

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2562, S.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcella Chock, and I am the Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) prohibit individuals without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Board from performing any surgical procedure on any animal; (2) make performing any surgical procedure on any animal without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Board a class c felony; and (3) make cropping and docking offenses of cruelty to animals in the first degree.

The Board recognizes that surgical procedures require the proper training, knowledge of anatomy, and the ability to prescribe proper pain management therapeutics, which most individuals would not have received nor be able to access. However, the Board also recognizes that several of the surgical procedures listed by this measure are performed in the ordinary course of livestock management, and that passage of this measure as written would negatively impact livestock producers. Consequently, the Board suggests including protective language for livestock producers.

The Board suggests that section (b)(3) Tail docking on page 3, line 19, either be removed in its entirety or amended to read: Tail docking or amputation of adult dogs;. The Board makes this recommendation as it does not appear that complications appear in the tail docking of neo-natal puppies by owners.

The Board also recommends that the penalties regarding misdemeanors listed on page 4, line 8 be updated to be commensurate with chapter 706, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as both the maximum fine of \$500 listed and the length of imprisonment

Testimony of the Board of Veterinary Medicine

S.B. 2562, S.D. 1

Page 2 of 2

listed are significantly under the maximum amounts of \$1000 and one year allowed by chapter 706, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

FEBRUARY 28, 2024
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

SENATE BILL NO. 2562 SD1
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2562 SD1. SB2562 SD1 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) sections 471-2, 471-15, and 711-1008.5. Section 471-2 adds language that "(b) No person without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine shall perform any surgical procedure on any animal, including but not limited to: (1) A cesarean section; (2) Ear cropping; (3) Tail docking; (4) Ventriculocordectomy, also known as devocalization or debarking; (5) Onychectomy or dewclaw removal; or (6) Elastration or castration via banding." Section 471-15 amendments add "(b) Any person convicted of violating section 471-2(b) shall have committed a class (C) felony." Language in (c) tools, addresses the disposition of implements, appliances, medicine, and drugs used in violation of the section. Lastly the measure, in Section 711-1108.5, HRS, deletes "(c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced" as an exclusion from cruelty to animals in the first degree. The Department opposes SB2562 SD1 as written.



Under this measure, accepted practices in livestock management are considered illegal class C felonies. Therefore, the Department recommends “any animal” in Section 471-2 (page 3 line 16) be changed to “any dog” because dogs are the species most affected. Similarly, “Cropping or docking as customarily practiced” should not be deleted in Section 711-1108.5 (page 5 line 4) as proposed in SB2562 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:11:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	Testifying for KEALIA RANCH	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill because it will make the animal husbandry practices ranchers do a felony. We all follow good husbandry practices and most are trained and certified by third party in Humane Animal Handling. We care for our livestock and can competently perform these procedures.

Mahalo

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 11:41:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Testifying for Maui Cattlemen, Farm Bureau	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I am on the board of the Farm bureau, Maui Cattlemens. As a rancher for over 55 years. We in the business have had training by licenced vets . We also have completed courses in proper livestock handling , vet care, proper storage of medications, and humane live stock handling. We don't have enough vets to be able to handle all of the animal medical needs we have. Lot of times the animal needs imediate care. This bill should state dogs and cats and not livestock.

Brendan Balthazar

Diamond B Ranch LLC

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:58:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. They follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of their livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 26, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2562, SD1: Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Room 016 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 2562, SD1, which prohibits individuals without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine from performing any surgical procedure on any animal; makes performing any surgical procedure on any animal without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine a class C felony; and makes cropping and docking offenses of cruelty to animals in the first degree.

This measure closes a loophole in the veterinary licensing statute that owners have used to operate on their own animals, or hire unqualified people to do so, resulting in animals being harmed by backyard surgeries ranging from ear-flap removal to cesarean sections.

We are requesting the following amendment to clarify that these protections are not intended to prohibit standard livestock practices.

*On Page 3, Lines 14-16: (b) No person without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine shall perform any surgical procedure on any **pet** animal (as defined in HRS 711-1100), including but not limited to:*

The Hawaiian Humane Society opposes cosmetic surgery on animals, but we are pleased that this measure would at least require that such procedures must be performed by a licensed veterinarian. It is a good step.

Surgical birth certainly should never be performed by anyone but a licensed veterinarian.

