



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 1682, RELATING TO PET SALES.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Kelcie K. Nagata or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to regulate pet animals sold in pet stores. The bill requires stores to: (1) maintain records regarding the source and medical history of the animals sold, and (2) provide those records to consumers and, upon request, to county law enforcement agency, animal control services agency or contractor for the county in which the store is located.

The new section added to chapter 143 by section 2 of the bill appears to provide that a person who violates this section shall be "guilty" of a violation, for which a civil penalty of not less than \$1,000, and a ban on selling pet animals for not less than one year, must be imposed in subsection (f) beginning on page 5, line 5. To clarify that this section shall be enforced by county prosecutors and to provide the maximum penalties to be imposed, we recommend that the first sentence of subsection (f) beginning on page 5, line 5, be amended to read as follows (shown in Ramseyer as compared to the bill):

(f) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a violation and shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$_____ and shall be prohibited from selling pet animals for a period of [~~at least~~] not less than one year[~~-~~] and not more than _____ years. . . .

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

We would like the opportunity to voice our **opposition of bill H.B. 1682**. This bill in place would affect our business. This bill aims to regulate the sale of animals in pet stores, and we feel unfairly targeted.

We are the owners of Koolau Pets. Koolau pets is a small Hawaiian/local family-owned full-line pet store. This store has been owned and operated for fifty years. If it was not operating in a responsible way, it would not be in business anymore. In these times, even reputable small business struggle to stay afloat.

We feel this bill gives misguided information. It also does not just regulate puppies, but all pet animals thus would include cats, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. The beginning of the bill only encompasses concerns regarding dogs but the bill would require regulations for all pets. That's outrageous to expect a family who just brings a few animals to get a "general excise tax license or business license.

Bill H.B. 1682 also just requires an absurd amount of paperwork. It would require our store to take photos of every pet we sell (every bird, every guinea pig, every rabbit). The fact of the matter is we could not afford to do this. Do you require this from any other type of business? And what is the benefit of requiring these photos?

Bill H.B. 1682 claims that puppies in pet stores come from large-scale commercial breeders and/or so called "puppy mills". In reality these claims are not true. The pets Koolau Pets carry come from loving homes and families from all levels of society (including retired police officers, members of the military, firefighters, etc.) These families are not going to want to get a "general excise tax license or business license" for one litter of puppies. The people we purchase puppies from don't even consider themselves breeders.

The only types that would want to get a "general excise tax license or business license" would be a large-scale breeding operation. While we are personally not aware of these operations, we would not want any animals from this type of operation.

Bill H.B. 1682 wants to conform to new bills/regulations adopted in other parts of the country. Koolau Pets feels this is not necessary. This bill mentions pet animals purchased from foreign brokers/breeders. No puppy Koolau Pets has sold was ever purchased by a foreign breeder or broker. The reality of the situation is Hawaii is unique. Many of our puppies come from customers who have been coming to this store for years. Koolau Pets and its employees have watched generations of these people grow up and purchase their pets from us. Some of these very customers have had a litter or two over the years or at least know someone who has. This is where most of our puppies originate. Many of these customers feel as though they are part of our family at this point -The Koolau Pets family. Our community (your community) feel more comfortable with us helping them place a litter. That's why we have been in business because this is the type of establishment people feel comfortable getting their puppy from.

Bill H.B. 1682 does not stop animals from being housed and/or sold from so called “puppy mills”. In fact, we feel it encourages this type of operation to continue. They are only regulating a place that offers protection for its consumers. Every puppy received by Koolau Pets goes to the vet for a full exam, vaccinations and a de-worming (if necessary). Once puppies clear their vet visit they are ready to go to their new homes. All of these records are provided to the customer at the time of purchase. Koolau pets also provides information on proper care, the benefits of spaying and neutering pets, and various tips/recommendations based on our knowledge and personal experiences owning pets. Koolau Pets does so much for the pet and the customer to develop a relationship with them which is why we have so many repeat customers. Many come back for supplies for their pets or just to bring their puppy by to show how the pet has grown, or advice, etc.

Once purchased, the new puppy owner has one free vet visit to double check for any health problems and parasites. On this second visit if a health problem is found the customer can return puppy, which will go back to breeder. This rarely happens but we feel it is the right way to do business. Each customer who purchases a puppy, has an opportunity to start a thirty-day pet insurance policy at no cost to them a service provided by the vet. After the thirty days, they can purchase this service or it ends.

If bill H.B.1682 came into effect, pet stores would not sell puppies or any pet animal for that matter. We are in the public eye, so we take precautions to ensure the health and well-being of our animals. We also educate potential new owners as much as we can. How is this bill supposed to regulate those people who give away or sell puppies out of their home or even parking lots without ANY type of vet care or accurate information? This bill has given the idea that pet stores are the problem. However, if you look in the paper or on the internet people are selling animals everywhere (even on the side of the road.) How can regulating pet stores help when this is happening everywhere?

We would also like to bring up the fact that California was the first US state to ban pet stores from selling dogs, cats, and rabbits. However, if you look at their statistics, the numbers of pets being surrendered has increased every year since the ban. In fact, it has increased all over the US even though there are six or seven states that fully restrict the sale of pet animals and a number of counties in the US in a total of “thirty-three states that require licensing from commercial pet breeders”. The humane societies are first to bring up these bills being passed. But where are the results/benefits? They never give us any statistics that show any correlation to passing these bills and benefits. This tells me that **pet stores are not the problem and this bill will not be the answer.**

Koolau pets feels bill H.B.1682 is a direct attack on the pet industry. To make a bill that states “No retail pet store shall sell or offer for sale any pet animal unless the retail pet store was in operation in the State prior to January 1, 2025 is unfair. Full-line pet stores should not be illegal. Also, this bill states that they can sell animals (under restrictions) only if the store “operates in the same location under the same ownership in effect as of January 1,2025. Koolau Pets is in the Windward Mall, but it has been at various locations on the Windward side. So, this bill would never allow us to move locations or sell the business as is. This is a travesty. As a small business, this removes any chances of a retirement for us as owners because it is taking away the selling value of this business. Please don’t take away the opportunity for people in Hawaii to see pets in pet stores.

The reality of the situation is there are many opportunities for consumers to adopt pets (if they want). If that is what they wanted to do, they would. Please don't take away a safe, reliable option for people to obtain a pet.

I would also like to ask if **any sections** of this bill are moved forward, that these businesses are given ample time to get out of their leases. Small business owners such as ourselves have a high overhead and survive month to month and this would lead to drastic changes in our sales.

Stop bill HB1682.

Robert Lawrence and Matthew Furtado (Owners of Koolau Pets)

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:30:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Animal Welfare Institute	Support	In Person

Comments:

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB1682 Relating to pet sales

Dear Chair Tarnas and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee Members

The Animal Welfare Institute supports HB1682 which would set forth the most modest and necessary requirements of pet stores selling live animals. While most of the country has laws regulating pet stores and the large-scale breeders who sell animals to them, Hawai'i lacks any laws regulating such businesses. The lack of laws means that consumers are unaware of the origin of the animals, their health status and the conditions they were raised in.

While we believe greater oversight is needed, such as licensing and inspections of breeders selling to pet stores, this bill is a modest approach to protect both animal and consumer health and welfare by providing buyers and local animal control agencies with the most basic information on these animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Inga Gibson

On behalf of Animal Welfare Institute

I oppose bill H.B.1682.

I (Matthew Furtado) own the pet store in Windward Mall called Koolau Pets. We carry pets and their supplies. Koolau Pets was started in 1974 by my parents (Mel and Napua Furtado). In 2014, when my parents retired, my cousin (Robert Lawrence) and I bought the business. Both of us have worked here most of our adult lives and are proud of the business. We believe Koolau Pets has been successful because it has been run the right and responsible way.

I feel sad to think that this would be my last year in business (due to the bill.) Already many local businesses closed and many people lost their jobs (due to the pandemic). I am hoping that we don't become another statistic.

Many of our customers have been coming to the store for years. I have watched generations of these people grow up and purchase their pets from Koolau Pets. Many of these customers I feel are part of my family at this point -The Koolau Pets family.

