



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Hearing Date: Feb. 15, 2023

Time & Location: 9:00 am, Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

To: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kristin Kahaloo, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Submitted: by Susan Rhee, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

RE: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 849: Relating to Animals

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloo, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our Hawaii supporters I urge your support for H.B. 849. Selling commercially raised puppies and kittens in pet store raises serious animal welfare and consumer protection issues. By prohibiting pet stores from selling dogs and cats unless sourced from an animal shelter or rescue, lawmakers can protect consumers and promote humane organizations.

Six states and over 445 localities have prohibited the sale of commercially raised dogs and cats in pet stores. Hawaii should be next. Over the past 10 years, these laws have shrunk demand for puppies bred in cruel conditions, with public records showing that 32,000 fewer breeding dogs are now caged in USDA-licensed puppy mills.

Pet store puppies are often obtained from commercial breeders who hide their operations from the public, knowing no consumer would buy from them if they saw their inhumane practices. In these facilities, mother dogs are treated like breeding machines and puppies like mere products when they are taken from their mothers at just 7-8 weeks old. Because of the cruel and unsanitary conditions at breeding facilities, and because puppies are comingled with other stressed and sick puppies, pet store puppies are prone to catching illnesses that their little bodies cannot easily defeat. The extreme cost of tackling these illnesses, alongside potential congenital defects acquired due to improper breeding, is passed along to the new owner.

Pet stores sell their puppies for large amounts of money with false promises of humane, regulated breeders and healthy, socialized puppies when this is rarely true. Consumers voice their frustration with these deceptions



online and to organizations willing to help. The HSUS, government agencies, veterinarians, and online platforms receive a constant stream of complaints from consumers who ended up with sick pet store puppies, high veterinary bills, and sometimes the heartache of their new pet dying.

Yet, no pet store needs to sell puppies and kittens in order to be profitable. The American Pet Products Association reports that the pet products and services industry is booming with Americans spending \$123 billion on their pets in 2021. Out of the top 30 pet store retailers in North America, only one sells puppies and many of these stores achieved “impressive growth” despite the “ongoing pandemic, turbulent economy, supply chain disruptions, and increasing competition” according to *Pet Business Magazine*. The majority of existing pet stores in Hawaii are operating under a humane pet supplies and services model, and are evidence of this industry’s success.

H.B. 849 will drive the Hawaii pet market towards sources that are better for animals and families and encourage responsible pet acquisition that is not driven by impulse purchasing that cute “puppy in the window.” Residents will be a part of the solution to Hawaii’s pet overpopulation problem by adopting from a local shelter or rescue. Or they’ll have the option of seeking out a responsible breeder who sells directly to the public and always takes dogs back if they don’t work out with their new family.

Please support H.B. 849 as it supports both animals and the people that love them.

Respectfully,

Susan Rhee
Hawaii State Director
The Humane Society of the United States

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:48:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

ARH supports HB849

Mahalo

Koolau Pets has been a family owned and operated small business for over forty-nine years on the windward side of Oahu. We are second generation owners, since taking over the business in July 2017. In those forty-nine years, Koolau Pets has always been a full line pet store carrying birds, puppies, rabbits, fish, reptiles, and supplies for every pet. During the entirety of our operation, we have never once gotten a citation from the Hawaiian Humane Society. If we didn't operate the responsible way, we would not be in business today.

Koolau Pets has employed hundreds of high school and college students. Giving them the opportunity to learn about animals and how best to care for them, as well as, giving them the skills to handle the situations they may face in their careers. The passing of House Bill 846 will devastate the prosperity of my family business.

Here at Koolau Pets all of our puppies are bought from loving family homes. We never buy any puppies from a so-called puppy mill. If we lose our ability to sell puppies, where will people go searching next? Irresponsible breeders will have an opportunity to make more money.

Before our puppies are put out for sale, we send them to Haiku Veterinary Clinic to be thoroughly checked. This check includes a full physical exam, a fecal test, and the puppy's first vaccination. When puppy is bought by their forever home, we give the family another complimentary vet visit with Haiku Veterinary Clinic. Buying a puppy through us ensures that the puppy has been checked not once, but twice by a licensed veterinarian.

The Hawaiian Humane Society claims that they received four thousand puppies and dogs last year. It is irresponsible to blame Pet Shops. There are 3 pet stores on island (Oahu) that sell puppies, but there are very few puppies sold in pet stores (IF ANY AT ALL) on the outer-islands. If the number of puppies in the humane societies were predominantly from pet stores, the number of puppies in each local humane society vs the population should verify this claim. However, the opposite is true. Comparing the number of dogs taken in by the Humane Society per a year in each County to total population of that county, Oahu has the best numbers.

Furthermore, Koolau pets has not sold, bought, received, or hosted any cats or kittens for the past fifteen years. It is unfair to blame pet stores for the overabundance of cats in the Hawaiian Humane Society.

How does the Hawaiian Humane Society know that these puppies are coming from pet stores? What is to regulate the sales of puppies, kittens, and rabbits on craigslist, Facebook, etc. Here at Koolau Pets we can help the customers find the animal that will be the right fit for their family. Things like temperament, energy, and allergies are all factors in choosing a new pet. Forcing the people of Hawaii to adopt pets takes away the crucial options in choosing the pet that will work out best in the family. If the people can't find a pet the works for the family, the animals will end up back in the shelters or on the streets.

The passing of House Bill 846 will devastate small full line pet stores. Koolau Pets has a five-year lease which ends July of 2028. Our lease is based off our history of past sales. These sales have

always included puppies and rabbits. If we are to lose the sales of puppies and rabbits, we will not be able to afford our rent or our SBA loan we made to survive the Covid Pandemic. I am a guarantor of our loan. If I can't pay the rent, I could lose my house and assets. This is not right or fair for a business who has done everything in the right and responsible way all these years.

In this day and age, it is so difficult to keep a business afloat. Most of this struggle is due to big corporate businesses such as Petco, PetSmart, Target, Amazon, Chewy.com, and so much more. If any part of our merchandised product were to become illegal to sell it would be detrimental to my business and livelihood.

We are one hundred percent against this bill. However, if change is to ever occur, please respect our industry for we have done nothing wrong, grandfather all shops to be exempt until their current leases are up.

Robert Lawrence, President of Koolau Pets

If you have any questions, please call (808)235-6477



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13 February 2023

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloha, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Sent via Email

Re: Support for House Bill 849 – Sale of Dogs, Cats and Rabbits in Pet Stores

Honorable Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloha and esteemed committee members:

On behalf of [Best Friends Animal Society](#) and our Hawaii members, supporters and partners, I am pleased to offer support for House Bill 849 to restrict the sale of inhumanely bred dogs, cats and rabbits in Hawaii's pet stores. We urge you to join [more than 460 cities, counties and states](#) throughout North America that have enacted sensible and effective legislation to prevent pet stores from selling commercially bred pets, and instead allow for the adoption of pets sourced from shelters or rescue groups, while also allowing responsible breeders to continue selling directly to the public.

Pet mills, particularly puppy mills, are a serious problem in the U.S. These facilities, which supply nearly 100% of commercial puppy stores, are cruel and inhumane breeding factories in which profit takes priority over the health, comfort and welfare of the animals.

Although the USDA regulates most commercial breeders, the minimum federal standards do not ensure a safe or healthy life for pets. These types of kennels can legally have more than a thousand dogs in one facility, and these dogs are allowed to be confined to cages only six inches larger than their bodies for their entire lives, breeding continuously in order to produce as many puppies as possible for the pet trade. And USDA inspection reports show that many USDA-licensed breeders continue to sell animals to pet stores even after being cited for serious violations at their facilities. In other words, having a USDA license does **not** guarantee humane or ethical breeding.

Because the focus is solely on profit, commercial breeding operations typically cut all possible corners to keep their overhead low, at the expense of the health and well-being of their animals. For the unsuspecting consumer, this frequently results in the purchase of a pet facing an array of immediate [veterinary problems](#) or harboring genetic diseases that surface down the line. This creates a financial burden on the consumer and can result in pets being surrendered to overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelters. Thus, this is not just an animal welfare issue but a consumer protection concern that has a direct impact on local taxpayers.

It makes little sense to continue manufacturing dogs and cats while so many are being killed for lack of space. Public education has been effective, but until communities take the initiative to halt the supply of pets imported from substandard commercial facilities, there can be no hope of preventing these unnecessary deaths.

Pet stores rely on commercial pet mills and their distributors to supply their pets because ethical breeders won't sell to pet stores for two simple reasons: it's not financially viable and they don't sell to third parties. They want to know where those pets are going. They want to meet the people who are going to care for that animal. And that's why the pledge never to sell a pet to a pet store can be found verbatim in every reputable breeder's code of ethics, including virtually all of the parent breed clubs promoted by the American Kennel Club, as well as the national cat fancier associations.

[Ethical breeders](#) encourage potential buyers to visit the home where the animals were bred, they conduct an interview to be sure the match is the best one for both the buyer and the animal, and they require a contract that requires the buyer to provide good care, to spay and neuter the animal, and to return the pet to the breeder if things don't work out at any point over the pet's lifetime. These sensible provisions cannot apply when animals are sold through pet stores.

Also concerning is the fact that 21 states have been hit by an outbreak of a strain of bacteria ([Campylobacter](#)) that is linked to puppies sold through puppy stores. Campylobacter is resistant to antibiotics and contagious to humans. Hawaii residents should not be exposed to this serious public health threat — particularly now, when public health is so vulnerable.

Those who benefit most from companion animal sales in pet stores are the retailers themselves. While they may profit from the practice of buying these pets at a low price from commercial brokers and then selling them at a high price (typically without first spaying or neutering them), it is the taxpaying public who pays for animal control to house and kill unwanted animals in the community.