Exxy, an approximately 3-year-old bulldog mix, was brought into our care with a large ventral abdominal hernia and sent out for specialized surgery. The

Hawaiian Humane Society veterinarian who examined her and the veterinary surgeon who operated on her concurred that the injury was the result of a backyard cesarean section.

Exxy was lucky enough to survive the mutilation and get the care she needed, but it is safe to expect that many animals in similar situations die without ever making into the care of a shelter or veterinary clinic.

Many of these backyard surgeries are performed for profit-driven breeders who would rather make more money on the animals they sell than go to a licensed veterinarian for either necessary or cosmetic care. Allowing animals to be bred and sold for profit without regard for their welfare is sadly the norm in our state, but this is one harm we can prevent.

We urge the committee to pass SB 2562, SD1, and stop this form of animal cruelty. Mahalo for your consideration.



Exxy before and after surgery for an abdominal hernia, suspected to be secondary to a backyard C-section. She also has very short, cropped ears, which are prone to infection and usually an indication of amateur surgery.



February 28, 2024 10am

JDC Committee

RE: SB2562 SD1; Relating to Veterinary Medicine, SUPPORT with one amendment

Dear Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members,

The Animal Welfare Institute strongly supports SB2562 with one important amendment to please change **page 3, line 16 to read “any pet animal, as that is defined in HRS 711-1100” rather than “any animal.”** This ensures that standard and acceptable livestock husbandry practices are not impacted.

This bill has long been needed to close a loophole in our first degree animal cruelty law that has shockingly exempted non-veterinarians from performing painful surgical procedures on animals, without access to pain medication, antibiotics to prevent infection and other critical pre and post-operative care that can only be provided under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. While numerous countries and municipalities across the US completely prohibit ear cropping, tail docking, de-clawing and other procedures, this bill would still allow for such procedures IF performed by a licensed veterinarian. Further, the American Veterinary Medical Association opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes, as that remains the primary justification for such unnecessary procedures and thus, the AVMA also encourages the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards.

Locally, there have been countless cases of painful “home/backyard” ear cropping and tail cutting incidents done with scissors or garden shears and male dog “castration” being performed using rubber bands, which painfully restricts blood flow to the animals testicles and can result in death. Further, cases demonstrate that these incidents aren’t limited to a person doing this to their own animal, but performing these cruel and painful acts on animals belonging to others, falsely presenting themselves as veterinary medical experts and charging fees for these procedures.

Under existing law, if a person were to cut off or attempt to cut off any other part of an animal they would be rightfully charged with animal cruelty—whereas under current law there is no penalty for “customary” practices such as cropping or docking. We ask the Committees to please amend the bill to ensure this gaping loophole is closed once and for all, that it is enforceable and holds those who victimize animals and their owners accountable.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge your strong support.

Inga Gibson

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

SB2562 SD1
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **opposes SB2562 SD1** which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock they care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. They follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of their livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 6:55:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2562 Relating to Veterinary Medicine prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

This measure closes a loophole in the veterinary licensing statute that owners have used to operate on their own animals, or hire unqualified people to do so, resulting animals being harmed by backyard surgeries ranging from ear-flap removal to caesarean sections. An amendment to include cats so that they are protected as well would be logical.

We would point out that our alliance is opposed to cropping dogs' ears and all other mutilations even if legally performed by licensed veterinarians. It is unnecessary and cruel.

We support the Bill.

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Frank Lorenzo Jr., am a cowboy / ranch hand employed by Kapapala Ranch. I have also been born and raised on a family ranch. I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Frank Lorenzo Jr.

Kapapala Ranch

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
SB2562 SD1
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE
Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to oppose SB2562 SD1

The intent of HB1527 is to prevent individuals from performing illegal surgery on dogs and cats. As a veterinarian and Chair of Hawaii Cattlemen's Council Animal Health and Well-being Committee, I strongly support the intent of this measure.

However, as written, the bill would also severely and negatively impact our agricultural community by limiting their ability to care for their livestock needs. Castration and tail docking of calves, lambs/kids and piglets are widely accepted practices that prevent injury and improve the overall well-being of livestock. The procedures are done by skilled livestock producers who adhere to best practices and low stress handling techniques. As a livestock veterinarian, I have worked with producers to develop herd health programs that follow recommended guidelines and can testify to their commitment to animal welfare and competency in performing these skills.

HB1527, as written, would apply to all animals and would have a negative impact on our livestock producers and local food production.

