

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
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 21, 2024
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1527
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1527. HB1527 amends HRS sections 471-1, 471-2, 471-15, and 711-1008.5. The definition of a pet animal is inserted in section 471-1, HRS. Section 471-2 adds language that the owner and the owner's employees shall not perform any surgical procedure on the animal or animals, including: cesarean section; ear cropping; tail docking; ventriculocordectomy; onychectomy; elastration or castration via banding, of a pet animal. Language is added to section 471-15 where conviction of subsection 471-2(2) violation is a class C felony and subject to a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not more than five years, or both. The Department respectfully opposes.

Accepted practices in livestock management could be construed as illegal under this measure. Therefore, the Department recommends "the animal or animals" in Section 471-2 (2) be changed to "a dog or dogs" because dogs are the species most affected. Similarly proposed amendment to section 711-1008.5 (2) (a) "when the practices are performed by a veterinarian licensed under 13 chapter 471," should be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

HB1527
VETERINARY MEDICINE
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

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). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB1527. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I **oppose** the comments HB1527, which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals and prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal.

The proposed legislation to deem castration of livestock as a Class C felony in Hawaii would have a devastating impact on the state's livestock producers. These producers are competent and follow acceptable husbandry practices to castrate their own calves, pigs, lambs, and kids. The health and well-being of their livestock 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.



February 21, 2024 2pm

JHA Committee

RE: HB1527; Relating to Veterinary Medicine, SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Tarnas and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee Members,

The Animal Welfare Institute **strongly supports HB1527 with two small but necessary amendments**. 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.

Amendments to HB1527; Relating to Veterinary Medicine:

Per the recommended amendments proposed by the Humane Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Hawaii Veterinary Board and Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association.

Page 2,

Line 6-8, strike “the owner and the owner’s employees shall not” and amend to read “**no person not licensed under HRS 471 shall perform any surgical procedure on a pet animal** including, **but not limited to:**”

line 14, correct the spelling of Section (2)(E) from “onchectomy” to “**onychectomy**”

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and these small but important amendments.

Inga Gibson

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute

PonoAdvocacy@gmail.com

808.922.9910



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 in support of HB 1527: Relating to Veterinary Medicine
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 support for House Bill 1527, which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals; prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal; provides that a violation of the prohibitions is a class C felony; clarifies that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced when the procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian.

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 request the following amendment to further clarify the intent of the bill:

Page 2, Line 6-8, strike "the owner and the owner's employees shall not" and amend to read "no person not licensed under HRS 471 shall perform any surgical procedure on a pet animal including, but not limited to:"

And the following amendment to correct a spelling error in the draft:

Page 2 Line 14, correct the spelling of Section (2)(E) from "onchectomy" to "onychectomy."

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.

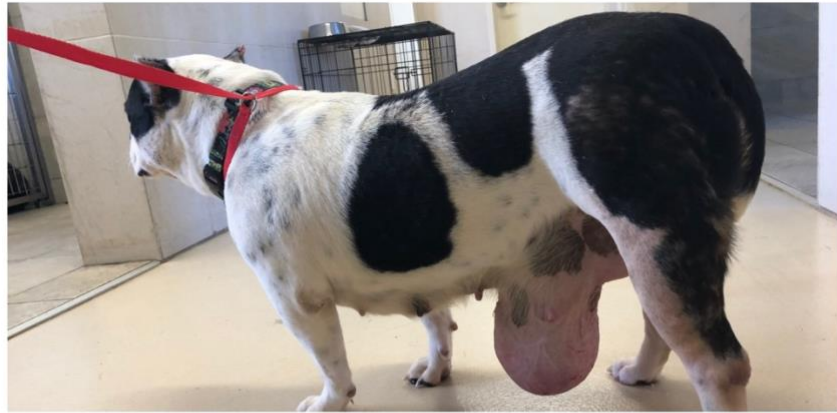
Exxy, an approximately 3-year-old bulldog mix, was brought into our care with a large ventral abdominal hernia and sent out for specialized surgery. The

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 HB 1527 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.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1527, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Tarnas 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 and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) prohibit animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals; (2) prohibit the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal; (3) provide that a violation of the prohibitions is a class C felony; and (4) clarify that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced when the procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian.