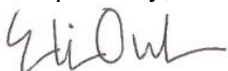
Further, many pet stores are frequently accused of [predatory lending](#) by offering financing upwards of 160%, creating a serious and unexpected financial strain on the consumer, sometimes resulting in an obligation for ongoing payments for [a pet that is deceased](#).

Pet stores that sell commercially bred pets can choose to be part of the solution rather than the problem by phasing out the sale of animals in favor of other common revenue streams such as pet product sales, grooming and day care, and by offering space for animal rescue organizations to adopt out animals from those stores, as hundreds of pet stores across the country already do with great success.

Pet stores that have transitioned from selling companion animals to offering rescued pets for adoption have found this animal-friendly model to be both viable and embraced by the communities in which the stores are located. Therefore, HB 849 would not prevent any current or future pet stores from doing business, and would alleviate a significant burden on local shelters and rescue groups by increasing pet adoptions. Further, ***it would not prevent anyone from purchasing a pet directly from a private breeder.***

Best Friends and our Hawaii members and partners thank you in advance for taking a fair, reasonable and effective measure to protect consumers, pets and taxpayers throughout the state. We have been proud to work with elected officials across the country to enact humane pet sales legislation, and I hope you will not hesitate to contact me if there is anything we can do to help realize this important effort.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Oreck

National Manager, Puppy Mill Initiatives

Best Friends Animal Society

bestfriends.org/pupmills

elizabetho@bestfriends.org

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:10:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Lawrence	Koolau Pets	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For my dad company Koolau Pets. They have been selling puppy for how long now. Probably before I was born so taking that right away from a pet shop literally take away all the income for the store to run and make it tougher for family to support there family because I know for a fact if pet shops can't sell pets they won't be a pet store anymore. Any my dad has been doing that business for a while now and you would make him and other people struggle.

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

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

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

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

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

We also feel this bill gives misguided information and is being pushed by groups with secondary gain. There are only a few rabbits in all county humane society websites at any given time. There is also roughly the same amount of guinea pigs available as rabbits in each humane society at any given time. Oddly enough, guinea pigs are never included in these bills. Petco & PetSmart work with adopting animals and spay/neuter programs. I think that is great, but there is a conflict of interest. Petco & PetSmart would benefit from this law tremendously because they don't sell dogs, cats or rabbits. It will not affect their sales at all, but will devastate small local pet stores. I find it very interesting that Petco & PetSmart sell guinea pigs and these bills do not include them.

In conclusion, I oppose bill HB849 because this bill unfairly punishes/targets pet stores.



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February 15, 2023

Memorandum of Support – HB 849

Prohibits a pet store operator from selling a dog, cat, or rabbit unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from certain humane sources.

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

The Animal Legal Defense Fund – the nation’s preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals – and its members in Hawaii, support HB 849, prohibiting the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in retail pet stores. Unsuspecting consumers are routinely duped by pet stores' claims that their animals come from "family" breeders. In reality, virtually all animals sold at pet stores are sourced from mills – large-scale commercial breeding facilities that prioritize profits over the welfare of animals. To protect consumers and animals, and reduce the burden on Hawaii’s overcrowded animal shelters, we strongly urge the passage of this bill.

Puppy mills maintain dogs in crowded, unsanitary conditions. Puppies and dogs used for breeding often lack adequate food, clean water, or veterinary care. Mother dogs forced to give birth to multiple litters year after year are ultimately abandoned or killed when they are no longer able to produce puppies. Due to a lack of proper socialization and separation from their mothers at too young an age, puppies bred in mills are more likely to experience behavioral and psychological problems throughout their lives, resulting in many animals being relinquished to animal shelters.

Under HB 849, consumers will still be able to purchase purebred animals from breeders. The bill only impacts the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits at pet stores. Pet stores do not purchase animals from small-scale breeders, instead these animals come from mills that are unregulated by the state and frequently have long histories of federal Animal Welfare Act violations. Due to inadequate enforcement at the federal level, even the most egregious offenders are rarely shut down. HB 849 would cut off the sales pipeline for some of the worst commercial breeding facilities in the country.

In addition to protecting animals, the bill provides critical protections for Hawaii consumers. As a result of mills' breeding practices and the animals' poor living conditions, it is common for animals to suffer from serious genetic conditions and deadly diseases. Many families are devastated to discover that their recently purchased puppy is seriously ill, sometimes within hours of bringing an animal home. The Animal Legal Defense Fund regularly receives requests for legal assistance from people who have unknowingly purchased sick animals and are now saddled with thousands of dollars in veterinary bills. HB 849 safeguards future consumers from experiencing similar heartbreak.

Finally, Hawaii’s animal shelters are overcrowded and in need of help. Shelters are often over-capacity and animals are routinely shipped to the mainland to reduce the load of the islands’ shelters. HB 849 will alleviate the burden on Hawaii’s shelters and help save lives of countless animals by requiring pet stores to source their animals from shelters and reducing demand for animals bred in mills.

To protect both animals and Hawaii residents, the Animal Legal Defense Fund endorses HB 849 and encourages the committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig
Legislative Affairs Program Fellow
Animal Legal Defense Fund
lvierheilig@aldf.org

All our clients are innocent

Printed on recycled paper



February 13, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: HB849: Relating to animals in pet stores

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports House Bill 849 and the campaign to source dogs, cats, and rabbits for pet stores from humane sources.

Puppy mills raise dogs in inhumane conditions, do not provide the proper medical care to protect a young dog from illness and disease, and dogs can suffer from behavioral issues due to their upbringing. The practice of raising dogs in puppy mills should not be compensated. The result is an increase in aggressive pets and high medical costs to the owner, which can ultimately lead to the owner having to part with the pet.

Humane societies ensure all animals are up to date on their vaccines and medical care, decreasing the risk of disease spread to other animals and humans. All animals are spayed or neutered, helping decrease pet overpopulation. All animals are evaluated for adoption.

By limiting avenues to those that are perpetually breeding in hopes of generating revenue this bill will assist in curbing that practice. This bill will also help humane societies and animal welfare organizations that are typically at capacity or over capacity with animals, to help find homes for the animals that are already residing on Hawai`i, instead of producing even more animals, adding to pet overpopulation.

We urge you to pass House Bill 849 as it will promote humane sourcing of pets in pet stores and promote pet ownership of Hawaii's homeless pets, which will help decrease pet overpopulation across Hawai`i. Thank you for considering our testimony.

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



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

AGR_02-15-23

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Concerning: HB849 Relating to Animals

Position: Full Support

The environmental Caucus supports this bill

There is no justification for a Pet shop to sell to their customers any kind of animal, especially cats, dogs and rabbits which they buy for questionable sources.

Unlicensed puppy mills or kitten mills are not only a source of misery for the animals but also a source of genetically troubled animals whose defects may not be obvious to a Pet Store Customer. No family should have to deal with the expenses and personal trauma of buying an animal and falling in love with it only to find out it needs tons of vet care or has an incurable problem which shows up later and cannot be repaired.

The people who run these sources already take advantage of innocent people via ads in the newspaper.

A responsible Pet store should not support businesses which abuse animals by buying the products of their abuse.

Martha Randolph for the Environmental Caucus



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 13, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 849: Relating to Animals
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Room 325 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Committee Members.

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 849, which prohibits a pet store operator from selling a dog, cat, or rabbit unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from certain humane sources.

The measure protects animals and consumers. Since Hawai'i does not regulate animal-related businesses or nonprofits there is no transparency for the consumer about where and how animals are being bred. There is no way to ascertain the conditions in which animals are being held unless a situation deteriorates to such levels of cruelty that a search warrant can be obtained. HB849 requires that pet stores maintain records of where they acquire animals for sale and display that information in its stores.

We would like to see the bill amended to protect all legal pets and to expand its commitment to transparency. Our suggested amendments:

- Replace "dogs, cats and rabbits" throughout the bill with "pet animals."
- Define "pet animal" as having the same meaning as in HRS 711-1100.
- Add a new provision (d) to read "A pet store operator shall provide the records required by subsection (a) relevant to an individual animal to the purchaser of that animal at the time of sale."

- Add a new provision (e) to read “Upon request from law enforcement or the contracted animal service provider in the county where it operates, a pet store operator shall provide the records maintained under subsection (a).”

We urge you to pass HB 849, which protects animals and consumers and would be a win for our community. Mahalo for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:24:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani vicente	Pets Avenue hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Americans should have the privileges to purchase, pick and chose their venues. For a puppy, kittens, fish, rabbit, reptile, Guinea pig, it's freedom of choice! I oppose!

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:09:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We refer to **HB849 Relating to Animals**, which would prohibit a pet store operator from selling a dog, cat, or rabbit unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from certain humane sources.

We join with the *Hawaiian Humane Society* in supporting this Bill.

As it seems that Hawai‘i does not regulate animal-related businesses or non-profits, there is no transparency for the consumer about where and how animals are being bred, and no way to ascertain the conditions in which animals are being held, unless a situation deteriorates to such levels of cruelty that a search warrant can be obtained. *The Hawaiian Humane Society* supports efforts to better protect animals and this bill is a step in the right direction and we approve of it.

HB849 also requires that pet stores maintain records of where they acquire animals for sale and display that information in its stores. This would really protect people and animals.

We support the amendments suggested by *Hawaiian Humane*, which include a requirement that the records regarding the origins of individual animals be given to purchasers at the time of sale and that they be made available to law enforcement upon request.

In addition, we would like to see the provisions expanded to apply to all pet animals as defined in **HRS 711-1100**.

Petshops usually sell many small animals, birds and fishes and they can suffer just as much as dogs, cats and rabbits, so there is no good reason to exclude them from this protection.

AIA begs to support this very important Bill.



**TESTIMONY OF
PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON HB 849, ESTABLISHING A PET SALE BAN
BEFORE THE
HOUSE AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

February 14th, 2023

The Pet Advocacy Network appreciates the opportunity to offer our views and expertise on HB 849, which would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in retail pet stores in Hawaii.