The bill says puppies in pet stores come from irresponsible pet breeders and/or puppy mills. In reality these claims are not true and can't be proven. The puppies Koolau Pets carry come from loving homes and families. I believe in the customers that we have purchased these puppies from so much that I have sold many of my own family members pets from the store. We trust them enough to even have purchased these dogs for our own household.

Many of the people who have bred these puppies don't consider these dogs just pets, but family members. Many show us photos of their dogs sleeping in their bed, or dressed up, or at our local beaches and parks, etc. These people wanting to ban pet shops from selling puppies don't know me or my business. I take pride in my store, and I invite you to come and see for yourself what Koolau Pets is all about. Koolau Pets is an extension of me and my family.

This bill does not overtly say that they are banning us from selling puppies, but in the end that's what would happen. The people who bring us puppies are not going to go out of their way to get a general excise tax license or business license. They don't consider themselves breeders. They are not even looking out for these types of bills. So, in end, when they come to the store with a couple puppies, bunnies, guinea pigs or rabbits I'm going to have to turn them away because they don't have a general excise tax license or business license. The people who we get puppies from come from all types of backgrounds and knowledge. Many wouldn't know the first thing about trying to get a business license (and probably won't want to take the time to learn) just to bring the pet store an occasional litter of pets.

The only type of person who would be interested in getting a general excise tax license or business license for pets are the very people this bill says it is trying to discourage. It's encouraging large scale breeders, not my passionate loving households.

Koolau Pets already retains the information of the breeder's name, address, and description of the animals. We also provide any and all medical records to the new owner. In section d of this bill, it wants us to provide the personal information of the breeder to any prospective purchaser, what stops this customer from cutting the pet store out of the sale completely? They would be free to make contact with the breeder and the pet store loses out on any of the profit from the sale.

This bill also talks about foreign brokers or breeders. Koolau Pets does not get any animals from foreign breeders or brokers.

This bill also makes it illegal to start up a business that sells pets after January 1, 2025. This is unfair to our community. A pet store that sells pets is a legitimate business. It's a business that encourages care and compassion for people and animals. I think this type of business should be encouraged. It also would not allow my business to continue to sell animals if it moves locations or changes owners. Koolau Pets has moved multiple times and was previously owned by my parents. Don't prohibit my legacy to my daughters and son.

In conclusion, I oppose bill HB2120 because this bill unfairly punishes/targets pet stores.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 20, 2024

To: Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony with support for HB 1682: Relating to Pet Sales
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, 2 p.m., Room 325 and Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for House Bill 1682, which establishes provisions relating to retail pet sales, and authorizes retail pet stores to showcase pet animals owned by a nonprofit animal welfare organization.

Pet breeding is completely unregulated in Hawaii. While responsible breeders invite potential pet owners to visit their homes and see the conditions in which animals are bred and raised, there is no such transparency from most people who sell pets in our state. There is also no ability for law enforcement to examine breeding establishments and verify the welfare of animals without a search warrant.

To address that serious gap in information about pet breeding – for the protection of consumers and animals – this bill requires stores that sell pet animals to keep records of where those animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide those records to the purchaser of individual animals as well as law enforcement.

The measure would protect prospective pet owners and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit.

While the pet stores opposing this measure claim they need to sell pets to stay in business – which this bill allows them to continue to do – we would also note that none of the local small businesses

that have opened in recent years to serve pet owners sell animals. They are either pet product suppliers exclusively, or they sell pet supplies and partner with nonprofits to adopt animals into homes.

But for those stores that do still sell pets for profit, this measure does NOT prevent that, nor does it limit their choice of suppliers. It DOES require existing stores to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health. If the breeders they are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules.

This measure also addresses conservation interests by requiring the same reporting for all pet animals sold, including rabbits and caged birds.

We urge the committee to pass HB 1682 to protect people and animals. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 10:30:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1682 Relating to Pet Sales requires stores that sell pet animals to keep records of where those animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide those records to the purchaser of individual animals as well as law enforcement.

This measure would protect consumers and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit. We are informed that the enforcement provisions of this measure were gutted from the Senate version, so it is important that this House bill advances.

If the breeders are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these very reasonable rules.

We beg to support the Bill.



February 19, 2024

To: Chair Rep. David Tarnas
Vice Chair Rep. Gregg Takayama
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: HB1682: Relating to pet sales

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports House Bill 1682 and the campaign to regulate the sale of pet animals.

The purchase, adoption, or rescue of a pet animal should, at minimum, always be accompanied with medical history and records. This benefits not only the pet, ensuring it has received appropriate vaccinations and care (protecting its health), but also the pet owner. There are multiple zoonotic diseases that can be spread from pet to human and there are diseases that can be spread to other pets in the household, some of which can be fatal (e.g., parvovirus in dogs).

When considering pets, our immediate thought is their presence within the home, but pets (abandoned or lost) are found in the environment outside of the home. Kaua`i has a very sensitive ecosystem, which would only become more impaired by unregulated breeding of introduced species of pets (e.g., rose-ringed parakeet) and pets carrying diseases (e.g., Avian pox in birds) in the environment, passing those diseases onto endemic wildlife.

We urge you to pass House Bill 1682 as it will promote responsible and ethical breeders, the humane care of animals, and the protection of the pets and wildlife already residing in Hawai`i. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,
Nicole Schafer Crane
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society
nicole@kauaihumane.org

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 12:19:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tish Rothwell	The Pet Depot	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 3:11:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for allowing me to share my support for HB1682 by Rep. Nakashima. It is very important that we be sure that the animals that appear for sale in pet stores are healthy and are not the product of irresponsible breeders. Maintaining records of the origin of and the pet health records concerning each animal is a good beginning. This bill does not interfere with pet stores holding adoption events for nonprofit animal rescue groups, which are an important resource for finding homes for dogs and cats.

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 6:48:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ARH supports HB1682 !^

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:04:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Inkster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi I am Kiana Inkster, and I would like the opportunity to say my opposition of bill HB1682. This bill in place would affect not only my job but my boss's business. This bill aims to regulate the sale of animals in pet stores.

I am a manager at Koolau Pets. Koolau Pets is a small family owned local business, located in Windward Mall that has been around for fifty years. Here at Koolau Pets, we do our absolute best to keep the animals enclosures as clean as possible and constantly refilling their waters. The puppies we take in come from loving and caring homes and families, some of them are actual breeders and sometimes it's on accident. The families who have puppies on accident or who just want one litter don't even count themselves as breeders and I'm sure they wouldn't want to get that "business license".

When puppies come in we write on an invoice the description of the puppies such as the quantity of the puppies we take in, breed or breeds if known, date of birth, registered or unregistered if they are pure and if they are registered, breeder must have the papers on hand; the weights of the parents, if known; price and total; and if the puppies have received any deworming or vaccinations with the date given and brand name so we don't over treat. We also write if the puppies will be sold on consignment meaning the breeder has to wait until the puppies sale and after the 7 day grace period for the check to be ready for pick up. If it's paid out, we write the date of the puppies vet appointment and the date when the check is ready for pick up and after the puppies clear their vet exam then the breeders check will be ready for pick up the next day my boss is working. We also get the date, and breeders information such as name, address, phone number, and signature. The puppies also have to also pass our physical exam, meaning they have to look healthy, no missing fur or any physical medical issues and injuries. If they have hernias, inguinal or umbilical, or over and underbites they will be seen by the vet. All the puppies are then seen by the vet, Haiku Veterinary Clinic is the place we work closely with. The vet does a full exam on the puppies, gives the up to date vaccinations, takes a fecal test and if they have any parasites we treat them. The vet also tells us whether or not if the puppies are healthy or have a medical issue that may cause problems later in the future. If the issues are high rankings those puppies are not able to be sold and given back to the breeder. Haiku also offers a 30 day free trial of Trupanion pet insurance to those who go to the free vet visit we provide within 7 days. When a puppy goes home we go over a contract that talks about the puppies medical record, how to take care of the puppies, what the risks are with the parvovirus, hypoglycemia, highly recommending spay and neutering, going over our one free vet

exam to double check they go home with a healthy puppy and an invoice of the what they are going home with.