I strongly recommend that the language of SB2562 be revised to limit the scope of the measure to dogs and cats.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wood, DVM
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Animal Health and Well-being, Chair

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:39:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Napier	Testifying for Bridget Napier DBA 3B Livestock & Transportation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I'm a 4th Generation Rancher our industry is slowly wilting away due to bills and other regulations such as these. We are fading into the abiss. This bill as it's written will not allow ranchers do process or castrate livestock in the manner that has been done for years. For many this is a tradition, history and culture.

In the industry we already struggle already to have large animal veterinarians available. They are not readily available nor are they affordable for good reason as well. Not specifically stating house pets leaves this bill open to jepodize an industry that was just begun to start thriving again.

Please oppose this bill. And help us keep tradition of ranching alive!

Bridget Napier



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

February 26, 2024

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2562, SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Judiciary,

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association opposes the current language in SB 2562, SD1 for the following reasons:

- 1) SD1 refers to surgery on "any animal" which would prohibit commonly accepted livestock husbandry practices, and
- 2) SD1 prohibits all surgery from non-Hawaii-licensed veterinarians, which would also prohibit surgery by sponsored and permitted veterinarians legally practicing in Hawaii.

The HVMA and local veterinary community still stand in favor of the intent of the bill, which is to prevent non-veterinarians from performing surgical procedures on dogs. Veterinarians have extensive training in surgery, anesthesia, anesthetic monitoring, asepsis, and pain management; their expertise allows them to perform surgical procedures humanely and safely. We support ending the specific current legal practice of allowing dog owners and their employees from performing surgical procedures on their own dogs.

We request the language of SB 2562 revert to the initial introduced language as follows:

Section 1. 471-2 License required.

(2) The owner of any animal or animals and the owner's full-time, regular employees from caring for and treating any animals belonging to the owner; provided that the owner and the owner's employees shall not perform any surgical procedure on a dog or dogs, including:

- (A) A cesarean section;
- (B) Ear cropping;
- (C) Tail docking;
- (D) Ventriculocordectomy, also known as devocalization or debarking;
- (E) Onychectomy, or dewclaw removal; or
- (F) Elastration, or castration via banding;

Without this change, we are very concerned with the unintentional impact this bill would have on acceptable livestock practices and legal veterinary practice in the state. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Yoshicedo', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
contact@hawaiiivetmed.org

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 6:40:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:44:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 AM

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I **oppose** this bill because it will make the practices I do a felony. I follow good husbandry practices and can competently perform these procedures on my livestock.

This bill should be clarified to just apply to pet animals, and not livestock.

If this bill passes as written, it will be devastating to Hawaii's ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Theresa Thompson

Thompson Ranch, Kula, Maui

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:41:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Unger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Keith Unger and I am a ranch manager with McCandless Ranch in South Kona Hawaii. I have castrated my own calves for the past 30 years, and can competently perform these procedures on my own without the added expense of hiring a vet to do this work. The state of Hawaii is suppose to be supporting Agriculture in Hawaii and focusing on food sustainabilty, not throwing up roadblocks to a practice that has been safely practiced on our ranch for the past 110 years.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:37:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose SB2562!!!

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:08:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2562 SD1, this works against bonafied animal agriculture. Farmers and ranchers care about the health and wellbeing of their animals. In many cases they participate or sponsor industry work shops that allow veterinarians to work with farmers and ranchers on up to date practices on how to humanely care for animals during needed routine on farm surgery.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 6:50:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:41:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and stand with Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:45:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill for the reasons well stated by the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:14:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harry von Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2562 will have a negative impact on our livestock operations.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:37:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Auwelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will make the practices I do as a responsible livestock owner a felony. I follow good husbandry practices and can competently perform these procedures on my livestock. This bill should be clarified to just apply to pet animals, and not livestock.

If this bill passes as written, it will be devastating to Hawaii's ranchers.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:39:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. They follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of their livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

I have been doing these procedures for over 40 years and haven't had any problems. There aren't enough veterinarianians in the State of Hawaii to perform all of these procedures.