As the advocacy voice of the responsible pet care community, The Pet Advocacy Network represents the interests and expertise of retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, pet owners and others involved in the many aspects of pet care throughout the state of Hawaii and across the United States. Our association works to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure the availability of healthy pets through our work at the state and federal levels—including the United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Pet Advocacy Network routinely advocates on legislative and regulatory proposals to advance the public interest-of protecting public health and the safety, health and availability of companion animals.

All of us in the responsible pet care community don't just care about animals, we provide care for them on a daily basis—and are dedicated to ensuring that appropriate care of animals is the primary focus of any law or regulation. As such, we offer an unmatched depth and breadth of experience on legislative efforts to verify and certify the health and well-being of pets from the time they are born all the way until they are taken home and made a part of families.

Respectfully, the Pet Advocacy Network requests that you reject HB 849. Everyone agrees that bad breeders who mistreat or neglect animals need to be put out of business. However, those who seek to stop bad breeders by targeting responsible pet stores with retail pet sale bans are misinformed.

While well-intentioned, retail pet sale bans will not stop bad breeders who are unregulated, unlicensed, and are not held accountable to any animal care standards. What bans will do is harm highly-regulated pet stores, eliminating the most transparent source of pets that provides purchasers with legal protections, and driving prospective pet owners to unregulated, unlicensed and potentially unscrupulous pet-sellers.

This is particularly true in Hawaii where state animal import laws mean that there are NO puppies, kittens or baby rabbits being imported into the state from the mainland. In the case of

Hawaii, having companion animals available in pet stores means that the breeders providing those animals are required to be USDA licensed, a requirement that does not apply if they simply sell those companion animals from their own location.

The fact is that pet stores and the licensed breeders they work with are a highly-regulated, best-in-class source of pets that are inspected regularly, provide veterinary exams, and keep detailed records of the condition and care of their animals:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established and enforces humane care standards under the federal government's Animal Welfare Act that regulate the transportation, purchase, sale, housing, care, handling and treatment of animals for use as pets.
- Breeders with five or more breeding females that are not USDA-licensed are prohibited from selling to pet stores.
- USDA-licensed breeders are routinely inspected to ensure they are complying with humane standards for veterinary care, shelter, food, and clean water.
- Pet stores are also regulated by state laws regarding animal care and warranties and are required to keep records related to the health, veterinary care and source of the animals they sell.

Beyond the legal requirements, our members feel a responsibility to the animals themselves. They work with families to find the ideal pets for their individual situations because that is the single best way to ensure successful lifelong pet relationships, and keep pets from being surrendered to shelters and rescues. Pet stores also have a significant incentive to adhere to the highest standards of care and sourcing because they depend on their reputation, and positive word of mouth to stay in business.

Pet stores are a valuable and transparent option for prospective pet owners. They provide the peace-of-mind and the opportunity for families to personally interact with and choose a pet that will be the best fit for their circumstances that was raised under federal and state care standards, has a detailed medical history, and in many cases, is protected by a consumer warranty¹.

The best option for pet ownership for some families are the pure- or purpose-bred puppies offered by pet stores. They may need a specific breed due to health considerations – 30 percent of Americans suffer from pet allergies². Or, with young children, they may not be able to take on the behavior risks of bringing a dog with an unknown history into their home – 47 percent of rehomed dogs are relinquished because of pet problems, including aggressive

¹ American Veterinary Medical Association. <https://www.avma.org/advocacy/state-local-issues/pet-purchase-protection-laws>

² Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. <https://www.aafa.org/pet-dog-cat-allergies/>

behaviors³. If a future pet owner needs or wants a specific breed due to such common circumstances, their options will be severely limited without pet stores

A ban will boost the black market for pets. Bad breeders who don't adhere to care standards can sell puppies with diseases or genetic defects, and families are left with huge veterinary bills and without the legal recourse of a warranty, such as those offered by many pet stores and required in many states. In California, for example, veterinarians saw an increase in consumers purchasing sick dogs from unregulated sources shortly after the state implemented a ban on the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits at pet stores in 2019⁴.

Without pet stores to personally interact with and select their new pet, families may turn to online sources, where they could fall victim to the “puppy scams” that have surged in recent years—tricked into sending unrecoverable money for a nonexistent dog. While there are reputable and responsible online sellers, the Better Business Bureau has stated that fake online puppy sellers and puppy scams have dramatically increased by 39 percent since 2017⁵, and up to 80 percent of sponsored online ads for puppies may be fake⁶. Victims of these puppy scams often have no legal recourse because they purchased from a source without regulatory oversight and without a purchase warranty to protect them.

We respectfully urge Hawaii to reject HB 849. This legislation would not impact bad actors, but it will punish law-abiding pet stores, often small, local businesses that depend on establishing life-long relationships with pet owners to sustain their businesses because they can't compete with the volume pricing that online or big-box retailers are able to offer. These local businesses are committed to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the animals they provide to Aloha State families, but a pet sale ban will force them to close their doors permanently.

The way to put bad breeders out of business is to evaluate, improve, and increase enforcement of federal and state animal care laws, including setting and enforcing strong and uniform standards of care and applying them to pet sources including stores, licensed breeders, shelters and rescues.

³ ASPCA, National Rehoming Survey (2015). <https://www.aspc.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistic>

⁴ ABC 10 San Diego <https://www.10news.com/news/team-10/puppy-dies-four-hours-after-sd-family-buys-it-vets-say-new-law-may-be-part-of-the-problem>

⁵ BBB Alert: Beware of Puppy Scams This Holiday Season – Findings by BBB Reveal a Surge in Complaints and Scam Reports. (n.d.). <https://www.bbb.org/article/scams/18964-scam-alert-beware-of-puppy-scams-this-holiday-season>

⁶ Puppy Scams: How to Protect Yourself from Fake Online Pet Sellers. (2017, November). <https://www.bbb.org/article/scams/14213-puppy-scams-how-to-protect-yourself-from-fake-online-pet-sellers#:~:text=Experts>



We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to work with the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee to find ways to meaningfully address bad breeders. By working together, we can make sure that Oregon citizens continue to have access to healthy animals to love as pets now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Robert Likins
Executive Vice President
Pet Advocacy Network

1615 Duke Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
202.452.1525 | info@petadvocacy.org
Petadvocacy.org





AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
Government Relations

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The Honorable Cedrick Asuega Gates, Chair
Hawaii House Agriculture and Food Systems Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 441
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: AKC Opposes House Bill 849 – Limiting Hawaiians’ Freedom to Purchase Pets

Chair Gates and members of the House Agriculture and Food Systems Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today to offer comments on House Bill 849. We respectfully ask you to not advance HB 849, which would unreasonably restrict consumer choice and have a negative impact on dogs and dog owners throughout Hawaii.

RETAIL SOURCING RESTRICTIONS CREATE INCENTIVE FOR UNREGULATED ANIMAL PRODUCTION

The American Kennel Club shares concerns about the well-being of all pets. AKC is the world’s largest purebred dog registry, our affiliated clubs operate America’s largest breed rescue network¹, and for over 135 years we have been proud to be the only non-profit purebred registry devoted to the health and well-being of all dogs. We advocate for responsible dog ownership and support strong enforcement of current local and Hawaii state laws and the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Our commitment to the well-being of all dogs and our extensive experience with both rescue and purpose-bred dogs compels us to weigh in on this issue and oppose HB 849. Proposals that restrict pet shop sources, whether at the state or local level, are founded on the same model that makes **a false, unverified, and uncorroborated assumption: that professionally-bred dogs sold by retail pet shops are raised in poor conditions.**² In doing so, they undermine the very pet dealer regulations that work to protect consumers and advance responsible breeding practices.

Furthermore, by pushing pet sellers to showcase pets that come from unregulated and random sources, such proposals not only remove the most regulated and vetted source of pets from the market, but they also **exacerbate sourcing problems by creating a perverse demand for dogs that are not subject to, and do not benefit from, animal welfare regulations or the health tests and reporting that result from them.**

We urge you to consider these specifics:

- According to the American Pet Product Association³, approximately **44% of Americans obtained their pet from a retail rescue, traditional breed rescue, shelter, or similar source.** The U.S. currently has a large market for “rescue pets”, and with it, significant economic incentive for individuals or organizations who can avoid regulatory oversight by irresponsibly breeding or flipping pets directly to meet this demand. By comparison, **only 4% of Americans obtained a pet from a traditional retail pet shop.**
- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that approximately one million dogs are imported into the United States on an annual basis.**⁴ The vast majority of these dogs come with

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

little valid health information, receive little regulatory or welfare oversight, and are likely destined for the large, unregulated U.S. retail rescue market.

- Assuming no growth in U.S. human population or demand for pet dogs, the demographic replacement rate for owned pets in the United States demands eight million pet dogs each year. Small hobby dog breeders who register their litters with the AKC simply cannot meet this demand. Rather than limiting future pet owners to internet scams or unregulated sources of pets, access to high-quality, professionally bred pets from a regulated source should remain an option for Hawaiian households.
- Pet shop sourcing bans do little to address any actual issues of cruelty or negligence. Instead, they are likely to cause harm to responsible Hawaii residents area who seek a quality purpose-bred pet but who may not have access to a local breeder, do not want to be put on a long waiting list, etc.
- Residents may wish to purchase a dog from a pet shop where they can still benefit from receiving their new pet's substantiated health history and with which they can maintain ongoing professional relationships to support their pet ownership. Ordinances that impose pet shop sourcing restrictions, however, limit these consumers' freedom of choice and the ability of residents to responsibly select pets based on the breed, health, and temperament traits that they seek and believe will make a good match for their lifestyle. Pet shops can be a humane, viable option for many families, as reputable shops will carefully source their animals and are themselves subject to oversight.
- When people are forced obtain a pet that is not the right fit for their lifestyle, that pet is more likely to end up in a shelter. We believe a better approach is to keep pets out of shelters in the first place. Instead of pet shop bans, one of the best ways to keep pets out of shelters is by educating prospective dog owners and enabling them to obtain a pet that is the right fit for their lifestyle. Great pets come from a variety of sources, including breeders, responsible rescues, and regulated pet shops and shelters. But in every case, **freedom of choice to select the right pet is the crucial first step to success.**
- Instead of harsh anti-business legislation like HB 849, AKC encourages Hawaii's legislators to consider the adoption of substantive consumer protections. To learn more on this issue and view model consumer protection legislation, go to AKC's Consumer Protection/"Puppy Lemon Laws" key issue page at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/akc/campaigns/94320/respond>.
- **The American Kennel Club recommends** requiring pet shops to adhere to appropriate care standards and prohibiting them from purchasing animals from any breeder that has been found to have committed a direct violation of USDA animal welfare regulations or three or more indirect violations of USDA regulations related to the health or welfare of an animal in the last two years. Such safeguards not only protect animal welfare but also preserve consumer choice and businesses in your community.