Even with the other animals such as, birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats, tortoises etc. when they come in they have to pass our physical exam and fill out the same invoice as the dogs, with quality, species, date of birth, price and total and breeders information. We also provide a health contract that says “within 5 days if they see any health concerns to contact us immediately. They can bring in the animal for observation, return or exchange.” Same thing with the dogs they go home with a care sheet and we give them the best knowledge from what we learned on the job or even from personal experiences. If the customer has any questions they can feel free to contact us during shop hours.

We take in and sell so many animals per week that it would be so difficult to take individual photos and have documentation on each and every animal in our store. Plus sometimes the animals look exactly the same and could be the same gender, so how would we even know who is who. What is even the purpose behind this part of the bill?

Many of these customers have been coming to our store for years and we have watched the generations of customers and their fur babies grow up. They come back for more supplies and even bring their puppies or other animals to show us how they have grown. They tell us how proud they are to have purchased these animals from us and they basically became part of our family. Most of the employees have bought at least one of the animals, myself included. I bought three dogs, a bunny, fish, and an axolotl.

Selling animals in a pet store isn't the problem, especially since we take the precautions to ensure the pet's health and wellbeing. If animals weren't sold in pet stores, yes people can find breeders online but there's also the risk of people getting scammed. Some breeders prefer selling animals to pet stores for their own safety and privacy. Some people will sell them off the roads, dump them on the streets or people will take them to the pound and the pound will complain that they're full of animals and start euthanizing them instead of finding loving homes. Pet stores are the safest place and the most reliable option that a person can find their newest member to add to their family.

Kiana Inkster

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:43:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kyra Kane and I work as a manager at the Ko'olau Pet Store. I have been working at this store for over 2 years and I appose the HB1682 bill. As a staff member, I am able to witness the consideration and care that goes into each animal and ensure that our animals are from local breeders and local families. As an employee I am aware of the shop's diligence in ensuring the health of each animal, and in the event of an issue, the puppies receive immediate treatment from the veterinarian.

In addition, I have bought a few puppies from this pet store both before and after I started working here. The staff went over the physical exam from the vet appointment that my puppy was taken to as well as went over paperwork where I would still be able to contact them if there were anything wrong for a period of time after taking home my puppy. This made me feel comfortable and confident about purchasing a puppy. Knowing that my puppy was healthy and has been cleared by the veterinarian—both directly from the shop and during the post-buy visit, which the business provides to all customers purchasing puppies—made me feel secure about my purchase from Ko'olau Pets.

I have witnessed the level of attention that Ko'olau Pets has given to all of the shop's animals, not just the puppies. For this reason, I oppose Bill HB 1682.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Date: February 20, 2024

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Honorable Members of the Committee
Submitted by: Susan Rhee, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1682: Relating to Pet Sales
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00pm, Capitol Room 325

BACKGROUND: Selling puppies and kittens in pet store raises serious animal welfare and consumer protection issues. By prohibiting *additional* pet stores from selling dogs and cats (and other pet animals) and requiring existing pet stores to increase transparency, lawmakers can protect animals and consumers.

- Seven states and over 480 localities prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. New York, Maryland, California & Illinois prohibit *all* pet stores from selling puppies, while Maine, Oregon & Washington allow existing stores to continue selling puppies.
- There are 3 pet stores in the state that sell puppies, all in City and County of Honolulu County.

THE PROBLEM WITH PUPPY-SELLING PET STORES

Puppy-selling pet stores pose numerous, unique issues for animals and consumers, including:

- **Irresponsible breeders:** Pet stores incentivize irresponsible breeding by guaranteeing a profit for those who want to hide the conditions the puppies were born into. [Responsible breeders](#), on the other hand, sell directly to the public because they have nothing to hide and they want to screen prospective buyers to ensure they are a good fit.
- **Misleading sales tactics:** Pet stores often sell puppies for hundreds of dollars with false promises of humane breeders and healthy, socialized puppies when this is rarely true.
- **Sick puppies:** The HSUS, government agencies, and online platforms receive a constant stream of complaints from consumers with sick, dying or newly deceased pet store puppies and high veterinary bills.
- **In-store mistreatment:** Some puppy stores have been exposed for mistreating or neglecting puppies in their care, denying sick puppies veterinary care, or pumping puppies with antibiotics rather than taking precautions to minimize disease spread.

THE NEED FOR GREATER TRANSPARANCY

Pet stores often do not disclose breeder and health information about the animals they sell to prospective consumers, and rely on customers falling in love with their new pet and believing what they hope is true rather than pressing sales staff on the facts. In order to make informed buying decisions, customers need to be provided with the breeder and health information required in this bill.

THE HUMANE ALTERNATIVE

This law will drive the market towards pet sources and businesses that are better for animals and families.

- Residents will continue to obtain the pet of their choice from shelters, rescues or [responsible breeders](#) who sell directly to the public, never through third parties.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

- There are a wide range of purebred puppies available directly from breeders in our state. Popular mixed breeders are also available directly from breeders.
- The massive retail pet industry (\$136 billion and counting) is dominated by the sale of pet food and products and in-demand pet-related services, with consumers spending more than ever on their pets. No store needs to sell puppies. With that said, our three existing puppy store may continue to do.

Susan Rhee
Hawaii State Director, HSUS



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:59:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilene Cohen Harrington	Domestic Violence Hurts Animals and People	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this Bill.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:33:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn M Golojuch	Rainbow Familu 808	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB1682! Rainbow Family 808 Strongly supports kindness to our pets.

I dedicate this testimony to our Family fur babies, Princess and Oliver. They bring so much joy into our lives. It's important that others have the opportunity into their lives.

When I'm petting them, my heart beat goes to a healthy level and I smile. This is good for my overall health. I forget for a momoent all the choas in the world.

Please pass HB1682 poste haste.

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

808-779-9078

gomama808@gmail.com

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:08:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Furtado	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB 1682.

My name is Napua Furtado. I am 86 years old and ¾ Hawaiian/Chinese. My husband is 87 years old and 100% Portuguese. We have been married for 66 years. We are the proud parents of 5 sons. We also have 10 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren. We are a 5-generation family living in Hawaii.

We started Koolau Pets in March of 1974 on Kame Hwy. across Mui Kwai Chop Suey. We moved to Windward City in 1978 and then to Windward Mall in 1982. We have been in business for almost 50 years. Like many small businesses in Hawaii, we've had our share of ups and downs. We have operated our business following all laws and regulations. We keep records of our business "tax records regarding the purchases of all pet supplies and livestock" for 10 years which we believe is what the state requires.

This bill claims that pet shops are not regulated there for we are selling sick pets. It claims we are putting our consumers at risk from these pets carrying diseases. For your information, each puppy we acquire is taken to Haiku Veterinary Clinic. Koolau Pets has taken its puppies to Haiku Veterinary Clinic for over 30 years. Each puppy is given a complete check-up, dewormer (if needed), and its first set of vaccinations. A health certificate is completed by Haiku Veterinary Clinic showing what the puppy received and all findings from the general health examination. After purchase, the customer receives all documents and a 2nd visit (free of cost) at which the puppy receives another health check. If the puppy is due for any other vaccinations at this time these are updated free of cost to the consumer. We do not sell sick puppies, birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc. We do not sell any kittens because the feral cat situation leaves the cat/kitten population with too many issues.

Pet shops are regulated from importing animals by the Department of Agriculture. They are required to obtain permits. The regulations of these permits require a vet check before the animal is shipped. These permits and vet costs push up the price and add to the difficulties making it almost impossible to import any animals for the pet store industry. So, Koolau Pets has chosen to depend on our customers who have a litter once in a while. We do not buy our puppies from any large-scale breeders or puppy mills. They probably sell their pets online or in parking lots where there are no regulations or requirements.

As far as being transparent, we are open the public 7 days a week. We have loyal customers and even people who may not like pet shops able to walk through our door to check us out. The

Hawaiian Humane society and any other organization has not been able to charge us with ANYTHING. Pet stores and their employees love animals and care about their well-being.

It's obvious that this bill is intended to put a few (3) locally-owned pet shops out of business. Making stipulations that no other pet-shops can sell animals if opened after January 1, 2025, and not allowing us already operating stores to move or change ownership. We have been in business for almost 50 years, have paid our taxes, have not broken any regulations or laws, have employed hundreds of high-school and college students and other part-time workers. This bill is trying to damage our good reputation.