Greg Friel

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:18:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB2562. I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 4:54:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill and ask that consideration be given to protect all animals, not just dogs and cats.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 6:31:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Greenleaf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ranchers have been doing both emergency stiches for injured animals and docking for safety for far longer than anyone voting for or against this bill...it's a terrible idea to make their lives more difficult by threathening a class c felony as a punishment for a typical ranching action.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 8:27:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TJaye Forsythe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 9:11:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill which will help dogs and cats who suffer when improper medical care is administered by amateurs and backyard pet owners who think they are licensed veterinarians.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 7:25:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider passing this bill. Individuals who are not trained and do not have a valid license to be providing surgical care under the state of Hawaii should be prosecuted for performing surgeries on animals. Animals suffer and die when there are bad outcomes from these procedures. Please put in the proper enforcements to make sure this does not happen.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:39:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as written because it would make me, as a local livestock producer and animal scientist, a felon. The language does not specify pet animals and could be interpreted to include livestock for food production. This would be a huge burden on local food producers, who are already struggling in a place where it is difficult to be profitable in agriculture. We are trained as livestock producers to do clean and humane surgical procedures in a way that minimizes stress on the animals. Because they are our livelihood, we take these procedures very seriously. Most of the producers I know are actually more proficient at these skills than veterinarians, due to the large number of animals we work with on a regular basis.

Also, we only have a few large animal veterinarians in the entire state, and some are covering multiple islands. Bringing in a veterinarian for basic procedures is not only unaffordable and unrealistic, it will also be impossible for many residents.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:29:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

support bill with HHS amendments in support of clarifying the intent of the bill, which is to protect pet animals from backyard surgeries. The bill is not intended to interfere with standard livestock practice

hawaii kai

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:08:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support SB 2562 SD 1 which prohibits surgical procedures being performed on animals by unlicensed individuals.

It's my understanding that the Hawaiian Humane Society will be requesting an amendment to clarify the intent of this bill. Please support this request.

Again, please support SB 2562 SD 1.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:37:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2562, SD1 and ask that you pass it out. Thank you.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:18:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joshua rezentes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. If this bill were to be passed it devastate the small rancher from being able manage their live stock accordingly. Not to,mention the added cost to the rancher to pay for a vet to do castration. I was under the understanding that the State of Hawaii was in support of small ranches and farms,not trying to put these people in jail for things they have been doing for decades .

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:28:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This measure closes a loophole in the veterinary licensing statute that owners have used to operate on their own animals, or hire unqualified people to do so, resulting animals being harmed by backyard surgeries ranging from ear-flap removal to cesarean sections.

I support the amendments that appear in SD1.

Please move this bill forward.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:24:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jason Moniz and I am a licensed veterinarian of 43 years and a cattle rancher for the past 34 years. I oppose SB2562 SD1.

- I oppose this bill because it will make practices required and routinely performed by ranchers and other livestock producers, such as castrations and tail docking, illegal.
- Livestock farmers and ranchers follow good husbandry practices and can competently and humanely perform these procedures on livestock.
- This bill should be amended to just apply to pet animals, and not livestock
- If this bill passes as written it should not be passed

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:37:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justina Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unlicensed people could cause not only harm but may kill an animal without having the license and education of a licensed professional. Just as we have people licensed to run an ambulance and perform certain medical procedures on humans we should have the same rules applied to animals.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:23:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB2562. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI 96816

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:20:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- This bill should be clarified to just apply to dogs and cats as originally written, and not to livestock.
- If this bill passes as written, it will be devastating to Hawaii's ranchers

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:23:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

Please pass SB2562 SD1. Individuals without a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine should not be allowed to perform any surgical procedure on any animal. Backyard surgeries, cropping and docking should be first degree felonies.

The bill is not intended to interfere with standard livestock practices, it only protects pets from being butchered by unlicensed, careless people.

Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:08:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Rodrique	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the JDC,

My family depends on farming for our income. A big part of our farm is pigs. Responsible animal husbandry relies on doing many things yourself including castrating male pigs. It's not idyllic but farm life often is not. If you enjoy pork you rely on someone else to perform those tasks. It does not take a vet degree to castrate a pig, and if it becomes illegal for us do so, it will hurt us and many others. This bill is not good for our local ag economy, which already needs as much help as it can get. I understand the need for this bill but the language should be changed to exclude agriculture or only be for pets like dogs and cats.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Briana Rodrique,

Resident of Pana'ewa

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:38:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimana Meaoki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:58:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2562.

This should be amended with the intent to SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:24:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. It will affect all farmers and ranchers drastically. This will affect the sustainability to produce food for Hawaii in hawaii!