It has become common for animal rights/protection groups in the U.S. to advocate for closing down U.S. dog breeders by restricting the public sources of pets to random or unknown sources (often mislabeled as "rescues"). Doing so is a next step in their agenda to stopping the breeding of dogs and human interaction with animals.

As the nation's largest breed rescue network, AKC strongly supports *responsible* rescue. We recognize the appeal of assisting dogs from unknown origins, particularly from other countries. However, putting regulated U.S. breeders out of business—despite USDA's reports of a 96% compliance rate of its federal Animal Welfare Act licensees and registrants⁵—in favor of animals from undocumented sources with unknown health and temperament histories has the potential to create enormous public health risks, including increased zoonotic disease transfer from animals to humans.⁶ This would also reduce overall oversight of canine health and welfare, weaken consumer protections available for purpose-bred dogs, and continually undermine breeders who produce purpose-bred dogs.

The most effective way to shut down irresponsible breeders, irresponsible rescues, and irresponsible pet sellers is to stop them from making money from the sale or transfer of unhealthy pets. Our recommendation would hold pet shops accountable for the pets they sell and mandate reimbursement for the purchase/fees or veterinary care for an unhealthy pet in cases where illnesses at the time of transfer were not disclosed to the new owner. Shelters and rescues should also be held to the same standards.

Many are unaware that the American Kennel Club represents the largest breed rescue network in the United States. We are proud that our national breed clubs take great care of the animals that come into their rescues. Unfortunately, there are rescues and transports that do not provide such diligent care of their animals. We believe strong enforcement of current federal and state laws and regulations for breeders, pet shops, and pet dealers, and regulating shelters, rescues, and transports, to ensure dogs sourced through those channels receive the same level of humane care and oversight is a better policy solution.

The American Kennel Club welcomes any opportunity to work with you and local communities to address your concerns without punishing responsible breeders, pet shop owners, or Hawaii's pet owners. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 919-816-3503 if I may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,



Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
AKC Government Relations

¹ "Facts and Stats," *American Kennel Club National Breed Club Breed Rescues*, accessed October 20, 2020, at <https://www.akc.org/press-center/articles-resources/facts-and-stats//akc-national-breed-club-rescue/>.

² For example, see Kavin, K., "When 'Puppy Mills Rescue' Blurs the Line Between Saving and Selling Dogs, Questionable Practices Inside the High Profile Nonprofit National Mill Dog Rescue are not What Most People Expect 'Rescuing' to Be", *The Huffington Post*, July 14, 2019, accessed October 20, 2019, at https://www.huffpost.com/entry/national-mill-dog-rescue-puppy-mills_n_5d07cdd2e4b0953278381e02?ncid=APPLENEWS00001&guccounter=1.

³ APPA National Pet Owners Survey, 2021.

⁴ "Guidance Regarding Agency Interpretation of 'Rabies Free' As it Relates to the Importation of Dogs Imported into the United States", *The Federal Register*, vol. 84. No. 21 pp. 724 – 730. January 31, 2019.

⁵ *2021 Animal Welfare Impact Report*, accessed February 15, at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/aphis_general/2021-impact-report.pdf.

⁶ See Cima, G., "State authorities see disease risk in imported dogs, November 14, 2020, accessed October 20, 2020, at <https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2019-12-01/state-authorities-see-disease-risk-imported-dogs>.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:49:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Hopp	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I was going to purchase a puppy from a pet store recently, but the pup looked like he might be sick. I asked for the breeder's contact information to ask some questions, but was denied.

I would like to see more transparency in pet stores, and strongly support this bill.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:34:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Lot of dogs find good homes through pet store, when you have to pay for it you treat it like family. yes adopting is good, but lots of animals are being neglected and just toss to streets, because no cost was put into it, You guys should be worrying about all the stray cats in Kaimuki, and the crazy people who keep feeding them. Just go and sit at City Mill Kaimuki's parking lot at night and there over 50 50 homming there

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:39:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward hendricks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't agree with this bill because many families have gotten their pets from pet stores like these and if they didn't exist they wouldn't have been given the opportunity to find companionship in these animals. In addition, if someone was looking for pets from breeders there is a likelihood of them getting scammed as well as the animals being mistreated.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:59:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia A Kukino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:04:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mayumi Coloma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of HB849 relating to animals. I personally have observed the condition of puppies and other live animals for purchase at a handful of local retail establishments in Central O'ahu, in the Honolulu area, as well as Windward O'ahu. Often upon initial visual assessment one finds the animals are frequently in poor health (e.g., discharge in eyes, visible worm-bellies, skin rash, underweight, etc.) , less than standard hygienic conditions (stool in kennel area/ on the fur of the animals), and not offered for purchase with a reasonable, legally-binding health guarantee. The origins of the animals are usually kept hidden from the purchaser (the pet store will say "from a breeder" and leave it at that), and it's impossible to assess the health and temperament of the parents. Upon reading reviews of these retail pet stores on sites such as Yelp.com and social media, one can see that there are many who have purchased puppies/ kittens/ other animals from these establishments only to realize later their animals are horribly sick and in need of expensive veterinary care (if the animals survive at all). Though I believe the more sustainable long-term solution is to promote public education on responsible purchasing/ adoption of pets; in the meantime, for the sake of animal welfare and for consumer protection, I think HB849 is a good and ethical measure and a step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:07:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because this is not a major concern for us citizens. Humane or not, we have a much larger problem of feral cats and chickens that need to be addressed. By passing this bill it will severely and negatively impact small and local business who work diligently to source healthy and quality animals from trusted sources.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:17:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carl crawford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been invloved in the Pet Industry for the last 57 years and directly involved with the independatnt Pet stores in Hawaii since the mid 1970's to current time. . My wife Stephanie is the founder of Animals Rule Placement Foundation a 501c3 in California. In operation for the last 15 plus years they have rescued and placed over 2500 Dogs as well as other critters, Cats, Guinea Pigs, Rabbits Tortoises, and assorted others. Since the law came into force in California they have seen increasing instances of Puppies and other animals sold through platforms like "offer up, Craig's List" and others. This is TOTALLY unregulated and the buyer in most of these transactions has no recourse if there are any issues as there would be if purchased through a reputable "Brick and Mortar" Pet Shop. (The independant Pet Shops in Hawaii that I am familiar with work with a Vet, Keep Shot records etc. and have good records of who bred the critters) If this Bill were to pass these issues that there are no way to regulate will only continue to grow causing heartache for the Critters and their Human Forever Families!!!

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 849

Aloha

Carl Crawford

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:24:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittaney Key	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

I am strongly in support of HB849. There is more demand for shelter space and foster families than these organizations and people can provide for stray animals. Utilizing pet stores as another avenue to adopt out these animals into homes is a more ethical way of providing pets for people that will reduce some of the pressure on shelters and rescue organizations. Furthermore, the animals needing the least help adjusting can be adopted through pet stores, allowing shelters and fosters to focus their efforts more on the animals who need extra attention before being ready to adopt out. Collaborating with local rescue organizations is a model that big name pet stores have already been following for years. Customers respond well to knowing the animal they're bringing home from the pet store is one they've rescued.

Requiring stores to source their animals from rescue organizations is also a more environmentally conscientious way of obtaining animals. For example, I recall a dachshund for sale once in a local pet store that came from a breeder in Australia, but there are local dachshund rescue groups that could have provided one if the pet store wanted to sell dachshunds specifically. There is almost no reason to ship in animals from out-of-state when we already have so many looking for homes right here.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:41:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

I am in opposition of bill HB849. My name is Victoria Furtado. I have always lived on the windward side of Oahu, and have been coming to Koolau Pets since I was a little girl. I've always loved animals and frequented pet stores. It's a wonderful thing for people young and old to be able to come here and see ALL the animals.

I have been working for Koolau Pets for the past 17 years. I have heard hundreds of times how happy this store makes people. Many customers grew up coming to this store.

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

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

People bring their animals to us because they don't want to have to deal with people coming to their home, rearranging schedules to meet with them, etc. They KNOW that we find good homes and that they are well taken care of.

Bill 849 calls these people we get our puppies from "unregulated commercial breeders who do not provide sanitary and humane living conditions for the animals". The people who bring us their puppies love their puppies like members of their family. The people who bring Koolau Pets their puppies are members of our community some of which are retired police officers, firefighters, doctors, etc.

In Bill 849, it also states "In Hawaii, these puppy mills are often hidden from the public view on lands that are designated for agricultural use and exempt from a law that limits dog ownership to a maximum of ten dogs." Koolau Pets does not get puppies from people that own tons and tons of dogs. The reality is the majority of the people we get puppies from have 2-4 dog and that's it. Koolau Pets often gets photos of the puppies, and/or photos of the parents, and in those photos we can often see their living conditions. We would not want ANY puppies that appeared to be kept in unsanitary or inhumane living conditions.