What it comes down to is this: Animal activists and the Hawaiian Humane Society continues to use whatever means or whomever they can get to listen to why they should have total control over the pet population. The consumer should have a choice if they don't want to adopt a pet. These "humane organizations" have little to NO history on these animals. This can be worrisome to a family or potential pet owner especially in regards to temperament. No one knows how these pets were treated and the emotional and physical trauma they may have. This is why consumers come to a pet shop where they can get a young pet with no preexisting bad training or already learned unwanted behaviors. The pets in pet store are healthy. We are knowledgeable in the care of these pets we sell. We provide this information to our customers and recommend they continue to do more research in proper care and training.

You represent the people who voted for you to this office. Take care of them and oppose this bill.
Aloha, Napua Furtado.

I am writing in **strong opposition to HB1682**. I believe **the bill will have negative consequences affecting all responsible breeders, retailers, and consumers**.

Firstly, **this bill targets all the small independent pet store owners in the state**. It does not affect large corporate stores because **Petco and PetSmart do not sell puppies**. Having the ability to sell pets that the large corporate stores do not sell is what keeps our independent pet stores afloat. It means keeping their business open, maintaining their home, putting food on the table, clothes on their back, and providing jobs for many young people in the community. **On Oahu, there are 3 independent pet stores that sell puppies. On the outer islands, the numbers are even fewer**. Is it necessary to propose a law that will penalize the few local pet stores that remain in business in the islands?"

Secondly, the imposition of **onerous and stringent regulations** on retail pet stores will drive up the costs associated with pet ownership. **Maintaining detailed records, enforcing the verification of breeders and brokers, and complying with annual reporting requirements will impose financial and administrative burdens on these small retail pet stores**. These increased costs would be passed on to consumers, making pet ownership less affordable for the average family. **Retail pet stores are in the business of selling pets and pet supplies. They are not in the business of safeguarding personal information**. Requiring a pet store to maintain detailed personal information records including photocopies of identification cards for all purchasers, breeders and brokers places these parties at **risk of identity theft**.

What is the purpose of all this record-keeping except to make operations exceedingly difficult for the store owners? 6 months to 1 year later, the animals will not look the same. Why maintain records on a stage of life that is fleeting? Puppies grow into dogs and their face, color, size all change as they reach adulthood. The same for any animal. Even birds: their color patterns and markings change as they reach adulthood. Are the stores really expected to photograph every mouse, guppy, rat, rabbit, chinchilla, goldfish, parakeet, finch, etc that comes into the store?

Thirdly, **the provision that prohibits new retail pet stores from opening unless they were in operation before January 1, 2025, and remain under the same ownership and location, is completely unreasonable and an egregious overstep of legislative powers**. Do you really want to prohibit our citizens from starting legitimate businesses that provide a valuable service to our community and jobs for our young people? Shouldn't we be encouraging folks to be entrepreneurs? Why draft legislation that would hinder the economic opportunities of our local families?

Business owners should be free to move their business to a new location if needed. If they want to sell their business or decide to transfer ownership to a spouse or another relative that should always be an option too. Those decisions should remain the sole discretion of the business owner, and not dictated by the legislature.

The requirement that a pet store only source animals from breeders or brokers who can provide extensive documentation and are subject to regular inspections may limit the diversity of pets available to potential owners. Many small-scale, ethical breeders may not have the resources to comply with such rigorous standards. This could lead to a decrease in the genetic diversity of pets sold, as well as **limit the choice for prospective pet owners looking for specific breeds or types of pets. What pet a person chooses to have in their homes should remain their choice**. If a family chooses to breed their family pet so their children can experience the joy of having babies in the house, and then sell the babies to a pet store, they should have the right to do so. Requiring folks to get a GE tax license and jump through a

bunch of hoops for a one-off event will generate an unnecessary amount of bureaucratic paperwork. A litter of baby mice does not bring in a lot of money for the people that choose to let their animals breed and their intake is less than the cost of a GE TAX license. The same with guppies, rabbits, and others.

The clause that states “nothing in this section shall prohibit a retail pet store from showcasing dogs or cats owned by a non-profit animal welfare organization” is the Humane Society’s way of forcing their animals on pet store owners. There are reasons why retail pet stores do not sell adult animals: Size and temperament. Young animals are smaller, require less space to house, they love everybody, and they don’t have the bite strength and coordination to cause physical harm to a customer. It’s a liability for a business to have an animal that carries a risk of danger to their customers. The Humane Society is open and available if a person wants a dog or cat from them. If a person doesn’t want an animal from the Humane Society, they should have **the freedom to patronize legitimate businesses and purchase the animal they want to own.** But taking away our option to purchase the animal we want, from a business that we trust and enjoy patronizing, is wrong. It’s too much big brother intruding into our homes and our lives.

Furthermore, Hawaii has very stringent regulations for importing dogs into the state. They must be quarantined for 120-days upon arrival or be vaccinated against rabies before they get here. Puppies cannot receive a rabies vaccination until they are 3 months old. At 3 months of age, they are no longer saleable nor feasible to house at the pet store.

Our local pet stores cannot afford to import dogs from the mainland or foreign puppy mills to sell in their stores. The cost is too prohibitive. I have helped a lot of people move their pets from the mainland to Hawaii, or vice versa. It’s not cheap. It was over \$700 to have a professional pet mover pickup and transport a small animal from South Point on the Big Island to Oahu. \$2500 to send 2 dogs to Washington state. \$1500 to transport a cockatoo to Washington. \$3000 to send a small parrot to Gloucester Massachusetts. It’s just as costly to bring an animal to Hawaii, because of the quarantine rules.

This bill is laden with Humane Society’s misleading statements to make it seem like Hawaii is an outlier by not passing this legislation. Seven (7) states have passed legislation. Please see this for what it is: 7 out of 50 states, plus DC and our 14 US Territories (for a total of 65) means less than 10% have been misled into passing similar legislation. Within that framework, it has not been an ENTIRE STATE that passed such laws, just certain towns and/or counties. Humane Society also throws out the fact that 30 towns have passed their bills. However, in 2018 there were 19,495 incorporated cities, towns and villages in the United States. 30 out of more than 19 THOUSAND other cities and towns. We’re talking not even 1% of US cities, towns and villages have passed similar legislation. Please bear that in mind, passing this legislation will move our State into the minority of states passing such restrictive laws.

Our people like going into a pet store to purchase their family pet. It’s a well-lighted brick and mortar establishment. They can walk in without fear of being mugged or robbed. They can pay with their credit card. If there are any issues, they can return to the store and seek a refund. They don’t have those consumer protections when purchasing an animal from someone in a parking lot, or off craigslist. There are certain animals that fetch prices in the thousands of dollars. Breeders don’t want the risk associated with having strangers in their home. It poses a security risk for their homes, their adult animals, and of course, now we have COVID concerns. A pet store provides those owners with the safe option to sell their animals.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB1682. This bill is bad for our local businesses. It would remove a safe and legitimate source for families to purchase their pets. It is an unnecessary overstep of governmental authority that will make life hard on small business owners in our community.

Lea Hollingsworth-Ramsey

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 6:40:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in adamant support for this bill. Lawmakers protecting the consumer from being scammed comes first and foremost. Consumers have a right to know where their pet came from. And, please reinstate the provision for law enforcement. Without enforcement, what good is a law?

For pet stores like Koolau Pets, that's great that you only purchase from reputable sources, but here's the key point you opposers seem to be missing . . . how would WE, the general public, know?! If you are reputable and ethical as you say you are, then there should be absolutely no reason to be transparent to your customers . . . SHOW US THE PROOF! That's all we're asking. No need to make it any more complicated than that!

If your business is going to fall apart because of increased paperwork and record keeping, then maybe you shouldn't be in business. A GE or sales tax license is free or minimal, and you can obtain it easily online. Anyone selling SHOULD be reporting their profits, and paying taxes just like the rest of us!

No one's livelihood is being threatened here. There are tons of sales associate jobs out there, employers have a hard time filling them! And, if Koolau Pets has such a wonderful customer base spanning fifty years, then hiring someone to do the paperwork isn't going to crush you.

Updating security software is just a part of the usual way of doing business. You're going to have to keep up with the rapidly ever-changing technology, and protect your sensitive data, just like the rest of us.

