well-being of the dog, the dog owner and the community.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 12:30:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Avi Okin            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It is about time we address animal cruelty and try to remedy the unnecessary pain we cause the animals. Too many dogs are treated as lawn furniture by insensitive owners who chain and abuse them to no end. Please pass this measure as a start.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 12:55:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taurie Kinoshita    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. HB416, HD2, prohibits the use of specific tethering equipment and techniques that are injurious to dogs. It 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 and the hurt and pain caused by tethering them is inconceivable. Since this bill requires that when tethering is used, it is safe for the animal. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement. Having a clear, enforceable tethering law allows the county animal service providers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as keeping dogs isolated from human contact. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Taurie Kinoshita Hawaii Resident

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 1:18:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kendyll Howard      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Kā• uko,

I fully support improving our animal abuse laws here in Hawaii. I believe even more needs to be done and every little step helps bring us closer to real change. I have seen too many dogs die from being tethered. This is just one of the many abuses I observe daily. Dogs are being left in the blazing sun all day every day. Dogs are being locked in small cages which they never leave their entire life, and with close to zero human interaction. Some of these dogs are eating and sleeping in their own feces and die from neglect. Dogs are falling out of trucks on the roadways and getting run over daily.

It is inhumane and criminal to abuse animals this way. We must do more to educate people about animal abuse. We need resources for these animals and they should be taken away from people who are abusing them.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kendyll Howard

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 2:03:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Eubank        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support HB416. Hawaii Senate, please pass this bill !

Mahalo,

Susan Eubank

Diamond Head



**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 2:43:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jana Levin-Strojny  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support HB416 H2.

Dr Jana Levin

Kailua Kona 96740

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 2:48:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Timothy Waite       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**We support** HB416, HD2, which would prohibit the use of specific tethering equipment and techniques that are injurious to dogs.

- It 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.
- The bill requires that when tethering is used, it is safe for the animal. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.
- Having a clear, enforceable tethering law allows the county animal service providers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as keeping dogs isolated from human contact.

Please support this bill for those creatures that have no voice.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:01:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Sather       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii, and I far too often see animals tied out in an unshaded yard, with no food or water , for days! I see vehicles parked at the residence, yet nobody had gone out to help the dog or put a water bowl or anything out for them. It's heartbreaking, and such abuse for these animals . Could you imagine being chained up in the hot Hawaii sun, with no water or food for days? Dehydrated and burning . Bottom line is, if you aren't going to take care of your pets , you shouldn't be allowed to own a pet. I also feel like there should be a consequence for such abuse.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:21:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jay Coskie          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Canines are sentient beings, they as do all God's creatures want to have a life that is not filled with pain and suffering. Tying up an animal and leaving them in that condition is not only abusive, but cruel. Dogs are pack animals and need to be with their pack, and in most cases that is their human. Not tethered to a chain or a rope, left in the elements, often forgotten, without the ability to move beyond the length of the rope. Who would want that? Maybe if people weren't so interested in protecting their properties from thieves and drug dealers who want to steal crops, the poor dog wouldn't be in this position. Been here half my life and I know how it goes. It turns my stomach to think about it, let alone see it. And I've seen it. As a real estate agent here for thirty years I've been all over the island. Please put a stop to it and give these animals....man's best friend might I point out....a chance to live a decent life. Not attached to a chain.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 4:45:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carole R. Richelieu | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This bill prohibits equipment and techniques which injure dogs. Apparently some people need to be told not to injure dogs. A clear tethering law is needed to allow education and enforcement. Thank you.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 8:13:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jhumar Ray Domingo  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support HB416 because tethering is cruelty to animals. They can choke and strangle themselves. We should not allow this to happen. People treat animals this way should never own a pet. And should be punished to full extent.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 10:43:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eric Ako DVM        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Honorable Chair and Committee members,

Please pass HB416.

After 8 years hard labor and a bit of luck, I was able to begin paying a home mortgage and personally took a couple of months to gut and replace my current home.

The first thing to do was 360 yard security, especially valuable today. Gallons of sweat were shed.

We need to move away from tethering in our community.

As a family veterinarian, animals deserve better; and how well we treat them is a reflection of how we treat each other.

Please pass HB416

Thank you,

Eric Ako DVM

Past Chair, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Past Pres and Executive VP, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Assn

Past President, Honolulu Zoological Society

Past Vice Chair, Hawaiian Humane Society





**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 2:06:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Jo         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to ask that you please pass HB416. This is my 3rd straight year of submitting testimony for this cause, to only have the bill not passed because it was not heard for a final vote. Animal abuse has escalated as a result of the pandemic. There are more and more animals being abused, and very little is being done about it. This law is a baby step in solving the significant problem in Hawaii with regards to rampant animal abuse in our community.