I would also like to call attention to the statistics in Bill 849. It states "The Hawaiian Humane Society alone receives approximately four thousand unwanted dogs and puppies every year." According to the 2021 Hawaiian Humane society annual report this number includes dogs brought in under lost and found, strays, and even for end-of-life services. While this is still a horrible statistic, it has no direct correlation to pet stores. I would also like to point out according to the 2015 Hawaiian Humane Society annual report the number was over nine thousand, and in 2018 annual report it was over six thousand... which this bill specifically mentions and "UPWARD trend".

The reality of the situation is there are different avenues to get puppies. There are dogs for sale through Craigslist, Facebook, classifieds, rescues, and pet stores. Pet stores are not the problem. We are in the public eye, so we take precautions to ensure the health and well-being of our animals. We also educate potential new owners about breed, care, training, etc. How is this bill supposed to regulate those people who sell puppies out of their home or even parking lots without ANY type of vet care or accurate information? Why are we taking away a safe choice for people.

I also hear heart-breaking stories of customers getting scammed. They would much rather have a safe/reliable place to get a pet.

Koolau Pets is a small locally owned business. It began in 1974. If puppies and rabbits were no longer allowed to be sold in pet stores, it would drastically affect sales. Koolau Pets and other small locally owned pet stores cannot compete with the financial backing that these large mainland-based pet stores have. We are already competing with online prices and convenience. Furthermore, our five-year lease is based on the financial projections from the past financial report. If Koolau Pets were to lose the ability to sell puppies, kittens, and rabbits it would NOT be able to make our rent. It would be an end to one of the few long standing locally owned pet stores. This not only affects businesses, it affects the people. People in your community.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:08:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With limited pet stores on island selling live animals, I feel this is not where the root of this problem lies and efforts should be focused elsewhere.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:32:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Montayre	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because without the selling of animals in pet stores, the humane society will be over filled with animals. Many local pet store businesses rely on the selling of animals to keep food on the table for their families. My family and I have bought many of our animals from pet stores. It isn't fair for breeders to continue to make a profit off the selling of animals, when this bill is trying to put an end to the selling of animals in pet stores. Many breeders do not provide an adequate sanitary environment for the animals to live. Pet stores have the resources to maintain cleanliness for the animals.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:36:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kayla Furtado and I am opposing bill HB849. My family has worked hard for the last 50 years running our Pet Store. Our family buisness has provided for our enitre family, and serviced our community for generations. If this bill passes it will almost guarantee the ending of our Native Hawaiian Owned and operated, second generation local business. The puppies that we sell are NOT from puppy mills they come from loving families and local reputable breeders. Forcing people to buy puppies from unreliable sources is dangerous. Forcing people to get puppies from the Humane Society is also irresponsibl as there is no way to know that animals history. This bill will lead to many more people irresponsibly breeding puppies, selling on craigslist, etc. When puppies come through our store we do a thourough health check, give the first round of vaccinations, and address any health issues BEFORE selling. We do not accept any unhealthy animals. This bill is a direct hit to the local pet stores who have been in business for generations, responsibly selling pets.

Mahalo,

Kayla Furtado

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:42:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are opposing this bill because this will hurt many companies and put them out of business. Pet store owners always makes sure that the animals have the proper vaccinations and are always seen by a vet before leaving the store.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:46:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Burgess	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:48:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB849, which would prohibit pet stores from selling animals that are not obtained from humane sources. It would also mandate transparency to consumers as to where the animal came from. I also support the ammendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:51:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. It will help Hawaii's animals.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:57:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am opposing this bills because it safer to buy dogs, cats, and rabbits from a pet store than a pet mill. Pet stores always make sure the animals have they're vaccinations and that they are well fed. Pet store owners/employees will always take the animals to the vet for a check up before they go home.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:16:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Choo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this law because i am against animal cruelty. Animals deserve to live, especially those who are kept as pets! It is wrong to use animals for money like how people have been doing.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:23:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawai'i does not regulate animal-related businesses or nonprofits. This means there is no transparency for the consumer about where and how animals are being bred, and no way to ascertain the conditions in which animals are being held unless a situation deteriorates to such levels of cruelty that a search warrant can be obtained. This measure prohibits a pet store operator from selling a dog, cat, or rabbit unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from certain humane sources. This measure should be expanded to include all pet animals and purchasers should receive this information at sale, as well as law enforcement.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:01:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I would like you to add a requirement that the records regarding the origins of individual animals be given to purchasers at the time of sale and that they be made available to law enforcement upon request. In addition, I would like this expanded to all pet animals.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:11:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB849. Animals such as a dog, cat, or rabbit should only be obtained by humane resources.

Thank you.

Susan Eubank

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:20:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Pet Stores should have the right to sell animals. How is it fair that pet stores won't be allowed to sell animals when they're employees are trained to professionally sell animals after they've been medically cleared from a vet and sold with the right documents compared to some in-home breeders that inhumanely overbreed animals and sell them for their own personal profit.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:26:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Most "backyard breeders" do not sell their puppies/kittens at the pet store - they use the internet to do business. The local pet stores that sell puppies/kittens ensure that they are properly vaccinated/wormed and they provide educational material to the new puppy/kitten owners, unlike many that sell them through the internet or other means. Pet stores are not the problem, they are actually helping to ensure that these pets receive the care they need before placing them with their new owners, unlike many breeders selling through the internet and other means. The percentage of puppies/kittens sold in pet stores is minute (a very very small percentage) compared to those sold elsewhere. The real problem is the mass breeders out there who do not provide the puppies/kittens with the care they need before selling them. This will not change if the bill passes, which if passed, will only hurt the small responsible pet store businesses in Hawaii and will have no effect on the number of dogs and cats that end up in shelters or on the street.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:39:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elizabeth rice grossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding HB849

I strongly support this legislation. Hopefully this bill will prevent Pet Stores from selling dogs, cats and/or rabbits (and hopefully all animals) from being obtained from inhumane sources. Furthermore, keeping records of where they acquire animals to be sold and displaying the records in their stores will provide needed transparency to their customers. It would be wonderful if the store owners were required to give this information to buyers upon sale.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Rice Grossman,

Kailua

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:19:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Ribuca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Natasha Ribuca and I completely disagree with this bill. It is unfair to small business owners, unfair to the public to be forced to buy from one place only. I am currently a parrot owner and have bought many parrots from private breeders and small animal pet stores locally on this island.

I absolutely disagree with being forced to buy from one particular place and not having the right to choose for myself.

we all know the humane society is short staffed and short funded , with this bill it wonky gna get worse. They don't even have the proper resources and staff to provide quality animals to the public.

so again we are all saying no to this HB849 bill.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:34:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of HB849 as a individual, pet lover, animal advocate, animal welfare supporter, and as a volunteer on behalf of Hawaiian Humane Society. When animals are sold in pet stores there is a high chance they have originated from questionable, inhumane circumstances. These animals are bred for profit and will experience a multitude of health issues for the rest of their life as well from breeding complications. Breeding any animal inhumanely puts them at higher risk of illness and even death, than that of animals bred under responsible, sanitary, and acceptable living conditions. I fully support the extra responsibility pet stores will have to go through when selling an animal for profit. This allows for customers and potential pet owners to understand the animals health history, conditions they were bred from, and the person who has bred them, too. The pet stores that continue to sell animals do not explain to potential buyers where the animal came from and if the breeding conditions are safe and humane. I do not support the lack of transparency from these stores and it angers me very much that the chance the animal up for sale could be from a horrible breeder or mill.

Another reason I am a huge supporter of this bill is that as a volunteer with Hawaiian Humane Society, I see large amounts of pets that are brought to the shelter on a daily basis. Recently, Hawaiian Humane has reached its capacity for canines in the shelter to the point where the facility was not accepting any surrenders or even strays. Hawaiian Humane animal caretakers work long, hard hours to spend as much time with these animals as they can to prepare them for their new forever families. Despite their efforts however, especially with the increase in canines, there are not enough workers to properly care for these animals. Thankfully, on Saturday February 11, 2023, 20+ dogs got adopted and that amount may be the most animals adopted in a day at Hawaiian Humane! That being said, shelter animals are as deserving of love as a much as an animal sold in stores, however if stores do not stop sales completely or find a way to sell animals only coming from humane circumstances, the shelter will once again be over capacity.

It is for these reasons and for all animals involved, I strongly hope with all my heart, this bill passes. This act will not only to decrease the amount of shelter dogs admitted to the shelter in the course of a year, but it will encourage more breeders to breed more humanely, or not all, and have more consideration for the health and wellbeing of the animal(s) in question. Again I hope and pray the State of Hawaii can do more for these animals by passing this measure and putting more harsh responsibilities on pet stores to have more concern for the animals in their store.

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

February 14, 2023

In Support

I am an individual who has purchased puppies from individuals, at their home but never a pet store. I have also supported the HHS in "puppy mill" seizures, just one is too many.

This is why I think this bill, requiring a pet store to provide the proper information for any person who is purchasing an animal, is important. Should a health issue arise, such person has the security of knowing that they would be able to have some kind of recourse, or the proper authorities can be contacted.

Please support this bill for those animals that have not been well treated in the past.

Mahalo,

Joanne Parker

parkerinparadise@msn.com

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:11:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB849

Local pet stores are viral and provide a safe and clean environment to find animals to add to our families.

Raking away their ability to sell animals will not do anything to curb puppy mills or abandoned animals. They will, however, destroy many long-standing, local businesses.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:11:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I'm writing today with strong opposition to HB849.

This will not help stop the overcrowding of shelters and rescue groups, nor discourage irresponsible breeding. Instead it will do the opposite and continue to put more strain on our humane society and rescue groups, many groups rely on donations and support from local businesses and also charge a fee for animals the same as a pet store, why are we to punish our local businesses for doing the same? Local pet stores are a safe, reputable place for residents to add a member to their family and without them pet sales will continue underground, unregulated, untaxed and with no recourse should a problem arise.