This bill is targeting unscrupulous breeders and pet shops. You want to just close your eyes, look the other way, and pretend that unethical breeders don't exist in Hawaii?! If filling out forms and keeping receipts is what we are asking of you, then it is a miniscule price to pay to ensure that the consumer is protected from fraud.

The handful of local pet stores doesn't even HAVE a wide selection of dogs! There's more variety of breeds at the Hawaiian Humane Society than any pet store here.

Absolutely YES! Let's stop breeding more and more puppies for profit, and make it restrictive for even more and more new pet stores to oppose being transparent to the public! There's too many abandoned animals by irresponsible owners, creating a huge mess for lawmakers to have to deal with, and the dogs all end up at the shelter!

No one wants to unknowingly purchase a sick puppy or pet. Please pass this bill, WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT REINSTATED, and protect, we, the consumers.

I am in opposition of bill HB1682.

My name is Victoria Furtado. I have always lived on the windward side of Oahu, and have been coming to Koolau Pets since I was a little girl. I've always loved animals and frequented pet stores. It's a wonderful thing for people young and old to be able to come here and see animals. If this bill passes, as it is, Koolau Pets would not carry animals.

Not only have I been a customer at pet stores, I have been working for Koolau Pets for the past 18 years. I have heard hundreds of times how happy this store makes people. Many customers grew up coming to this store. There are not many locally owned pet stores that are still operating. These owners and employees live paycheck-to-paycheck. This bill would end local pet stores and in effect many people will lose jobs. And you may be saying pet stores don't have to sell animals they can sell products or work with the nonprofit animal welfare organizations.

The fact of the matter is ONLY these small mom-and-pop pet stores are going to be affected a lot by this bill. If the sale of these animals were regulated, it would drastically affect sales. **Koolau Pets and other small locally owned pet stores cannot compete with the financial backing that these large mainland-based pet stores have (Petco and Petsmart). We are already competing with online prices and convenience.** If Koolau Pets were to be restricted in the sale of animals, the owners would NOT be able to make the rent. It would be an end to one of the few long-standing locally owned pet stores. This not only affects businesses, it affects the people. People in your community.

The first concern is that this bill would require people who bring animals to get a business license or general excise tax license. The families that bring in our animals are not going to want to get a license. They are not "breeders"; they just happened to have pets that bred.

Secondly, this bill starts off referring to puppies, but then makes these regulations for all pets. How much does a license cost? Would it even be financially smart to get one just to sell the pet store a couple of bunnies or guinea pigs? The reality is the people who bring us guinea pigs, rabbits, and birds CANNOT be breeding for profit. The cost of caring for these animals cost more than the "breeder" is paid. Most of these are families that just enjoy their pets. Even for many puppies we purchase, the profit margin for us and the breeder is minimal. The breeders of many of our dogs have done ultrasounds and caesarian births. These vet bills can add up exponentially.

The reality of the situation is there are different avenues to get animals. There are animals for sale through Craigslist, Facebook, classifieds, rescues, and pet stores. Is this not America; do people not get options? Do not take away the people choice to buy a pet at a pet store.

Pet stores are not the problem. We are in the public eye, so we take precautions to ensure the health and well-being of our animals. We also educate potential new owners about breed, care, training, etc. How is this bill supposed to regulate those people who sell puppies out of their home or even parking lots without ANY type of warranty?

I also hear heart-breaking stories of customers getting scammed. They would much rather have a safe/reliable place to get a pet. This day-n-age it's just not safe to be carrying around wads of cash to buy an animal from someone you don't know.

I would like to explain what goes on at Koolau Pets.

Koolau Pets has been operating for almost fifty years. They do so much for the pet and the customer and develop a relationship with them which is why it has survived. Many customers come back for supplies for their pets or just to bring their puppy by to show us how they've grown. Every puppy that goes home has been examined by a veterinarian (a clinic which they have worked with for over 25 years), their 1st vaccination, fecal check, worming and/or any other medication the puppy may need. We send them home with a medical record that has notes from the veterinarian and a 7-page contract with information on care. Then the new customer has 7 working days to take their puppy into the veterinarian again for a 2nd examination to make sure everything is clear with their purchase, otherwise they notify us.

People bring their animals to us they KNOW that we find good homes and that they are well taken care of. Bill H.B1682 calls these people we get our puppies from large-scale breeders or puppy mills. The people who bring us their puppies love their puppies like members of their family. Koolau Pets does not get puppies from people that own tons and tons of dogs. The reality is the majority of the people we get puppies from have 2-4 dogs and that's it. Koolau Pets often gets photos of the puppies, and/or photos of the parents, and in those photos we can often see their living conditions. We would not want ANY puppies that appeared to be kept in unsanitary or inhumane living conditions. Why would we want the financial responsibility of caring for sick animals?

My third concern regarding the bill surrounds the requirement to take photos of every animal that the store purchases. This is not something we are set up to do. This would require us to get additional supplies to take photos and file them accordingly. Are there any other types of businesses that have these requirements? How are we supposed to have on file pictures of 30 different parakeets (many of which look identical)? Even if we did, what is the use of it?

My fourth concern with this upcoming bill is the stipulation that the store be at the same location and under the same ownership to sell any pet animal. This is outrageous. So you are saying we can never expand our business, and it could not continue to be passed down generationally? **Hawaii's legislation should be encouraging local businesses not killing them.** It also wouldn't allow any future pet stores to sell animals.

So, in conclusion please stop bill HB1682.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 7:04:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Schenk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pets will either be euthanized or left on the streets if not sold through retail outlets.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 7:25:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa Furtado-Fischer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

I offer my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of this measure.

As you undoubtedly heard or will hear from my family today, our family business has been serving the Windward community and beyond for over 45 years. Many local families know of Ko‘olau Pets or "the pet shop in Windward Mall". Countless families have added to their ‘ohana a puppy, cat, bird, rabbit, guinea pig, fish, or even pigs, rats, and chinchillas. What you don't hear about this shop is how it sources its dogs from puppy mills. Or sells sickly dogs. Or refuses to provide care during and after the purchase of a puppy, or won't refund a customer when it's discovered the puppy has a medical condition discovered at the initial vet visit that Ko‘olau Pets pays for. Why? Because that doesn't happen.

Nor have I heard these comments about other pet stores in the island.

The allegations that pet stores are supplied by puppy mills and foreign breeders is simply a myth.

You are more likely to buy a puppy mill dog or animal online or in a parking lot than you are from a pet store. The risk of the puppies coming from unsafe and unsanitary places such as a puppy mill would put at risk all the other puppies in their shop and could cause detrimental impact in terms of cost and health of the animals.

This measure is another attempt at special interest groups and animal shelters to force the public to adopt, not shop.

While unsheltered animals is a crisis, it's not due to people who spent hundreds to thousands of dollars on a puppy just to abandon it to a shelter. People who opt to purchase from a pet store aren't doing so on a whim.

The idea of "adopt don't shop" pressures people to rehome a shelter dog that may not be a perfect fit for their family because it can't be trained to the family's schedule or dynamic. Even if a dog is listed as "great with kids", are they great with all kids? If not, they may be placed back into the shelter through no fault of their own. It's unfortunate, but reality.

Rather than regulate pet stores, shelters should advocate for responsible pet ownership by finding ways to reduce the financial burden of spaying or neutering animals to prevent accidental breeding would be more effective than regulating pet store sales. Those in receipt of public assistance are offered vouchers to sterilize their pets for a small fee. Why not utilize the costs associated with the regulation and enforcement of this bill to expand the funding more vouchers

for those not in receipt of assistance?