The Board recognizes that surgical procedures require proper training, knowledge of anatomy, and the ability to prescribe proper pain management therapeutics, which the typical pet owner or their employees would not have received or have access too. The Board suggests the definition of "pet animals" and references to "pet animals" as referenced on page 1, lines 4 and 5, and page 2, lines 15 and 16 be removed, as the issues raised appear to be related only to dogs and not all pet animals.

Further, the Board requests that the terms "animal or animals" be changed to "dogs" on page 2, lines 7 and 8. The Board also requests that subsection (2)(C) "Tail docking" on page 2, line 11, 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 suggests removing “when the procedure is performed by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 471” on lines 17-19 on page 5.

The Board also recommends that the penalties listed on page 4, lines 8 and 9, 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 listed are significantly under the maximum amounts of \$1000 and one year allowed by chapter 706, HRS.

The Board finds that cruelty to animals is already a class C felony pursuant to chapter 711-1108.5, HRS and believes that creating a felony for violation of chapter 471-2 (2), HRS unduly punishes a pet owner or their employees while exempting other individuals covered in the exemptions from licensure listed in chapter 471-2, HRS. Consequently, the Board suggest removing lines 17 to 20 on page 4.

If the Committee is inclined to pass this measure, the Board prefers the language contained in a similar measure, S.B. 2562.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

HB1527

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **opposes with comments HB1527** which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals, and prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal.

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.

This bill would be acceptable if it is clarified on page 2, line 7, "perform any surgical procedure on the **dog or dogs**," so that it is clear that the A-F items apply to just dogs, and not livestock.

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



HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:44:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Yoshicedo, DVM	Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association would like to provide live testimony to express our concerns with the current bill language that restricts non-veterinary surgery on "any animal" or "pet animals". There are currently acceptable husbandry practices in fields such as livestock and research that we would not want affected by this bill.

We support the intention of the bill only if specified to restrict non-veterinary surgeries on dogs.



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

February 18, 2024

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

RE: HB1527, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the veterinary community that it represents stand in favor of the intent of this bill, which prevents non-veterinarians from performing surgical procedures on certain animals. We strongly prefer the language of companion bill SB2562 as this would specifically protect the animals (dogs) that are currently injured by such practices, while continuing to allow accepted livestock husbandry practices. Additionally SB2562 does not require addressing the legal definition of "pet animal", which could have many unintended consequences.

Veterinarians have extensive training in surgery, anesthesia, anesthetic monitoring, asepsis, and pain management; their expertise allows them to perform surgical procedures humanely and safely. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for local veterinarians to be asked to treat pets suffering from botched surgeries performed by non-veterinarians. We support ending the current legal practice of allowing dog owners and their employees from performing surgical procedures on their own dogs.

Thank you for considering our testimony in favor of the intention of HB1527, though we do not support its current wording. 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".

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



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: HB1527: Relating to veterinary medicine

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports House Bill 1527 prohibiting animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on their dogs and we hope you will consider expanding this prohibition to cats.

When harnessing the term surgical, we should take immediate pause. Surgical is something done with great precision, it is a specialty, and it relates to surgeons (those licensed to provide medical care). Surgical care should not be provided or performed by someone that is not trained and educated on how to create a hygienic and sanitary area, how to provide pain relief, how to provide after care antibiotics, how to respond in an emergency, and how to perform the precision needed for the operation. These procedures done by the unqualified have brought animals to KHS with infection, increase scar tissue, and more. The number of pets that did not survive these operations is unknown as it was too late for the Kaua`i Humane Society to help. Performing a surgical procedure without the qualifications constitutes animal cruelty.

We urge you to pass House Bill 1527 as it will promote responsible and safe care to dogs. It will end unnecessary suffering due to unlicensed pet owners acting as surgeons. Thank you for considering our testimony.