What I would like to see instead is more access to education and affordable spay/neuter programs that will spay/neuter animals such as dogs, cats and rabbits and allow people to make affordable and responsible decisions. We should support our local pet stores instead of regulate them, help them educate clients and continue to support our humane society and local rescue groups.

Let's work together on taking care of our animals. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have about local pet stores should you have any other questions.

Mahalo,

Ryan Rothwell

The Pet Depot

ryan@thepetdepothawaii.com

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:26:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because most pet stores are family owned businesses and I support local family owned businesses. Growing up in Hawaii I have always gotten my pets from a local pet store on the Windward side and they have been in business for over 30 years. This pet store has continued to supply my family and I with all of our pets needs. These individuals need to continue providing for their families and pets also. Although this bill appears to have good intentions in regards to wanting to put an end to animal euthanasia, I do not support the decision to put an end to the selling of animals in pet stores. I feel strongly that, that will not solve the animal overpopulation problem.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:36:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It greatly hurts our local pet sellers that rely on puppy sales to survive and does nothing to stop the actual problem of puppy mills.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:40:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lewis Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this issue is not caused by the limited live animals a small number of local businesses in hawaii sell. Do not limit sales of livestock and affect the livelihood of the local business in hawaii. I've been to local pet stores and facilities are clean and animals appear well cared for. Find the root of this problem, it is not pet stores.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:58:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I voted what I voted because koolau pet store isn't just a store it's a place that earned it spot after decades of being in business they treat everyone like family and have nothing but love and respect for the community.

This is the only real pet shop on this side of the island. Why don't u guys try shut down yogis there known for selling and buying fighting chickens which is illegal

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:03:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaiola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reasoning for koolau pets not to shut down is because there family to us and it's crazy that as the people of this side we here this and this is nothing but unacceptable this shop has touched so many hearts that u guys can't even imagine.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:07:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill HB849.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:07:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexia Nakeikiho'omaika'iiluna'okalani Alimoot	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to start off by taking the time to thank you for reading my testimony. As a resident in Kaneohe, Koolau Pets have been a huge part of the Kaneohe community. I am Alexia Alimoot and Koolau Pets is run by my family members that have put lots of time and effort into. I believe Koolau Pets should stay open since they are a local business and they aren't like other mainland pet stores. They are loving respectful people that want to make sure every single one of their animals find a loving home and family to go too. That is why many local families go to Koolau Pets because it is LOCAL. Not many things on this island is locally owned anymore which is sad. My elders started that business and as a family we'd love to continue it and pass it on many generations from now. I truly believe that there are many other things the state should worry about, but instead they are trying to shut down local businesses to bring in mainland businesses. I feel that Koolau Pets is the one and only local shop that earned its way into the hearts of local. As I send in my testimony I speak for everyone in Kaneohe when I say this Koolau Pets should stay open and continue to give people the missing pieces to their families. I hope and pray whoever is reading this that my testimony does not go unheard! SAVE KOOLAU PETS, SAVE LOCAL BUSINESS, SAVE MY FAMILIES BUSINESS.

Thank you,

Alexia Alimoot

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:31:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Nagasako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Re: HB 849 Relating to Animals

In Support

Dear Representative Gates, Representative Kahaloa, and members of the committee,
I am in support of this bill because if this bill does not pass then that allows animal-related
businesses to get animals from places that might mistreat animals.

Thank you,
Luke Nagasako
Makiki

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:41:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynne Horiuchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill. While I agree there is a problem with unwanted animals we need to look at all possible solutions before placing a tremendous hardship on responsible small business owners. For many this will put them out of business while driving the irresponsible breeders further underground. This bill is way too restrictive - please consider engaging the pet shop owners in conversation and ask them for input instead of making them the scapegoat for animal overpopulation.

Mahalo for consideration of this testimony,

Lynne Horiuchi

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:43:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha I oppose this bill because I support family owned buisnesses and where else are the local people supposed to get family pets. I support the cleanliness of breeding animals and making sure animals are healthy, but I do not believe that stopping the selling of animals in pet stores will be the way to go about putting and end to the issue. My family has always supported local pet stores and we have gotten many of our pets from those stores, it would be sad to see them go out of buisness.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:07:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meagan U Mahiko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have gotten most of my dogs from Ko'olau Pets in the mall. Nothing but great experiences. They buy pets from local people. My current dog (a mixed pit Bull) is more of a family member than a pet and the best dog I've ever had.

I've only had one experience with a dog not from Koolau pets. It was with the Humane society and "rescue dogs".

During COVID I tried to adopt a dog through the humane society in hopes of helping a dog without a home. First of all, it took forever for me to even get an appointment to see the dogs at the humane society. So, I ended up looking into smaller dog rescue huis. I ended up adopting a dog this way. The dog I adopted had countless health UNDISCLOSED health problems. This led to expensive vet bills and in the end a short life for my pup. He passed away at only 9months, after struggling and living in pain for the last month of his life. It was traumatic to say the least.

I will be going back to Koolau Pets for all future pup purchase as long as HB 849 doesn't shut down this small native Hawaiian run family business.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:17:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB849. I live in Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:20:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:22:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Retail pet sales bans/ restrictions limit consumer protections and choice while doing nothing to actually help dogs. A better solution is to consider broad consumer protection and cruelty laws that hold all accountable who sell or transport dogs while allowing owners to choose the best pet for their family and lifestyle.

This bill will remove existing consumer protections currently available to breeder and pet store customers. Shelters and rescues are not required to meet the same standards and cannot provide the same guarantees and recourses. Rather than getting a dog of a specific breed from a professional breeder subject to federal and state animal welfare laws, customers are getting a dog with an unknown background, temperament, and health history. Also, there are rescues and transports that unfortunately do not care as diligently for the animals. This is a significant concern that can impact both public health and the health of animals.

This bill assumes that all dogs sold at pet stores have been raised in poor conditions, which is simply not accurate. Instead, it will remove one of the most regulated and vetted sources of pets from the market to favor unregulated pet distributors and randomly-sourced pets that lack oversight, and actually exacerbate issues associated with irresponsible actors in the retail and retail rescue pet industry. In addition, it is important to note that while these proposals are touted as a way to put an end to “puppy mills”, fewer than 4 percent of pets purchased in the US come from pet shops.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:24:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB849. This bill will harm locally owned and operated businesses throughout the state and it removes a reputable, reliable brick and mortar location for purchasing family pets. I like going to businesses that I patronize on a regular basis and dealing with people that I know will treat me right, and help me to find what I'm looking for. I like being able to go back to the store if there is any problems and they will take care of it, not hunt for someone that smight not be around and not work out any problems that the pet might have. This Bill is an egregious overstep of governmental power that does nothing but make it more difficult for families to find the right pet for their families. I don't want to have to track down a breeder off craigslist, research if their animals are healthy and have a good genetic background. I like going to the pet store, telling them what I want and having them call me when they get them in. Let's be honest-- the "humane source" you are referencing in the bill is the humane society and not all of us want a humane society dog. We want an animal with a certain temperament, certain look, certain traits and qualities that will mesh with our family. This bill will remove that option.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:44:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Asuega Gates and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support HB 849 which, to my understanding, would greatly help people and animals by requiring pet stores to maintain records of where animals were acquired for sale and to have this information posted in these stores. Furthermore, please support amendments that the Hawaiian Humane Society will be suggesting for this bill which would increase protection for pertinent animals and purchasers. I think this bill will be very helpful to end puppy mills and similar businesses which sell mistreated animals to pet stores.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration in supporting HB 849.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:59:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as many small local pet stores depend on the sales of animals in their stores. These businesses will not survive without puppies or kittens. We got our dog 9 years ago from a pet store and I will be forever grateful as our dog is the sweetest addition to our family.

Pet stores also give the public a safe avenue to purchase a pet, rather than having to meet up with a stranger who posted a pet picture online. Purchasing a pet at a store can give people a third person perspective on different breeds, safety, health conditions, etc. A breeder on the other hand, may tell you anything you want to hear to make a sale. Pet shop workers are the middlemen. They provide employees who have the experience and knowledge to explain the process of pet ownership and are many times more honest about the animals than a breeder would be.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:24:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelii Alexander Agustin McCrary	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't think banning the sales of pets at pets shop will fix the issue of overpopulation, but will worsen it.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:36:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not support this bill, Ko'olau Pets was a staple to go to when at Windward mall. It's the type of place you would like to bring your kids to, your grandkids to and so forth. I got my dog Maximus from Ko'olau Pets. Do not remove a local pet shop from our community where local businesses are declining !

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:20:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jazmyn Vicente	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this bill should not be passed, I feel more comfortable walking into an establishment to adopt a dog, rabbit, fish, bird, kittens. I am opposed of this bill!

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:32:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erwin vidal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Americans have freedom and rights, not being able to purchase an animal in a pet store would be taking away our rights! And freedom I oppose to this bill!

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:38:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

My name is Jennifer Meleana Hee. I was born and raised in Hawai‘i Kai, where I also currently live. I am writing in strong support of HB849.

New York’s new law banning the selling of dogs, cats, and rabbits should serve as a model for the direction Hawai‘i should take in regards to the humane treatment of companion animals. Currently, the lack of regulation in our state for animal-related businesses harms animals. There is no transparency, no way for the consumer to know if they are purchasing an unwell animal bred in heinous conditions. I find it absolutely shocking we do not already have a law requiring pet stores to provide records of where their animals came from. I support this bill, because such a law would provide basic oversight, and would hopefully establish more humane breeding conditions for animals.