This bill would also be detrimental to the income that small, locally owned business generate from animal sales. In a time where we are fighting to support local stores and our economy, we should not be overregulating these same businesses into extinction.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I pray you will oppose this bill.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 9:51:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Courtney and as a resident of Kaimuki, I am in strong support of this bill. Many states in the U.S have already passed pet sale bills and its time for Hawai'i to follow suit. Businesses that are against this bill for the sake of their profit do not have compassion for the welfare and wellbeing of the animals being bred. If they truly valued these animals and the human animal bond as a pet store, I believe being transparent about the environment in which they were bred will be a great way to build rapport with families, build partnerships with responsible breeders, and also guarantee these pets will live long healthy lives. Potential families can understand the pets origins and can be assured that their pet was not bred inhumanely which would have dire consequences (if it is the case), from constant vet bills, to a shortened lifespan, the list goes on. If these businesses valued their customers and community as a whole, theyd help pet owners be proactive in caring for their new pet and this bill would help them do just that.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 9:51:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Courtney and as a resident of Kaimuki, I am in strong support of this bill. Many states in the U.S have already passed pet sale bills and its time for Hawai'i to follow suit. Businesses that are against this bill for the sake of their profit do not have compassion for the welfare and wellbeing of the animals being bred. If they truly valued these animals and the human animal bond as a pet store, I believe being transparent about the environment in which they were bred will be a great way to build rapport with families, build partnerships with responsible breeders, and also guarantee these pets will live long healthy lives. Potential families can understand the pets origins and can be assured that their pet was not bred inhumanely which would have dire consequences (if it is the case), from constant vet bills, to a shortened lifespan, the list goes on. If these businesses valued their customers and community as a whole, theyd help pet owners be proactive in caring for their new pet and this bill would help them do just that.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 11:49:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1682. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 IWI Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI 96816

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:19:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1682. I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:40:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

requires stores that sell pet animals to keep records of where those animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide those records to the purchaser of individual animals as well as law enforcement.

This measure would protect consumers and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit. This measure does NOT prevent stores from selling pets. It simply requires them to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health. If the breeders they are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules.

Hawaii Kai

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 11:27:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Sam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear House Committee,

(Again for the 4th time) My name is Eileen Sam, I'm resident of Kaimuki neighborhood, and my district rep is Bertrand Kobayashi. I am in support of HB1682 in hopes that this stops unethical breeder and animal retail stores from not just dishonest practices but hold them accountable for the animal's well-being since they must have a record of it. We need to make sure breeders and retailers have a high standard of animal care and accountability. By passing this law, I am hoping the number of animals being harmfully treated, overbred, or abused will drop given the level of transparency this bill is requiring. I thank you for all of your time and consideration!

Mahalo,

Eileen

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 2:47:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Tarnas, Vice Chair Representative Takayama and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Please support HB 1682 which establishes provisions relating to retail pet sales. It's my understanding that the Hawaiian Humane Society will be asking for provisions which were removed to be put back in this bill. I support this request. Furthermore, with these provisions being put back in, it's my understanding that consumers and law enforcement would be helped by requiring pet store owners to keep records of where animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide this information to pet purchasers and law enforcement.

Again, please support HB 1682.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 3:41:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ann Napualani Furtado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Chelsea Furtado. My ohana has been in the Pet Store industry for over 45 years. Hawaiian owned, supported and loved by our community. The humane society has continually tried to push and pass these laws "protecting animals" by regulation of pet stores since I was a child.

45 years is a long time, our reputation as well as other pet stores have been around for a while. Each store has their loyal customers that extend pass generations. If we were guilty of selling these types of dogs the community would have called us out and stopped supporting our businesses. It has actually been the exact opposite. The community continually supports our business and we have developed relationships with customers who are so thankful and keep coming back.

If any of these pet stores were selling "puppy mill," puppies, we would have been out of business. Animals are important to us and the bond that animals have with their owner is increased when they purchase their puppy from a reputable pet store instead of illegally in a parking lot. They are all examined and vet checked before and after sale. If any issues are found with the animal my Ohana will provide the customer with support and offer refunds at customers request. They eat all of the costs of taking care of the dog, and we all know veterinary bills aren't cheap. Pet owners themselves won't even foot the bill sometimes but as Pet STORE owners we make sure the animals are healthy and taken care of no matter the cost. I used to work at the store and know first hand how well the dogs are treated and taken care of. My Ohana wouldn't risk buying a "puppy mill" dog, never have and never will.

"Puppy mill" dogs aren't well taken care of and can carry contagious diseases that can harm other dogs, sometimes resulting in death. Some are highly contagious and passed through contact. Why would a pet store risk bringing a contaminated dog into their business? The cruelty and amount of money lost doesn't support these claims. It simply doesn't happen. You imply we don't care about the animals, when its the exact opposite.

This over regulation of pet stores won't stop puppy mills. You are more likely to buy "puppy mill" dogs in a parking lot or off the side of the road. How are those dogs being protected? What about the people who are selling that animal for thousands of dollars with cash? How is the person selling the dogs and the customer protected if there is a "disagreement?" Especially with

the cost of living so high in Hawai'i, crime is rising because people are desperate to make money so they don't get displaced out of Hawai'i. THAT IS why people are breeding dogs, so they can make money and afford to live here. Maybe focus on the high cost of living. These "puppy mills" only do it for the money. At the end of the day people and animals could get hurt and thousands of tax dollars could be tied up in crime and the courts.

Why are we attacking the hard working people of hawaii who have not committed any crime? You are taking their livelihood away and putting the sell of animals at a high risk. Imagine if these people sell these dogs out of their homes? Burglarries will rise. If the concern is for the pets then you should be regulating these, "puppy mills" directly that are doing the illegal activity, not the innocent Pet Stores.

It's an island, we are not in the mainland. Finding these said, "puppy mills," wouldnt be hard. I'm sure their neighbors would've complained about noise or smell. We live on top of each other in Hawai'i. So maybe address the root of the cause, THE COST OF LIVING for local people. Stop scapgoating innocent hard working people. Leave the pet stores alone.

Mahalo nui for listening!

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 8:43:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure would protect consumers and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit.

This measure does NOT prevent stores from selling pets. It simply requires them to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health. If the breeders they are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules.

Please move this bill forward.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 9:26:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehau Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this much needed bill.

This bill doesn't put anyone out of business. **IT DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE SALE OF PUPPIES.** Pet shops can still select their breeders and sell their puppies just as they always have . . . **AS LONG AS THE PUPS ARE LEGIT!**

To the breeder opposing this bill because of the exorbitant cost of vet exams, **YOU** are the very reason why this bill needs to be set in place! Please don't pass on your diseased puppies to the unsuspecting consumer. If you can't afford the proper vet care, then you shouldn't be breeding. And, by the way, which pet shop(s) have you been selling your birds and pups to "all these many years"?!

As for the unscrupulous breeders selling on Craigslist, that's an entirely different scenario that needs to be addressed in an entirely different bill. However, those sketchy dealers shouldn't be used to justify why pet shops should be excused from opening their health records for public scrutiny.

Providing health records for public scrutiny can also help the consumer discover any hidden genetic factors, like cancer or heart disease, that the birth mother may have in her medical history. These symptoms don't surface until many years down the road, long after the breeder and pet shop has pocketed their profits.

Please pass this bill, **WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROVISION INTACT**, to protect the public consumers.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 9:28:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHNNY KELLY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Another bill you must pass! Don't believe the whiners you hear from the pet stores who do not want you and I to know where the animals they sell come and how they were treated! When you hear pet store owners discrediting this bill it should trigger a flag that tells you the owners are getting their animals from "puppy mills" in our state, the mainland or abroad!

Pet stores must stop being a part of the "puppy mill" industry!

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 11:15:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Myers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE pass this law! I'm very familiar with puppy mills, in which the dogs are kept in abhorrent conditions just so the owners can make a big profit. Shut one down, another one opens. One of the main avenues they use to sell the puppies is through pet stores. It is not unreasonable to demand proof of breeder. This bill is long overdue, and the suffering continues.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 12:19:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Lawrence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I heavily oppose this bill. HB 1682 will force pet stores to keep records of all pet animals purchased and then hand them over Humane Society annually. This is the same organization that supports legislation to make it illegal to sell pets in pet stores year after year. This is the same organization that works with Petco & Pet Smart. This seems to be a major conflict of interest here. The Humane Society knows that HB 1682 will devastate the small independent pet shop's by making almost impossible to get pet animals. This bill will only help the big mainland stores. Most of our independent pet stores have been in business for decades. You do not survive that long by selling bad products. The communities that these shops do business in are tremendously supported by the residents which live there.

The Hawaiian Humane Society and other special interest groups only have one agenda and that is to stop pet stores. They have no business in interfering with small businesses operations. Please kill this bill.