I live in Puna, and I see the same dogs tied up to a short chain on my way to work, and in the evening on my way home. These dogs are miserable, and are left dehydrated, starved, and abandoned. Have you ever looked into the eyes of a chained dog? If you have you will agree that you can see the pain in their eyes, and wanting so much for a loving home. These dogs are adopted with the expectation that they will live a cruelty free life, which is simply not the case for so many dogs in Hawaii. Tethering of dogs should be completely banned, but this bill will at least start the pathway to banning all tethering of dogs.

Please be the voice that innocent dogs need and pass this measure, and make sure that it has the chance to be voted on and made into law. The past three years of nothing happening has led to thousands of dogs being tied up their entire lives, and dying as a result of neglect. We simply cannot let another year go by with nothing happening to protect these animals.

Thank you,

Jennifer Jo

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 2:18:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Keawe          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support 416 hd2

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 4:33:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JOANNE PARKER       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please, please support this bill.

I have witnessed a dog fall victim to an unsupervised chaining. It was horrible and absolutely no living being should be subjected to this type of tethering.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 4:36:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael D Parker    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Mahalo

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 5:07:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brenda Nelson       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Stop the horrible abuse of animals. People that abuse animals also abuse women and children. Support HB416 HD2. Do what is RIGHT!

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 7:49:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mara saltzman       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

Please support and pass this bill. It is shocking that measures to protect animals from cruelty in this way is not in place yet.

Sincerely,

Mara Saltzman

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 9:04:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Claspell      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of HB416, HD2. I am a Psychologist who have worked with both victims and perpetrators of Domestic Violence. As part of my experience, I have seen how abuse is multigenerational. There is an association of domestic violence and aggression toward people, which may have started with animals. Children witness and normalize how violence is accepted and encouraged when resolving differences in families. This bill points to the harm and suffering that animals experience when tethered, but speaks to a much larger picture of the nature of embracing harm and suffering of all living things. Please support this bill in stopping the abuse of animals and the associated penalties as well as the importance of mandatory education that harm and suffering extended toward animals is not tolerated. Thank you.

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 9:27:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Larry McGoff        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My Testimony is in Support of Intent of HB 416 with Proposed Amendments Aloha Chairperson Hashem and Committee Members.

Please support HB 416 with amendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society. This bill prohibits tethering equipment and techniques which could injure a dog. I consider this cruel punishment, our beloved furry family members deserve humane treatment, people that tether and cage their pets should loose the privilege of ever having them again and be fined and prosecuted.

It's my understanding that the amendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society would clarify and improve enforcement of this bill and assist in the education of proper tethering equipment and its uses.

Please support the intent of HB 416 with proposed amendments.

Mahalo for your support,

Larry McGoff, Waikoloa HI 96738



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee!

I serve as a volunteer members of the Hawaiian Humane Society board of directors and am writing to ask for your support for this important bill on tethering. Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please pass HB416, HD2, to protect dogs and their human family members.

Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pavlicek  
3012 Hoaloha Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96817

SUPPORT FOR HB416 HD2

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please pass HB416, HD2, to protect dogs and their human family members.

Let's make this the Aloha State for animals. More education, less cruelty. Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lee Cuccia  
1479 Kiukee Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Thank you for your compassion in considering this bill that will help protect animals from certain restraints that can be mentally and physically damaging and cruel to dogs. Thank you for your kind consideration to this bill.

Sincerely,

Michele Hope Velasco  
1530 16th Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill 416 HD2, which balances the need for pet owners to have options for keeping their dogs confined to their property, while also making sure dogs are not at risk of entanglement or injury from the very equipment meant to keep them safe. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

I also support the bill's ban on the unsupervised tethering of dogs who are less than six months old. Puppies are notoriously uncoordinated. They should be left alone as little as possible for reasons of safety, but also because the first six months of a puppy's life are critical for social bonding. When they do have to be left by themselves, crate training is the best option.

I support HB416 HD2. I urge the committee to pass HB416 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Sincerely,

Debi Bukala  
59-788 Alapio Rd  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Please Support HB416 HD2

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, March 15, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill HB416 HD2, which would protect dogs from being tethered in dangerous or inhumane ways.

Dog tethering can be used sparingly as a way to confine dogs when better alternatives, such as staying inside the home or in a fenced yard, are unavailable. When dogs are tethered, it is important that they be restrained by equipment that is safe and in ways that allow them full access to food, water and shelter. HB416 HD2, would make sure of that.