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

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 6:47:08 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:

Animal Rights Hawai'i is proud to support HB1527 ! Please pass this important legislation.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:58:45 AM

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:

HB1527 Relating to Veterinary Medicine prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals; prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal; provides that a violation of the prohibitions is a class C felony.

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 caesarean sections. Passing this bill will allow for the prosecution of people who operate on animals without a veterinary licence.

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.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:56:33 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:

By passing this bill into law, it will help to stop the mutilation of animals.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00p

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

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.

HB1527, as written, would apply to all animals and would have a negative impact on our 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



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 21, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1527
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau opposes HB 1527 as written, which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals, prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal, provides that a violation of the prohibitions is a class C felony, and clarifies that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced when the procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian.

Hawai'i'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 can competently perform these procedures.

This bill would be acceptable if it is clarified on page 2, line 7, "perform any surgical procedure on the **pet animal or pet animals**" So that it is clear that the A-F items apply to just pet animals and not livestock.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:00:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAYLEN SOUZA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello my name is Kaylen Souza with island farms and i oppose HB 1527.

As a pig farmer and the amount of pigs we work with we dont need to rely on state vets and work off their scedules for what we need to do. we have many mentors and a lot of training to proceed with what we need to get done.

Thank you for your time

Kaylen Souza

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 9:28:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill which will help animals in Hawaii from unnecessary trauma and suffering.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:45:35 AM

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:

Cropping, docking, even by a licensed vet should be illegal. No animal should be mutilated just to fit an owner's aesthetic taste. It is barbaric and cruel. Yes, violators should receive the harshest fines and penalties.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 11:45:33 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 HB1527. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 IWI Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI 96816

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:16:38 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 HB1527. I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:34:00 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:

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. The lucky ones make it to an animal shelter or a private veterinary clinic for medical attention. Passing this bill will allow for the prosecution of people who operate on animals without a veterinary license.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 11:19:00 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) My name is Eileen Sam, I'm resident of Kaimuki neighborhood, and my district rep is Bertrand Kobayashi. I strongly support HB1527 because it is 2024 yet some animal owners or their employees are still doing cruel medieval practices on their pets. We would never allow backyard or homemade surgeries on humans so why would we allow this for pets? I cannot believe to this day the endless cases I've seen at animal rescue centers of pets who have suffered mutilation due to people who are not vet (let alone licensed vets) cutting their ears, tails, and even amputations of limbs. This should definitely be illegal as people who conduct "home" medical procedures can be charged with misdemeanor or even a felony.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Eileen

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 2:19:39 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 1527 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals. This bill would make it clear that surgical procedures on animals should be done only by those with specific training on these procedures.

Again, please support HB 1527.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 8:12:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Yes, please pass HB 1527!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 8:35:31 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 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.

Please move this bill forward.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 8:38:30 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:

More insanity! Anyone but a qualified, licensed vet is the only people allowed to operate on an animal for any reason. People, not a vet operating on animals MUST be arrested, jailed and have a mental health evaluation! Please stop the idiots from hurting and killing animals!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 9:22:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Verna Kong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1527, as an individual citizen opposed to animal cruelty.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 11:18:19 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:

Unlicensed people cutting animals is nothing short of extreme cruelty. Please help to stop this practice! Mahalo!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 1:40:11 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 support!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 2:09:33 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:

The Vets don't know every thing and the owners are usually more akamie to what is need at the time!!!!!!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 3:00:10 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:

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for HB1527 by Rep. Nishimoto which prohibits backyard surgery on animals. Surgical procedures should be performed by veterinarians for the safety of the pet animals.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 4:19:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a veterinarian and an animal lover, it is very important to me that animals not be subjected to surgeries performed by non-veterinarians and without adequate aftercare and medication for pain. Castration via banding is a cruel, lazy practice that causes deep pain and suffering to animals and should be completely prohibited.