Aloha

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 1:35:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. It does not seek to prevent animal sales. It seeks to make their (the animals) background transparent. Pet stores need to stop purchasing from puppy mills and similar. This will help a buyer understand their potentials pets background better.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 2:10:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Are you STUPIED OR WHAT!!!!

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 5:54:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Tibayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Luke Tibayan and I oppose this bill. Pet Stores should have the right to sell animals through their businesses because if not then so many animals go through difficult breeders and won't go through the necessary procedures to ensure the animals health and growth over the years. Without the professionalism from pet stores we'd have so many families struggling with unhealthy animals resulting in people just giving their dogs away or worse.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 7:16:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginger edmunds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support this bill relating to retail pet sales. Again Hawaii is lagging in animal protection laws. Having no documentation or health records for animals sold in pet stores continues to open the door to puppy mills that breed illgal animals under unhealthy conditions. This should have been a law decades ago. Please don't continue to support the puppy mill industry, make the store owners accountable for the animals they sell in their stores. Thank you.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 9:43:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've heard too many stories of backyard breeders who are just in this for the money and don't care about the health of the dogs, such as inbreeding... If pet stores need to be transparent, this would severely restrict this kind of business.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:48:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

Aloha Council Members,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1682. This bill presents significant adverse effects on local pet stores, responsible breeders, retailers, and consumers alike. Below, I outline my concerns and urge you to reconsider the bill's implications.

Impact on Small Independent Pet Stores

HB1682 disproportionately affects small, independent pet stores in Hawaii, threatening their survival. Unlike large chains like Petco and PetSmart, which do not sell puppies, our local pet stores rely on these sales. This differentiation not only sustains their business but also supports their livelihoods and contributes to community employment. Specifically, on Oahu, only three independent stores sell puppies. Targeting these few businesses with this bill could lead to their closure, impacting local economies and job opportunities for young individuals.

Increased Costs and Regulatory Burdens

The bill imposes stringent regulations on pet retailers, significantly increasing operational costs through detailed record-keeping, breeder and broker verification, and annual reporting. These administrative burdens will likely raise the cost of pet ownership, making it less accessible for average families. Additionally, the requirement for retailers to maintain extensive personal information raises concerns about data security and identity theft risks.

Restrictions on New Retail Pet Stores

Prohibiting the establishment of new pet stores unless operational before January 1, 2025, under the same ownership and location, is an unjust restriction on entrepreneurship. It not only hinders business growth and relocation but also limits the transfer of ownership within families. This overreach into business owner decisions is detrimental to our community's economic development and job creation.

Limitations on Pet Diversity and Ownership Choices

The bill's stringent requirements for sourcing animals could decrease the variety of pets available, affecting genetic diversity and limiting consumer choice. This is particularly concerning for families and small-scale breeders who may be unable to meet these demands, thus restricting the types of pets available to prospective owners.

Non-Profit Animal Welfare Clause

While allowing non-profit animal welfare organizations to showcase pets in stores is commendable, it should not be at the expense of retail pet stores' ability to offer a broader range of animals. Size, temperament, and the specific needs of the business's customer base should determine what animals they choose to sell, not legislative mandates.

Impact of Hawaii's Import Regulations

Hawaii's strict import regulations, including the 120-day quarantine or pre-arrival rabies vaccination, further complicate the ability of pet stores to offer a diverse range of animals. The financial and logistical challenges of importing pets underscore the need for local pet store support, not additional hurdles.

In conclusion, HB1682 poses unnecessary challenges to local businesses, pet owners, and our broader community. **I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and consider the far-reaching implications of its enactment.**

Bruce R. Ramsey

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 10:02:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshiko Hollingsworth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB1682. This bill, aimed at regulating pet sales, presents severe unintended consequences for our local pet stores, breeders, and the wider community. I urge you to consider the far-reaching impact of this legislation and oppose its passage.

HB1682 threatens the foundational aspects of our local pet economy by imposing regulations that disproportionately affect small, independent pet stores. These businesses, unlike their larger counterparts, rely on the sale of animals not carried by the larger chains to sustain their operations. The bill's restrictive nature not only endangers their existence but also jeopardizes the livelihoods of those they employ and serve.

In Hawai'i, a very small number of independent pet stores serve our communities and offer pets for sale. These stores are at risk of closing due to the stringent regulations proposed by HB1682, which unfairly targets their business model.

The bill introduces onerous requirements for record-keeping, breeder verification, and annual reporting. Such measures will inevitably lead to higher costs for pet retailers, which will be passed on to consumers, making pet ownership increasingly unaffordable for many families. Furthermore, the demand for detailed personal information raises significant data security and identity theft concerns.

HB1682's limitations on the establishment of new pet stores and the stringent conditions for existing ones hamper entrepreneurial freedom and economic growth. This legislation would prevent new entrants from joining the market and restrict current owners from relocating or transferring ownership, which is essential for business evolution and community service.

The bill's strict sourcing requirements could significantly limit the variety of pets available, and narrow consumer options. This is especially concerning for prospective pet owners seeking specific breeds or types of pets and undermines the principle of consumer choice.

While the bill permits pet stores to showcase animals from non-profit organizations, it should not limit the ability of retailers to offer a broad selection of pets. Consumer preferences for pet size, age, temperament, breed, species and other factors should guide these business decisions, not legislative mandates.

The existing stringent import regulations for pets into Hawai'i and the high costs associated with importation already hamper local pet stores from bringing in animals from other states and countries. HB1682 would exacerbate these difficulties by adding more layers of bureaucracy, further hindering the ability of stores to provide a diverse selection of pets to accommodate their customers.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to oppose HB1682. This bill poses a significant threat to the vitality of our local pet industry, the affordability of pet ownership, and the freedom of consumer choice. We must protect our local businesses, support economic diversity, and ensure that pet ownership remains accessible to all families in our community.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope you will stand with our local pet stores and consumers in opposition to HB1682.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:28:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
S. Iha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help give voice to those that can not speak for themselves and ensure their well-being. I support HB1682.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:34:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melvin Furtado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Melvin Furtado and I oppose bill HB 1682.

I opened Koolau Pets in March of 1974. It started as a dream and my family helped that dream grow into a reality. It started as just a family-owned and operated store, but now it employs many people in our community. I am now retired, and my son and nephew have continued to grow my dream. However, let me give some insight as a business owner. The overall economy and the role of the government has a massive impact upon whether a small business can thrive. For the majority of small businesses, what the government does and the policies that follow determine whether or not they last.

I want you to really consider what this bill would do to these small businesses and the members of our community. This bill makes business exponentially more difficult to run.

This bill states that pet stores put their consumers at risk for purchasing sick pets. This is purely false. Why would they want to put their customers at risk? Koolau Pets is a small business in Hawaii and the reality is we would not survive if this was fact.

My next complaint is with the wording of the bill stating that if we do not adopt this bill our state would be considered an outlier. This is a mis-leading fact. There are only 7 states that fully regulate the sale of puppies in pet stores. The rest of the states mentioned only have counties. But regardless, where is there any proof that this helps anyone? These “humane organizations” are quick to bring up what they are doing in other states but where is the proof it does any good?

The truth is Hawaii is different in many ways. How pet stores and small businesses in Hawaii operate is not like the rest of the country. We need repeat customers and cannot rely on internet sales. We only have our reputation to keep us alive. We cannot compete with these large chain businesses with prices or the availability in the quantity/variety of merchandise. What sets us apart are the pets.

This bill would force the industry to create commercial breeders. This bill will do the opposite of what it is claims to want. We feel that people that bring us puppies would not want to get a business license because it isn’t a business. Why would they want to go through the paperwork and cost to get a license? It doesn’t make sense. Keeping pets in Hawaii is already so expensive.

The record keeping in this bill is ridiculous and costly requiring pictures of every animal that we sell. Animals change so much in appearance from young to adult there would be no way of telling if that was the same pet in question. Its just in this bill to make things difficult.

We also feel that handing over our records to the Humane Society or any humane organization is a breach of our business records. We have fought many bills over the years with these organizations and it is proof they want us to not be able to sell animals. Is that not a form of conflict of interest?

This bill is created to kill pet stores. It is evident in the part that says no other pet stores started after January 1, 2025 can sell pets. It also doesn't allow a change in ownership or location.