Dogs have evolved to be courageous protectors and loyal companions for their human families. We owe them a healthy, safe life in return. Please pass this bill.  
Thank you for your time and attention.

Mahalo,

Sincerely,

Natalie Spencer  
819 Papalalo Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96825

SUPPORT FOR HB416 HD2

Dear VP Operations Ho:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please pass HB416, HD2, to protect dogs and their human family members.

Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Torun Almer  
84-5142 Keala O Keawe Rd  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2 to improve the treatment of our canine friends!

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please pass HB416, HD2, to protect dogs and their human family members.

Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Donna Ching  
2212 Wilder Ave Apt A  
Honolulu, HI 96822

## SUPPORT FOR HB416 HD2

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please support House Bill 416 HD2. Animals need a voice and I am a voice for them.

Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Pamela Maiava  
1622 Saint Louis Dr  
Honolulu, HI 96816



DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill 416 HD2, which balances the need for pet owners to have options for keeping their dogs confined to their property, while also making sure dogs are not at risk of entanglement or injury from the very equipment meant to keep them safe. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

I also support the bill's ban on the unsupervised tethering of dogs who are less than six months old. Puppies are notoriously uncoordinated. They should be left alone as little as possible for reasons of safety, but also because the first six months of a puppy's life are critical for social bonding. When they do have to be left by themselves, crate training is the best option.

I urge the committee to pass HB416 HD2. Please protect our furry friends from neglectful, dangerous owners who don't care or understand the psychological and/or physical toll that inhumane restraints pose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Laura Myers  
47-109 Kopili Pl  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

Please pass HB416 HD2 to prohibit dangerous restraints for dogs. As a real estate agent, I was selling a house and the tenants, who had just moved out, left their dog tethered to the empty home. The heavy chain had tangled in trash in the yard, and she could not reach shelter or food. She was stuck next to her own pile of poo for two days until I took her to a shelter. These types of "owners" are not held responsible for their cruel behavior. They are allowed to have their dog back with no charges, no warning, no issues, to continue their cruelty. I wish I had kept the dog- it broke my heart. Please make this illegal!

I urge the committee to pass HB416 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Ho  
2502 Henry St  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Please Pass HB416 HD2

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, March 15, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill HB416 HD2, which would protect dogs from being tethered in dangerous or inhumane ways.

Dog tethering can be used sparingly as a way to confine dogs when better alternatives, such as staying inside the home or in a fenced yard, are unavailable. When dogs are tethered, it is important that they be restrained by equipment that is safe and in ways that allow them full access to food, water and shelter. HB416 HD2, would make sure of that.

Dogs have evolved to be courageous protectors and loyal companions for their human families. We owe them a healthy, safe life in return. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mahalo,

Gerrit Osborne  
1430 Ehupua St  
Honolulu, HI 96821

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill 416 HD2, which balances the need for pet owners to have options for keeping their dogs confined to their property, while also making sure dogs are not at risk of entanglement or injury from the very equipment meant to keep them safe. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

I also support the bill's ban on the unsupervised tethering of dogs who are less than six months old. Puppies are notoriously uncoordinated. They should be left alone as little as possible for reasons of safety, but also because the first six months of a puppy's life are critical for social bonding. When they do have to be left by themselves, crate training is the best option.

I've seen first hand dogs injured forever by tethers. They do not deserve to be kept on a 4 foot chain where they are required to poop, pee, eat and sleep in the same area.

I urge the committee to pass HB416 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Susan Collins  
46-3991 Old Mamalahoa Hwy  
Honokaa, HI 96727

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

We must protect those who cannot speak up for themselves.

I support House Bill 416 HD2, which balances the need for pet owners to have options for keeping their dogs confined to their property, while also making sure dogs are not at risk of entanglement or injury from the very equipment meant to keep them safe. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

I also support the bill's ban on the unsupervised tethering of dogs who are less than six months old. Puppies are notoriously uncoordinated. They should be left alone as little as possible for reasons of safety, but also because the first six months of a puppy's life are critical for social bonding. When they do have to be left by themselves, crate training is the best option.

I urge the committee to pass HB416 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

DJ Sakata

95-422 Lauawa St

Mililani, HI 96789

Please PASS HB416 HD2

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill 416 HD2, which balances the need for pet owners to have options for keeping their dogs confined to their property, while also making sure dogs are not at risk of entanglement or injury from the very equipment meant to keep them safe. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

I also support the bill's ban on the unsupervised tethering of dogs who are less than six months old. Puppies are notoriously uncoordinated. They should be left alone as little as possible for reasons of safety, but also because the first six months of a puppy's life are critical for social bonding. When they do have to be left by themselves, crate training is the best option.