JHA testimony

From: Elizabeth Kent <meetingexpectationshawaii@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 6:43 PM
To: JHA testimony
Subject: Supplementing My Testimony in Support of HB 1527

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Aloha,

Previously, I submitted testimony in support of HB 1527, Relating to Veterinary Medicine. After reviewing the bill again, I'd like to respectfully comment that I found the proposed new language to Section 471-2, at page 2, lines 5-7, confusing. I think that the concept is to prohibit any person who is not licensed under Chapter 471 from performing a surgical procedure that does not fall within the listed exceptions; to provide that owners are to use normal "care and treatment," and to state that the procedures listed on lines 9-16 do not fall within normal "care and treatment" for an owner. What confused me was that the new language followed the semi-colon rather than standing on its own.

Another thought for your consideration is to add "but not limited to" after "including" at line 8. It is possible that there may be other procedures that could be performed on pets that are not listed and if "not limited to" is added, then those could also fall within the amended statute.

Thank you for considering my supplementary testimony.

Elizabeth Kent

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 5:42:53 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support the intent of this bill.

Elizabeth Kent

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 7:06:58 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 support this bill. Only a veterinarian should be allowed to perform any type of surgeries, cutting, medical procedures on any animal. Anyone other than a Vet performing any type of cutting binding or surgeries should be prosecuted by the law in the highest degree. This is torture to the animals we must be the voice for the voiceless and protect the helpless.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 7:48:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Sugai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

My name is Stacy and I own a pig farm in Waianae. I oppose HB1527 because it is too broad by stating "pet animal" or "any animal". I'm afraid that it will negatively impact livestock producers from performing routine acceptable animal husbandry practices.

Hawaii imports 85-90% of it's food. Local farmers are working very hard in trying to increase the amount of food we grow and raise for the people in Hawaii. This bill, as written, would be almost impossible for us to follow - logistically and financially.

Would you please consider either exempting livestock or define the animal as "dogs or cats"?

Thank you allowing me to submit my testimony.

Mahalo,

Stacy Sugai, SK Natural Farms (aka 2 Lady Farmers)

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 9:35:30 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:

It is cruel to operate on a pet oneself. If you don't have the money for a vet, then don't have an animal.

Personal Testimony Presented before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Room 325 & Videoconference

by
Halina M. Zaleski, Ph.D.

HB 1527 RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE
Testimony in OPPOSITION

Chair David A Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama and Members of the Committee:

My name is Halina M. Zaleski and I am a retired Extension Specialist with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 1527. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I OPPOSE HB 1527 because it will have an enormous negative impact on livestock welfare and on livestock producers because it prevents producers from performing routine animal husbandry practices. There are, for example, thousands of pigs born in Hawai'i every year and I do not think that the state has the resources to provide veterinarians to castrate each one at an age when the procedure is least stressful for the piglet. And then there are the chickens, calves, lambs, kids, etc. We have trained producers to perform routine husbandry procedures in a way that minimizes pain and stress for the livestock.

It is particularly appropriate that this bill is being heard by the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, because pig raising has been an important part of Hawaiian culture since the first pigs arrived with the Polynesian voyagers. It would be a shame to make pig raising impossible for all except the largest mainland farms that have the resources to have a veterinarian on staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this process.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 7:06:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Urging your SUPPORT of this measure to end the needless suffering of our pet animals when they are subjected to amputations and other surgical procedures by those lacking the necessary skills, training, licensing, equipment, and medications.

I've seen, firsthand, what a botched "at home" dewclaw amputation looks like and leads to: thousands of dollars in vet bills to treat and ultimately properly amputate what remains, and weeks of pain suffered by my dog whose original owners thought they had the skill to perform amputations at home.

Personal Testimony on
HOUSE BILL 1527 RELATING to VETERINARY MEDICINE
by
Jenee S. Odani, DVM, DACVP

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committees:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am a licensed veterinarian in Hawaii. I was formerly the Extension Veterinarian for the University of Hawaii and have over 20 years of experience in veterinary practice. I am also the current president of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA) and the alternate Hawaii delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) House of Delegates. The testimony and comments I am providing are my own and do not represent the position of the University, the HVMA, or the AVMA.