I hope you can see this bill for what it is... an attack on local pet stores. Help stop bill HB1682.

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:55:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Hanson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee!

I am writing as an Administrator or Moderator for 4 different statewide Lost & Found Pet groups on Facebook and also as a resident of Oahu. Oahu, like each of the islands in our state, has seen skyrocketing issues with pet animal abandonment due to the over-breeding of pet animals within our state. So I am writing in strong support of any and all increased regulation on the breeding and sale of pet animals. I am writing in support of adopting HB1682, despite my feeling that it does not go quite far enough. I am supporting it in hopes that it is just the 1st step in the direction of much-needed progress in our state's treatment of animals.

Though I support the bill I feel there are several places where it does not go far enough.. For instance, this bill does not regulate backyard breeders nor subject their facilities to any types of inspection by the county Animal Control or any other animal welfare organization. Nor does it make any mention of the documentation needed to be maintained by backyard breeders. It does not propose any type of licensing or the payment of any business fees that a backyard breeder would be subject to in order to continue producing pet animals for sale. It is my sincere hope that this will be addressed either in a final draft of this bill or in future legislation.

The reason this is so important is that backyard breeders, just like puppy mill operators, are causing the breeding of more puppies, kittens, nestlings, and other types of pet animals than our current population demands. And they are doing this month after month, year after year. There is no humane way to deal with excess inventory of animals. You cannot just stick them into storage to be pulled out later when demand increases. Breeders inevitably are faced with the choices to euthanize otherwise healthy young pets (many Veterinarians would never even agree to perform this service,) to abandon the animal on the street (a crime,) or to surrender them to the local Animal Control and make them a burden on the county. The breeder gets all the benefits of the profit of their business "successes", but the taxpayers get all the costs and burdens of their business failings.

I would ask that you either amend this bill or draft an additional bill that would require **all** breeders of pet animals to go through a licensing process, to pay appropriate annual business fees per unaltered animal under their control/used to produce more pet animals (I propose a fee of, at minimum, \$600/yr per unaltered animal either at their premises or being used by them in any way to produce further pet animals), to undergo periodic inspections of their operations (every 3

months would be ideal, but every 6 months at a minimum,) to keep health records for every animal they cause to be produced (even those that end up unsold and otherwise "disposed of",) and to be subject to stiffer penalties for animal abandonment and greater surrender fees for surrendering excess pet animals to the county Animal Control agency.

In conjunction with this, to detract from unregulated pet animal production, I propose a rule that any pet animal not registered with a regulated breeding operation be required to be neutered with fines imposed if a pet animal is found to be of breeding age and unneutered. To encourage pet owners to meet this requirement, perhaps 2 to 3 years of funding for an expansion of free or low-cost spay/neuter program eligibility could be accommodated, with fines ramping up over that time period.

Right now, every contact I have in pet animal rescue - every private shelter, privately funded rescue organization, and every county Animal Control agency - is drowning in unwanted pets. Euthanasia rates are skyrocketing. Taxpayers and a relative handful of bleeding-heart volunteers are doing their best to make up for the callousness and cruelty of the unregulated pet animal industry of our state. Please, please do more to stem this problem.

In summary, I am in favor of HB1682. I am also in favor of even greater regulation of pet animal breeding in our state, of stiffer fines and penalties for those causing the over-breeding of pet animals (whether purposeful or accidental,) and see a great need for inspections and fees to apply to any and all pet animal breeders in our state. Taking these steps could result in fewer instances of animal abuse, neglect, and abandonment, and reduce the costs and burden to the taxpayers of our state.

Mahalo for your work on this issue and I look forward to further progress in future legislation!

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:53:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cecily Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony AGAINST HB1682

Back in February 2023, I rescued a dog, a pit-bull mix, from the Hawaiian Humane Society. From the start, she seemed to be a calm dog and very well-mannered, and I was so happy that I saved her. She provided me companionship while my husband was working on the island of Maui.

Immediately I started to train her myself, but it seemed that she was somewhat trained maybe by her previous owner. Everything was going well, until September 17th, when my son came over and left the garage door open for just a moment. My rescued dog ran out of my house and through the opened garage door; and bit a lady who was passing by my house, on the sidewalk, at that same moment. From this one incident, I didn't realize how this dog bite would impact my life.

I helped the lady; she came into my house so that I could treat her injury. I called the police, who in turn called the ambulance because she wanted to get checked out by a doctor. She had a few small cuts on her knee from the bite and I could see that she was shaken up from this ordeal. I felt empathetic for her.

After she was taken by ambulance, I was served with a citation for my dog biting the lady; and a month later I was at the Wahiawa Civil Court to pay a fine, at least that's what the police officer said, "You'll just have to go to court to pay a fine." However, I couldn't believe my ears that I was served by the State of Hawaii for a DANGEROUS DOG ATTACK. CRAZY that this is the same rescued dog that the Hawaiian Humane Society deemed safe to go home with me!!

Since the initial court appearance, I've had two more court appearances and I still have two more upcoming dates. I will have to pay a fine plus restitution when this is all done. All this for a rescued "pit-bull mix", that I have no idea about her background and who previously owned her to make her attack someone out of the blue.

Right after the bite incident, I reached out to a dog trainer to train my dog. She underwent a two-week extensive course of hands-on training at the dog trainer's house, for a pretty price of \$2600. Today, she is trained and very well-behaved and I trust her now. She is a loved member of my family.

But I wouldn't wish this on anyone. DON'T RESCUE A DOG! You're getting someone else's problem. If I could do it again, the answer would be to buy a puppy at the store and raise it to be a really good dog. That's how it was for all my previous dogs, just this one. I can't go backward now, all I can do is go forward and face my next two court dates; and hope that the consequences of rescuing a dog from the Hawaiian Humane Society will be okay. I'll never do this again!!!

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:08:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivi franson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Members,

I am in support of Hb 1580

mahalo

vivi franson

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 7:51:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherrie Ferreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sherrie Ferreira & **I oppose Bill HB 1682**. I worked for Ko’olau Pets, a well known establishment, in Kaneohe for a total of 17 years. The Furtado Family has been a trusted source of pets for many, many years.

Regardless of regulations puppies, kittens, guinea pigs, rabbits, are going to get sick or carry diseases that are transmissible to people & other pets whether they come from a pet store, a private breeder or even a shelter. Ko’olau Pets has every puppy vet checked when they come in, get vaccinated if not vaccinated already, dewormed & deflead if necessary. As long as they are in Ko’olau Pets care, they are updated & families are given a free vet visit to make sure that they are okay. If something comes up at that visit, they have the option to return the puppy.. They take care of issues that may arise. To say that pet stores acquire their puppies from a puppy mill is an insult.They come from local families that are just trying to make it on this island that trust that their puppies, kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. will be going to good homes & well taken care of. These local families are not large scale breeders.

Being in a public place such as Windward Mall is about as transparent as you can get. They offer an option for the public to purchase a pet. Many families have purchased their pets at Ko’olau Pets because they trust them. They are treated like family & return to them to purchase food, etc for their new family member & form a relationship. Shelters are another option if people would like to go that route, but it’s missing something...that feeling of family/'ohana.

This bill would encourage more side of the road, parking lot sales which are not ideal places to purchase a pet. In fact, the other day I heard of someone selling Golden Retriever puppies in front of a grocery store for \$3000.00. That is not a safe place to be selling puppies. Are you going to have the man-power to regulate that activity? This bill is not just an attack on pet stores, it’s the local small businesses that provide a service for the community. This bill is very dishonest in the way it presents itself for all animals, but ultimately targeting specifically the sale of puppies in pet stores.

Everyone has a choice whether they want to acquire a pet from a pet store or a shelter. Let’s not make it more difficult for people to have that option. Keep your local small businesses thriving. This bill would be detrimental to their livelihood. They are not just “sellers”. They are 'ohana.

OPPOSE BILL HB1682

Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony

HB-1682

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:06:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1682. This protects both the animals being sold, and the consumers buying them. Responsible and ethical breeders and sellers should welcome this bill because they should want consequences for those who aren't, if they really care about the animals and people buying them . It wouldn't affect the good ones because they're already doing the right thing.

Mahalo nui loa, Ginny Tiu