Please support the passage of this bill. I support several animal rescue organizations who are called upon to provide support, care, and shelter from these animals are often the victims of neglect. It's heartbreaking to see these animals suffer. This bill will also provide education for owners for whom these actions were unintentional and provide penalties to those who intend harm. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Melanie Kim  
2895 Kalakaua Ave Apt 1502  
Honolulu, HI 96815

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL 416 HD2, RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill 416 HD2, which balances the need for pet owners to have options for keeping their dogs confined to their property, while also making sure dogs are not at risk of entanglement or injury from the very equipment meant to keep them safe. Proper tethering equipment is readily available and appropriate techniques are easy to implement.

I also support the bill's ban on the unsupervised tethering of dogs who are less than six months old. Puppies are notoriously uncoordinated. They should be left alone as little as possible for reasons of safety, but also because the first six months of a puppy's life are critical for social bonding. When they do have to be left by themselves, crate training is the best option.

I urge the committee to pass HB416 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Hamid Jahanmir  
915 Birch St Apt 106  
Honolulu, HI 96814

SUPPORT FOR HB416 HD2

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

Inappropriate dog tethering creates enormous suffering across our state. I strongly support HB416, HD2.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please pass HB416, HD2, to protect dogs and their human family members.

Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita  
1524 Pensacola St Apt 119  
Honolulu, HI 96822



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, March 15, 2021

1:00 PM

Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I strongly support Senate Bill HB416 HD2. Sadly, I have myself witnessed the heartbreaking eventual demise in a cruel manner of dogs tethered in inhumane ways where they suffered which was unnecessary and cruel. Animals are living sentient beings, our responsibility, and part of our families. Also, our keiki should neither witness or learn this cruelty and mimic it.

Dog tethering can be used sparingly as a way to confine dogs when better alternatives, such a staying inside the home or in a fenced yard, are unavailable. When dogs are tethered, it is important that they be restrained by equipment that is safe and in ways that allow them full access to food, water and shelter. HB416 HD2, would make sure of that.

Dogs have evolved to be courageous protectors and loyal companions for their human families. We owe them a healthy, safe life in return. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Cynthia Tucker

5-4280 Kuhio Hwy

Princeville, HI 96722

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, March 15, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I support House Bill HB416 HD2, which would protect dogs from being tethered in dangerous or inhumane ways.

Dog tethering can be used sparingly as a way to confine dogs when better alternatives, such as staying inside the home or in a fenced yard, are unavailable. When dogs are tethered, it is important that they be restrained by equipment that is safe and in ways that allow them full access to food, water and shelter. HB416 HD2, would make sure of that.

Dogs have evolved to be courageous protectors and loyal companions for their human families. We owe them a healthy, safe life in return. Please pass this bill.  
Thank you for your time and attention.

Mahalo,

Taylor Prostor  
3031 Libert St  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, March 15, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

A dog kept (tethered) chained alone in one spot for hours, days, months, or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept chained, becomes neurotic, depressed, anxious, and often aggressive. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs' constant yanking and straining to reach their water bowl or escape confinement. Some chained dogs have collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain.

In addition to The Humane Society of the United States and numerous animal experts, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a statement in the July 2, 1996, Federal Register against tethering: "Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury." In 1997, the USDA ruled that people and organizations regulated by the Animal Welfare Act cannot keep dogs continuously chained.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has also stated "Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) concluded in a study that the dogs most likely to attack are male, unneutered, and chained.

Thank you for reading this and I urge you to reach into your heart and pass this bill and protect those who can't speak for themselves. Please be their voice and cry for help. Mahalo.

Michele Moore  
98-618 Holopuni St  
Aiea, HI 96701

## SUPPORT FOR HB416 HD2

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB416, HD2. Improper dog tethering creates enormous suffering.

Dog fighters' cruel practice of using tow and log chains to restrain their dogs should absolutely be abolished and is reason enough to pass this bill.

In addition, having a clear, enforceable tethering law also allows officers to educate pet owners about other potential issues with dog tethering, such as isolation and frustration. Dogs are happiest as full family members. Improper or prolonged tethering causes mental anguish, which increases the risk that a dog will attack even members of its own household. The victims of bites by a family's own pet dog are most commonly children.

Please pass HB416, HD2, to protect dogs and their human family members.