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony and comments **OPPOSING HB 1527**.

While I support the spirit of this bill, which is to prevent surgery on dogs from being performed by non-veterinarians, I do not support this bill as it is currently written.

In **Section 471-2**, I suggest removing “**of a pet animal**” from (2-F) because it is unclear whether “of a pet animal” refers only to elastration/castration via banding (F), or if it applies to all the surgical procedures listed (A-F). If the “pet animal” limitation does not apply to all the procedures listed, then livestock producers will be dramatically harmed. Therefore, I suggest **replacing “animal or animals” in page 2, Line 7-8 with “dog or dogs”, “dog(s) and cat(s)”, OR “pet animal or animals.”** This way, it will more clearly allow livestock producers to continue the customary husbandry practices of tail-docking of young piglets and lambs and castration of young calves, piglets, lambs, and kids.

This is important because it is cost-prohibitive to require producers to hire veterinarians to perform these procedures, and there is a shortage of food animal veterinarians in the state who are willing to perform these procedures. These procedures are considered ordinary practice of animal husbandry and are performed by skilled livestock producers who work tirelessly to provide local food for our state.

Lastly, although Section 471-2 (6) allows a farmer to give “another farmer the assistance customarily given in the ordinary practice of animal husbandry,” it does not specifically allow the farmer themselves to perform the procedures on their own animal. This is why I believe it is **critical that Section 471-2 (2) be modified**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 10:35:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia F Tucker PsyD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senate and Representatives,

My name is Cynthia Tucker, PsyD, and I am a practicing Psychologist in Kailua, O'ahu.

I urge strong Support for HB1527 in support of Veterinarians to only be allowed to perform medical treatments for animals; creation of Felony to unauthorized others

Animal abuse and animal cruelty is unacceptable in our society. Research in the field of psychology also reflects that animal cruelty is very highly correlated with crime, domestic violence, family and child abuse, and can also be associated with murders.

It is animal abuse and cruelty to have people perform 'medical' procedures on pets or other animals that would create pain, harm, abuse, and should be elevated to the Felony level and prosecuted as such.

I highly urge strong support of HB1527

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cynthia F Tucker, PsyD

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:25:21 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:

I am in support of HB1527. Please help to protect the rights and well-being of our animals.
Mahalo.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:23:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing as a resident of Oahu, a parent, and an animal rights activist. I am writing in strong support of HB1527. The practice of unnecessary cosmetic alteration by laypeople, unskilled in medical or veterinary medicine, has been accepted as cruelty for most animal welfare groups in our country for some time. This is a much-needed change to our legislation!

I look forward to the passage of HB1527 and to further progress on our animal welfare laws in the future.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:02:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivi franson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Members,

aloha! I am writing to you in support of HB1527 prohibiting any persons without a license to perform ANIMAL SURGERY. And punish those performing illegal drugs and procedures. It is Absolutely inconceivable for a non licensed medical "practitioner" to perform any such procedure on a human let alone an animal.

We are arguably the most FAMOUS DESTINATION ON THE PLANET AND MOST visited and richest states in the Nation and we should not be allowing the inhuman behavior and atrocities of a third world country.

aloha,

ms. Vivi Franson

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:30:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

Please support this bill.

Any animal should be seen by qualified veterinarians, NOT by someone who says that they have "done surgery before". This is just another form of animal abuse and should be prosecuted.

Mahalo,

Joanne Parker

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:36:25 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as written. As written this bill will negatively impact farmers and ranchers across the state.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:16:23 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1527! It is detrimental to the many aspects. There needs to be a balance. It is not cruelty to animals, it is a responsible pet/animal owner who understands LIFE!!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:58:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Boteilho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Whitney Boteilho and I oppose this bill as it is written.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:54:14 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 HB1527. I have seen the suffering of helpless animals who were operated on by unlicensed individuals. We wouldn't do it to ourselves or those we love. Why do we think it's ok to do it to innocent animals? Just because we can does not mean we may or we should.

Thank you very much,

Ginny Tiu