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:25:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This is another attempt by Senator Chris Lee to reduce food security and independence in Hawai'i, while maintaining our hyperdependence on imports, similar with previous attempts to reduce access to other food sources necessary for the sustainment of local families.

This bill, under the guise of "animal safety", is solely meant to put ranchers out of business by requiring unnecessary veterenarian care in the maintenance of their livestock, which will exponentially increase the cost of raising and caring for said animals.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:34:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradd Haitsuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to this bill. This bill will put thousands of people out of work, and have a severe effect on the local economy and food supply. This bill makes absolutely no sense, and in my opinion only serves one purpose, to hurt local farmers and residents of the state. This bill has no practical use, and needs to be killed IMMEDIATELY!!!!

Thank You,

Bradd Haitsuka

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:08:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, this bill would subject all local farmers to extensive cost of veterinary treatment and ultimately would put farms out of business

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:26:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for SB2562 by Senator Lee which prohibits backyard surgery on dogs. Surgical procedures should be performed by veterinarians for the safety of the dog.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:29:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jason timm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support bill SB2562.

This bill will cause ranchers and farmers to raise their prices due to having to hire an outside source to tend to their animals. The amount of money that ranchers would have to spend for outside sources would be astronomical. This would not be good for the local economy of Hawaii. This will cause many ranches and farms in Hawaii to shut down due to high over head costs because of this bill. We need more local food sources in Hawaii. This bill would be a direct slap in the face to ranchers and farmers trying to provide for thier families and also the Hawaii community that supports local businesses in Hawaii.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:02:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First and foremost this bill must clarify that it will only apply to *Cats and Dogs*. We have raised livestock for many years. Our family members have and continue to competently perform these procedures on our livestock. It is our kuleana and we take this to heart that our animals are treated with the utmost level of care and compassion.

It will be devastating to Hawaii's ranchers should this bill pass.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:03:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I ippose this bill. Ranchers have been doing this for hundreds of years, why do they now need a vet to do it. It's a waste of the ranchers time if they can do it themselves.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:07:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Rivas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop with the nonsense, if in fact we want our islands to be sustainable we need this nonsense to be eliminated. Allow farmers and ranchers the ability to continue doing what they have been doing without government interference and costly vet bills. It seems mainland lobbyist are influencing your pocket books way too much to the point of choking our local food producers. With all the issues in the state with homelessness and drug addiction this is on the table????!!!!

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:01:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE on the amended wording that reads "ALL ANIMALS". Return the wording back to dogs and cats. This is ridiculous for the ranching industry in Hawaii. If you want to keep the ranching industry alive and small ranches continuing to be sustainable, do NOT pass this as you have it worded. The intent for dogs and cats is understandable, not for livestock that ranchers have been taking care of just fine for generations. Please do not kill another Hawaii source of income for the people you represent.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:05:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Totally opposed to this bill. There is no reason for this. The way farmers and ranchers do there castrations is fine, this will just drive the costs thru the roof. Put farmers out of a job. Government shouldn't even be getting involved in this

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:21:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kaaekuahiwi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this in opposition to proposed bill SB2562 SD1 as it is currently written. My reason for opposing is in regard to the animal producers in this state, such as the farmers and ranchers. If this bill is passed, it would be detrimental to our state agriculture production and communities.

Most farms and ranches in this state are owned and operated by single families that would never be able to afford to employ a veterinarian to castrate their livestock, which would ultimately put them out of business. The community would suffer a huge loss of locally produced animal products which is not sustainable for this state. Being a state/island that everything has to come by boat or plane, it is important for us to protect locally sourced products as it is not only good for our people, but also for our economy.

In addition to the strain the passing of this bill would put on our agriculture community, it also puts a burden on licensed veterinarians. There are not enough veterinarians in this state who specialize in the care of livestock. Farmers and ranchers will not only have a difficult time finding a veterinarian who can castrate their animals, but the veterinarians who are qualified will be overworked. This would cause another slew of issues such as malpractice.