I am a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I support this bill because I want to be proud of our state’s treatment of nonhuman animals. Currently, we rank an abysmal 29 out of 50 in terms of animal protection laws, according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s 2022 Rankings Report. We should endeavor to be a top-tier state, known for its ethical and humane treatment of nonhuman animals, not a state where its residents unknowingly support puppy mills and other inhumane breeding situations.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of HB849.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Meleana Hee

jmhee@hawaii.edu

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:58:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My Ohana has been in business for longer than these foreign terms have made sense. PUPPY MILLS, you heard it from OPRAH. I won't give you a fake statement that is edited. Dogs will still be bred, pet stores literally save the dogs that don't get sold from these "breeders," who only want a certain price. If they don't get sold as puppies, imagine what these BREEDERS do? It's extremely ignorant to say that this will stop animals from being bred for certain buyers. Everyone thinks they can breed a dog and make a quick buck. When all these breeders are selling these dogs ILLEGALLY, outside of their houses/ in parking lots. What type of government protection will they have, for ILLEGALLY selling these dogs? If the dog has problem's and retaliates on the breeder/family who sold them the dog? Are you ready to facilitate that? It depends what you care about? TAX DOLLARS? THE ANIMALS? IGNORANT LAWS BEING PASSED, WITH ZERO REGARD.

What are we protecting? Pet's? Pet's who are the most respected? I'm confused as to what is the reason of this bill? What does it protect? If it's animals, I wouldn't want to go into detail of how a "pet store" has saved so many animal's from people who have their own pets, procreate. It's something the public doesn't need to think about, but have ignorant opinions about. High end Breeder's selling dogs outside of pet stores, has been around longer than the thought of these bills have been around. I don't need to have great grammar or spelling to know this bill has another agenda, and if passed, the "vision" will leave dogs to be EUTHANIZED. The society that has been created won't change anything. More important things aren't regulated. Even when in law, so how will this law even be regulated? Besides the fact that you just shut down these businesses? HEWA.

My Ohana has been in business for longer than these foreign terms have made sense. HAWAIIAN OWNED ALMOST 50 YEARS. PUPPY MILLS, you heard it from OPRAH. I won't give you a fake statement that is edited. Dogs will still be bred, pet stores literally save the dogs that don't get sold from these "breeders," who only want a certain price. If they don't get sold as puppies (4-6 weeks), imagine what these BREEDERS do? It's extremely ignorant to say that this will stop animals from being bred for certain buyers. Everyone thinks they can breed a dog and make a quick buck. When all these breeders are selling these dogs ILLEGALLY,

outside of their houses/ in parking lots. What type of government protection will they have, for ILLEGALLY selling these dogs? Will there be government affiliated areas for dogs to be sold humanely? I would hope legislature researches the bill that's being passed. I'm sure one of you own a bulldog that was illegally purchased from a breeder that doesn't collect the precious taxes the government loves. If not you, someone you know.

What about when they try to illegally sell these dogs to avoid TAXES, and then use our taxes to protect them? I'm not sure if you seen the recent "dog breeders" they have gold chains and lots of baggage. Imagine when they try to sell these dogs that they overprice? The robberies and assaults that will happen. Is government ready for that?

If they can't collect a check, dogs are euthanized. Does that happen in pet stores? How can pet stores stop that? These are questions that are clearly not even thought about.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 6:19:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in opposition to HB 849 Relating to Animals

The proposed legislation seeks to address the state's pet overpopulation problem, while also addressing its concern for animal cruelty and inhumane living conditions. The state appears to have determined that this is the result of unregulated commercial breeders doing business on agricultural lands, lands subject to laws and regulations of the state. Unfortunately, this proposed legislation appears to target Pet Shops and small businesses, inflicting damaging restrictions on sales of small animals, instead of holding those directly involved in violating current animal mistreatment laws accountable.

"The legislature further finds that animals sold in pet stores are often obtained from unregulated commercial breeders who do not provide sanitary and humane living conditions for the animals."

If unregulated commercial breeders are not providing sanitary and humane conditions for these animals, then perhaps they should be regulated! Why aren't they being held accountable? And who is responsible for writing regulations for "unregulated commercial breeders?" Regulations are written by the different department heads that are directly affected by such regulation, however, a large part of this falls directly upon the legislature itself. In short, why does this legislative body choose to inflict restrictions upon pet shops instead of the actual party directly responsible for the mistreatment of animals. This makes no sense.

"Additionally, many of the puppies sold in pet stores are obtained from mass breeding operations known as puppy mills. In Hawaii, these puppy mills are often hidden from public view on lands that are designated for agricultural use and exempt from a law that limits dog ownership to a maximum of ten dogs."

The proposed legislation claims "many of the puppies sold" in pet stores are from "puppy mills", yet provide no concrete data as to actual numbers or percentages of animals being sold.

But for the sake of argument, let's assume the state is correct in their assertion that "many" puppies and kittens are in fact being provided to pet stores by "puppy mills". Then it stands to reason that the state should have a pretty good idea who these "unregulated commercial breeders" are. And if they are exempt from the 10 dog rule, then un-exempt them! Hawaii's law makers have that authority, and should use it to curb this commercial breeder activity that they

admit has gone mostly unregulated. Why attack small businesses with legislation that could very well cripple their financial livelihood, and eventually put them out of business?

"The legislature also finds that there are responsible and ethical breeders who only sell animals directly to private individuals. These breeders often spend more time and resources on their animals than other breeders, and they play an important role in maintaining healthy lines for purebred animals. Therefore, it is not the legislature's intent that this Act impact these ethical and responsible breeders."

If the state believes private breeders are "responsible and ethical", and therefore are not the target of this proposed legislation, one is forced to conclude then that "pet store owners are irresponsible and unethical, and therefore the target of this proposed legislation?"

But why? Why does the legislature appear to have such disdain towards pet shops and why are they being held to account for the mistreatment of animals by "unregulated commercial breeders"? Pet Shops, have been declared the enemy. But it still makes no sense. They are the only party this proposed legislation will restrict. This is a slap in the face for pet shops that pay their taxes, have flawless records with the BBB, with some conducting business in the State of Hawaii for over 40 years.

"The purpose of this Act is to encourage animal adoption by prohibiting pet stores from selling dogs, cats, and rabbits unless the animal was obtained from certain humane sources."
But the result of this act will be the destruction of small businesses. Pet shops can not withstand this kind of restriction, nor should they have to.

But for the record, pet shops take in puppies and kittens, as well as other small animals, only when they are healthy. They can not have livestock that they must nurse to good health before putting it up for sale. Furthermore, pet shops for the most part have directly contracted with local veterinary services in their areas, together, offering first visits free of charge to the new owners of the puppies and kittens they sell. This cost is taken on by the pet shops themselves, in hopes of providing a path to wellness and good health. Linking the new pet owners with health care professionals is a crucial first step towards ensuring a lifetime of wellness for new pets, whether these animals come from a "puppy mill" or not.

And in case the Legislature of the State of Hawaii has lost its way, it is hereby reminded that they serve the people of Hawaii. That includes the small businesses that have served local communities for decades. Fair, sensible legislation should be a requirement. Singling out one industry for legislative restrictions or punishment should never take place when that industry is innocent of any wrong doing. Instead, do your job! You know where these puppy mills are and you have every right to wield your power and bring them into conformity with the law. Hold those who would mistreat animals accountable, and be accountable as well!

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:16:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Thank you.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:33:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Hollingsworth-Ramsey	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB949.

This bill is an egregious overstep of governmental authority that will negatively affect small, locally-owned and operated independent pet stores. In Hawaii, the large, corporate, retail-chain pet stores do not sell puppies, only the small independently owned pet stores do. Therefore, this bill targets our small business owners in an already highly competitive line of business, Our independent pet stores struggle to compete with large corporate stores because they don't receive the huge bulk sale pricing discounts from manufacturers and distributors for pet supplies.

The only advantage our local independent pet stores have, is their ability to sell puppies and other family pets the chain stores don't sell. That is what keeps our small mom and pop pet stores open.

I strongly disagree with the statement that "animals sold in pet stores are often obtained from unregulated commercial breeders who do not provide sanitary and humane living conditions for the animals." It is not accurate for the small local pet stores in Hawaii. Our local stores purchase puppies from local families that choose to breed their dog. Many being customers that originally purchased their dog from that pet store.

When they decided to breed their dog, their family and friends take their pick, and they bring the rest of the puppies to the store to be sold. They aren't forcing their dog to crank out litter after litter of puppies. They choose to breed the family pet so their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews can learn about reproduction, birth, and how to care for the babies.

When people choose to invest in a family pet, they like going to an established brick and mortar store, that has been in business year after year, to find a suitable member to join their household. Certain breeds of dogs are very expensive, we're talking in the \$10,000 and on up range. That's a lot of money.

I wouldn't want to meet with a stranger carrying that kind of cash.

Researching the names of responsible breeders, who has well-bred dogs, that can be trusted--is a lot of effort. Not everyone has the time or knowledge on how to go about that process. Instead,

they go into the pet store that they have been patronizing for the last 10 years, and tell the owner what they want for their family pet. Their name gets added to the book, and when one comes up, the owner gives them a call. That's the advantage of dealing with a small independently owned LOCAL pet store.

A person doesn't have to search on craigslist, or go through a friend-of-a-friend-of-a-friend, or some back-alley broker. They walk into a clean, well-lit, reputable business that they have been patronizing since they were a kid.

Koolau Pets in Windward Mall is one such store. It's been in business for over 50 years. Matt Furtado and his cousin Rob own the business. They took it over after Matt's parents retired. Matt is Native Hawaiian. The store is a second-generation Native Hawaiian owned and operated business, that you could destroy by passing this bill.

The Baker family owned Pet Hale in Mililani. They got fed up with Hawaii's excessive taxes, the crazy bills that popped up every year that threatened to destroy their business, and they left for the mainland. They sold the business. The new owner folded and closed it's doors for good.