Mahalo for taking up this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brewer  
46-412 Haiku Plantations Dr  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 3:16:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ginny Tiu           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**I respectfully urge you to please pass this bill, for just the very basic welfare of our dogs. They deserve to be treated humanely. It is also for the safety of our community because they can become very aggressive if they are restricted for long periods of time.**

**thank you very much for your support.**

**ginny Tiu**

**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 12:19:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carrie Harrington   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support the proposed anti-tethering law HB416 HD2. I witness way too many tethered dogs in Hawaii, many of which are on chains or ropes so short they cannot even alleviate themselves without sitting in their own excrement. Tethering for more than a few hours with no supervision is inhumane and a clear demonstration of animal abuse. This bill is not as stringent as I would prefer, but it is a good start to providing many dogs the much needed protection they deserve. Hawaii should be a leader in human and non-human animal rights. Let's move our State, and our communities, forward in a more positive direction. Thank you in advance for approving and passing this bill!

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

**LATE**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THOMAS J. BRADY  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Thirty-First State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2021**  
**State of Hawai`i**

March 15, 2021

**RE: H.B. 416, H.D. 2; RELATING TO SECTION 711-1109, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following comments regarding H.B. 416, H.D. 2.

The purpose of this bill is to amend section 711-1109 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) by including the prohibition of the use of specific tethering devices and techniques and to create reasonable standards for securing and protecting dogs outdoors.

**Suggested Amendments:**

Section 1 (pg. 3, ln. 2-16)

The Department would suggest amending the wording in subsection (g) on page 3 to clarify the prohibited conduct and elements of the offense. Subsections (i)-(iii) (pg. 3, ln. 3-15) should be amended to reflect their own subsections as (h)-(j), rather than numerated subsections as proposed in H.B. 416, H.D. 2. This amendment is necessary as the current language addressing subsections (i)-(iii) appears to narrow the criminal conduct listed in subsection (g), however, it is the Department's belief that the intent of this section in H.B. 416, H.D. 2 is to actually make the behavior listed in (i)-(iii) criminal offenses that is in addition to subsection (g).

Section 1 (pg. 4, ln. 5-9)

The Department would suggest removal of the authorized penalties on page 4, ln 5-9. The Department is concerned that the proposed language may create a conflict within the H.R.S. and may unnecessarily restrict the Department from requesting the educational courses as a condition of probation in other types of cruelty to animal offenses. Additionally, the Department would note that removal of this provision would not preclude the courts from imposing educational classes as this proposed condition is already authorized under section 706-624, H.R.S.

Based on the foregoing, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits comments regarding the passage of H.B. 416, H.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**HB-416-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 1:05:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joanie Cooper Pence | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It is appauling to me how dogs are treated in this state. Chaining and tethering dogs for days, limited food and water, with no interaction with people. I see countless dogs on social media daily that are lost, found, run over, starving, etc.. Dogs just dumped like trash and treated terribly. Something needs to change.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**LATE**

**To:** Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**In Support Of:** HB 416

**Date:** March 15, 2021

**Testimony By:** Lindsay Vierheilig, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Lindsay Vierheilig and I am the Hawaii State Director for The Humane Society of the United States. I am writing to express support for HB 416 with amendments, which creates reasonable standards for chaining dogs who live outdoors. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of our Hawaii members and supporters, and I am grateful to the House of Representatives for recognizing tethering as a critical issue. While our hope is that every dog would share a home with his or her human family, we understand that is not always the case, so it is important that dogs who live outdoors be protected.

Constant, improper chaining puts a dog's health and safety at risk. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become rubbed raw and covered with sores, the result of cruelly heavy chains, poorly fitted collars and the dogs' yanking and straining to escape confinement. Additionally, it is shockingly common for law enforcement to find dogs with embedded collars, a horrible situation where the collar grows into the skin, typically requiring surgery.

The vagueness of current law makes it difficult for enforcement officers who want to take action before a dog has suffered injury or death. Often, it is too late for the dog and the owner faces criminal charges. HB 416 will create clear guidelines for both owner and officer. The intention is not simply to punish violators, but to create reasonable expectations for the humane treatment of dogs, and allow owners the ability to take proactive steps to comply.

HB 416 offers the following common sense protections for Hawaii's dogs: a) ensures that dogs who are kept 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 are provided adequate food and water. HB 416 is an important step in protecting the people and dogs of Hawaii and we look forward to its passage. Thank you very much for your time.

**The Humane Society of the United States requests that HB 416 HD1 be reported favorably.**

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig  
Hawaii State Director  
lvierheilig@humanesociety.org  
808-462-3561



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