The ambiguous language of this bill that states “any animal” should be changed to “**any animal not used for food production**”. This would support the initial purpose of this bill to protect dogs and other companion animals against cruelty, but ensure farmers and ranchers are still able to continue their operations.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:33:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:47:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin DeGuzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2562, this is a waste of time and tax money. For centuries the cowboys and backyard ranchers have done their own vet procedures on their livestock. There is no reason to make them have to pay for a veterinary procedure for some simple and easy treatments. You would be putting hardworking families out of business and costing them money that could be used for their families. This bill really shows how out of touch our government really is to its people and that a self sustaining state is all just a bunch of lies.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:09:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Toledo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is too broad, and poorly written/thought out. Ranchers in Hawaii and across the world have performed castration for as long as ranching has been around. In Hawaii particularly ranching is difficult due to regulation, cost of supplies, and limited space. This bill in its current form would cause the cost of raising livestock to skyrocket. To have to have a Vet come out and castrate (or any other procedure normally performed by farmers since the description of prohibited activities says "not limited too") and charge for every single animal when farmers have been successfully doing it for centuries is insane. Is there proof or a study that farmers taking care of their animals has caused major issues? Or a outbreak of some disease of some sort? Not to mention it's hard to find a vet to look at a pet much less enough vets to take care of the ranches and livestock. In Hawaii we already ship in meat and pay much higher than the national average. How about we stop working on unnecessary laws that only increase the cost of living for people in Hawaii, and put the time and tax dollars into things that are needed and help?

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:18:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Napier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Frank Lorenzo Sr. am a Hawaii Rancher, and I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Frank Lorenzo Sr.

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Lori-Lee Lorenzo, was born and raised on a family ranch in Ka'u, Hawaii Island. I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Lori-Lee Lorenzo

Conservation Practitioner

The Nature Conservancy: Ka'u Preserves

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Jesse Lorenzo, was born and raised on a family ranch in Ka'u, Hawaii Island. I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Jesse Lorenzo

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Raylyne Welker, spend a lot of time on my family's ranch, and I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Raylyne Welker

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Ikaika Grace, spend a lot of time on my family's ranch, and I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Ikaika Grace

SB2562 SD1

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

February 26, 2024

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I, Mahina Lorenzo, am a Hawaii Rancher, and I oppose SB2562 SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock we care for.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. We have been doing these procedures for hundreds of years. We follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of our livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue financial burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass.

Mahalo,

Mahina Lorenzo

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:25:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Jacintho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill, and stand on and with the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

Thank you,

William G. Jacintho

Past President Maui Cattlemen's Association

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:35:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too expensive and will be a hardship for farmers.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:56:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher soares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, this bill will kill every small farmers self sufficiency and way of life ,

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:08:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! This would put every rancher out of business. This would go against food security. This bill is dangerous. And voting yes on this bill will have consequences at the ballot box.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:10:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a small time rancher I strongly oppose this bill. This would kill the ranching industry in Hawaii. You lawmakers are relentless at destroying Hawaii!

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:43:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will essentially put most ranchers/ beef producers and pig / pork producers in the state out of business for the simple fact they can't afford to have a vet to castrate 100 to thousands of animals a season . The cost would put them out of business further hurting the states food sustainability.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

SB2562 SD1
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melelani Oshiro, and I am an Assistant Extension Agent for Livestock programs with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I **oppose SB2562 SD1**, which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

The original version of SB2562 specified that this was pertaining to dogs (page 3, line 16). Since Senate Draft 1 changes this to "animal" this will negatively impact Hawaii's ranchers by applying this restriction to the livestock they care for.

These producers are competent and follow acceptable husbandry practices that best support the health and well-being of their livestock, which are of utmost importance to them. If this ability is taken away, it would put an undue burden on farmers and ranchers who can competently perform these procedures. Therefore, Hawaii's ranchers must be allowed to continue these practices without fear of criminalization. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:57:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sash Fitzsimmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2562

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:35:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

KĀKO‘O ‘OLE au i kēia pila. I OPPOSE this bill. It should be rewritten and have section (6) Elastration or castration via banding, omitted.

Practices relating to the care of pets should not be included with practices relating to the care of livestock as it affects food sovereignty, food sustainability, and our local economy.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 2:17:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sydney smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!

Did anyone who wrote this bill talk to a single rancher or farmer? They couldn't have because there isn't a single farmer or rancher in the world who would support this bill.

Ranchers and farmers grow up medicating and stitching up their animals. Your livestock needs help immediately not hours or days later. Sometimes you're out on the range without cell service and you couldn't find a vet within miles anyway. This bill is ridiculous.

I can understand it if you mean pets, like dogs or cats. Livestock is a whole different thing. Pet owners are not trained to dock tails or castrate their animals. But ranchers are. Most have been trained since they could first walk.

Are you trying to get the rest of us to sell to billionaires and leave?

It sure seems like it.

Kill this bill or write it specifically for dogs and cats.

Seriously!

Sydney Smith

Makawao, Maui

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 3:35:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is yet ANOTHER example of government overreach. We do not need our elected officials, many of whom have no idea how to live a life off the land, dictating to the real people, how to live their lives.

To whom it may concern,

Senate Bill 2562 will jeopardize hog farmers and ranchers.

The cost of feed and supplies is already through the roof and a lot of us are barely making it. I myself and many other farmers and ranchers castrate hundreds of animals per year.

What do you think this ridiculous bill will do to all of us.

There is so much talk about food sustainability here in the islands, and all we farmers seem to see is legislature finding ways to shut us down. When does this nonsense stop?

I raise animals to feed my family and so other families can have access to fresh local pork and cattle. We farmers and ranchers are brought up to learn and teach ourselves and our children to take over our farms.

How can we do that when something like this keeps coming up?

We are not castrating dogs or cats; we are castrating meat animals that we all eat for food. It is to control meat quality, growth production and herd control.

I humbly ask on behalf of myself and other farmers and ranchers that this bill be dropped. We all need to make a living, don't take our living away from any of us. We have more than enough farms and land on all our islands to be self-sustainable.

Start working with us, instead of against us.

Aloha,
David Ostermann
Dave's Piggery (owner)

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 5:23:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to the SB2562 bill in relation to Veterinary Medicine. In terms of "any animals" its should be dogs and cats only. As a rancher, this bill should not be included for livestock and/or cattle.

Dated: February 27, 2024
To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee
Submitted By: Stacey Noelani Spirz I (808) 384-5696 | sspirz@gmail.com
Testimony on behalf of self | Mō'ili'ili
RE: **Testimony in support of SB2562 SD1:
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**
Date of Hearing: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Aloha,

I am writing to express my support for SB2562 SD1, which seeks to regulate and enforce the practice of veterinary medicine in Hawai'i. I believe this bill is crucial for safeguarding the health and well-being of animals across our state.

SB2562 SD1 addresses the critical issue of unauthorized individuals performing intricate surgical procedures on animals. By requiring individuals to obtain a valid, unrevoked license from the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine, this legislation ensures that only qualified professionals with the necessary expertise and training are permitted to conduct such procedures. This measure is essential for maintaining the highest standards of care and preventing potential harm or mistreatment of animals which result in these backyard surgeries.

Furthermore, SB2562 SD1 rightly classifies the unauthorized performance of surgical procedures on animals as a class C felony. This sends a strong message that such actions will not be tolerated and underscores the seriousness of the offense. By imposing significant penalties, including fines and imprisonment, this bill serves as a deterrent against illegal veterinary practices and reinforces the importance of compliance with established regulations.

The provision for forfeiture of tools, implements, and drugs used in the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine reinforces the accountability of individuals who engage in such activities. By confiscating these materials and turning them over to the board for appropriate disposition, this measure helps prevent further misuse and ensures compliance with regulatory standards.

In conclusion, SB2562 SD1 represents a significant step forward in strengthening veterinary oversight and protecting animal welfare in Hawai'i. I urge you to support this important legislation and take decisive action to advance its passage for the benefit of our communities and the animals we cherish.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 5:56:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Palpallatoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ranchers are fully equipped and knowledgeable to perform these procedures on their livestock themselves without the government stepping in and telling them how to do their jobs.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:44:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB 2562. As President of the Fur-Angel Foundation, a non profit dog rescue, we see the negative impacts of botched backyard procedures. Conducting such procedures without the proper tools and medications is detrimental to pets and should not be allowed. A licensed veterinarian is the only person who should be operating on our pet animals as it reduces risk of infections, complications, and undue stress and pain for these animals.

SB-2562-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 6:10:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Alohalani Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I want to share my opposition reason on this important Senate Bill. As Cattle Ranchers, this will damage our lifestyle, food source and Business for organic feed animals. We have always customarily practiced our traditional rights by performing our own castration for our cattle and it is proven for centuries. We do not shoot them with anesthesia or antibiotics. Please make the amendments to not include cattle, sheep or goats. You will devastate the livestock and farming community. Cats and dogs are fine but not livestock. Thank you for your consideration.