There are only few other Pet Stores on Oahu that sell puppies, rabbits, etc that I know about. And yes, I try to visit all the independent pet stores. I also sit in the rare position of running a few facebook groups that are pet centered, so I talk with people from many islands and they speak openly about the Pet Stores in their community. If there was an issue or concern, I would hear about it.

This bill is bad for our local businesses. It is an unnecessary overstep of governmental authority and too much big brother making life hard for our community member and small business owners. I urge you to OPPOSE HB849.

Aloha and Mahalo,
Lea Hollingsworth-Ramsey

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

HB849, Relating to Animals

To be heard on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 9:00 am**

Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

In Support of the Bill

I am a private citizen who has volunteered with and adopted a pet from the Hawaiian Humane Society. I fully support this addition to our important animal welfare protection measures. The origin of any animal presented for sale must be documented to protect the animal and the buyer. A key element of successfully integrating an animal into a family is knowing and understanding the background of that animal. Certainly, we must work to ensure that animals sold as pets are obtained from certain humane sources and that these sales are regulated.

This measure seems like a small step but a legal requirement for background information and formal record keeping could be a game changer for the breeding of animals/pets. It also encourages well-meaning pet store owners to play a key role in defining how the animals in their care are bred and cared for prior to adoption/sale. Importantly, it raises the bar for pet sales and adoptions to include a solid system of record keeping - this protects the animals and supports more successful adoptions by Hawai'i's families.

I appreciate the Committee's careful review of this measure, with input from the Hawai'i Humane Society and other entities committed to the protection of all pet animals as defined in HRS 711-1100. This is a solid step toward protecting our animals and the people who care for them. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony/Anne Forshey/annejforshey@gmail.com/Ewa Beach, HI 96706

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:38:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathrine Lagmay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I appreciate the burden of stray animals in the community, this is never going to change the backyard breeders ability to breed and sell animals. It just takes out the middle man, the retailers. Won't even put a dent in the problem. Nor will it stop the dogs and animals being abandoned when families move off island, move to non pet friendly housing, or become too sick to care for their animals.

Alternative solution:

1. All animals adopted through any retailer/pet store/rescue, must be spayed/neutered and microchipped. This would help with unhealthy dogs at irresponsible backyard breeders who want to go through retailers, because at some point a veterinarian has to lay eyes on the animal and can't spray/neuter a sick animal. This would also help reunite lost pets with their families and open up means to hold accountable the people abandoning their dogs and impose fees on them.
2. Remove fees for surrendering animals at shelters, conditionally. Example: elderly, disabled, domestic violence victims, etc. A lot of people are struggling to put food on their table and when faced with giving up a beloved pet, they have to pay for it. Some people can't control their circumstances.
3. Work on legislation to increase pet friendly housing. It's nearly impossible to find affordable rentals that allow pets. Many abandoned animals wouldn't be abandoned if there was affordable pet friendly housing available to more people. There must be some kind of incentive to promote landlords to be willing to accept pets without huge price increases in rent.

Mahalo,

Kat Lagmay

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:38:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB849.

This Bill is bad for business and bad for consumers.

OPPOSE this bill.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:01:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to do what we can to protect animals. This bill is part of the solution. Please support HB 849.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:05:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Ajolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will put many small pet shops out of business and hurt the community. Most people who run puppy mills use Craigslist. If this is a serious concern you should start there. We should also look at why it cost so much to spay/neuter in hawaii. Should only rich people be allowed to own animals?

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:08:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB849 as it will provide oversight and regulation on businesses or individuals who breed and sell animals. Without regulation, animals who are undesired, abused and abandoned are dumped for others individuals to treat, care and rehabilitate these creatures.

This is inhumane and their selfish and unethical actions contribute to the already soaring stray animal overpopulation.

Passing this bill will be a step in the right direction towards

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:16:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooklyn Fischer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Koolau Pets has served Kaneohe and Oahu families for decades. My great grandparents and now my great uncle run the business. Koolau Pets is a small, family-owned company whose employees work hard and care for their animals. Every pet I have ever owned came from my family's store. They are a good business ran by great people and this bill will put lots of long-time employees out looking for a job.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:25:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Malia Ozoa Loos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

My name is Zoë Malia Ozoa Loos. I am from Kaimuki, where I also currently live. I am writing in strong support of HB849.

New York’s new law banning the selling of dogs, cats, and rabbits should serve as a model for the direction Hawai’i should take in regard to the humane treatment of companion animals. Currently, the lack of regulation in our state for animal-related businesses harms these creatures. Our state has no transparency, no way for the consumer to know if they are purchasing an animal bred in heinous conditions. How horrible would it be to find that a beloved companion had their beginning full of torture, pain, and violence? I find it shocking that pet stores do not currently have to provide records of where their animals came from.

I support this bill because I want to be proud of our state’s treatment of nonhuman animals. Currently, we rank an abysmal 29 out of 50 in terms of animal protection laws, according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s 2022 Rankings Report. We should endeavor to be a top-tier state known for its ethical and humane treatment of nonhuman animals, not a state where its residents unknowingly support puppy mills, for example. The true Aloha Spirit that Kanaka Maoli has bestowed lovingly for decades is something our state prides itself on. While it's for another time to discuss the mistreatment of Kanaka Maoli, shouldn't we, as a state that again prides itself on the Aloha Spirit, be giving it to not only our human community but the animal community as well? The protection of the Aina must not exclude the other creatures that live with us, whom some call friends.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of HB849.

Mahalo

Zoë Malia Ozoa Loos

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

February 14, 2023

Support

I am a retired business owner and support this bill.

Every sale of an animal should be accompanied by a free or discounted initial health exam from a vet. A sales transaction should describe the seller (who sold the animal to the retailer), the buyer (the retail customer) and another copy that the retailer gives to the state agency in charge of any investigation. Animal care instructions must instruct the buyer on how to care for the animal!

This bill is very important for the protection of our animals environments whether it be in the care of a breeder, or retailer or in it's final home.

Mahalo,

Michael Parker

808-487-1111

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:56:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donald Fasone Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill.

Testimony in opposition to HB 849 Relating to Animals

I am offering the following testimony opposing House Bill 849.

The proposed legislation seeks to address the state's pet overpopulation problem, while also addressing its concern for animal cruelty and inhumane living conditions.

The bill states that “animals sold in pet stores are often obtained from unregulated commercial breeders who do not provide sanitary and humane living conditions for the animals.”

If the state knows this is the case, why not go after the commercial breeders?

This bill seeks to penalize small business owners for the deeds of the puppy mill perpetrators.

In doing so, it will also penalize those of us who have experienced the bonding that occurs when bringing home a new puppy, a bond that is often lost when adopting a rescue that has been mistreated and may have lifelong behavior issues. I raise this issue from first-hand experience with adopted dogs who never adjusted. I still have the bite scars.

Please go after the source of the problem, not the pet store owners and their customers.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:16:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
m burke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are so many unwanted animals that should be given a home before breeders are able to SELL to pet shops;. Save the "selling" for those who want a "specialty item" & are willing to pay for it. Let the pet shops give homes to the ones that no one wanted. I found the love of my life in a McDonalds parking lot in Nanakuli just roaming around. He was only 1 yr old at the time & became MY BEST FRIEND

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:11:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB849. Government should not interfere with person's or business's right to a legitimate livelihood. The passing of this bill will cripple small business pet shops in Hawaii. It will not deter backyard breeders from profiting from the sales of puppies. This bill is an attempt by animal rights proponents to control the pet industry. They need to be stopped. The right of every citizen to choose where to do business should always be protected. If the consumer chose not to support pet shops, they would ultimately be out of business. But pet shops are being supported by the consumer. Animal rights activists are so bothered by this that they are trying to control the sales of dogs, cats and rabbits by passing this silly, controlling bill. Stop this bill! Immediately. Protect small business in Hawaii.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:42:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have been following the puppy mill situation for several years, including publishing extensive articles as a professional free-lance writer during the Waimanalo puppy mill scandal. It was a heartbreaking subject, to say the least. To add insult to injury, the owners got away completely (heard they opened another one on the Big Isle), and the judge barely slapped the wrist of the manager, who had been horribly abusing the dogs on site.

If people didn't buy puppies from stores (or at least not without doing extensive background checks on the original sellers), there would be no financial incentive for these monsters to continue their lucrative, inhumane practices.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:51:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to encourage responsible pet ownership and set standards and conditions for any breeding. Shelters are over run with unwanted, abandoned, surrendered animals.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:53:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David F Pence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a bad bill, defining "humane sources" far too narrowly, and excluding many reputable sources of healthy, well cared for animals.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 2:59:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Hayworth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I do not agree with Bill HB 849 and therefore I oppose to it. In my lifetime, I have seen many pets find great homes through pet stores and shelters (other than the humane society), even more through locally owned and operated pet stores and shelters. I have had better experiences with pet stores and local shelters than that of the humane society. People trust these locally owned pet stores to take care of all the pets that come through therefore trusting that they are taking home healthy, happy pets. Being a former employee of a locally owned pet store, I have seen many pets come and go to great families and then watch them grow with these families. It is a joy to see and experience. There should be no reason for this bill to be passed as no one is putting any animal in harms way but just trying to help our community to keep certain breeds going and keep animals from being dumped inhumanely and also keep them from being euthanized without the chance of finding homes. I have had many pets come through my home from these pet stores and shelters who lived happy healthy lives. If it weren't for these special places, I wouldn't have found the pets that have got me through tough times. I'm standing for local pet stores and shelters to be able to continue to help our communities and to help more animals find their forever homes not just places who get their animals from "humane sources" whatever that means. Because in the end, we're helping those animals as well as our communities.

Mahalo!

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 3:12:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure prohibits a pet store operator from selling a dog, cat, or rabbit unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from certain humane sources. HB849 also requires that pet stores maintain records of where they acquire animals for sale and display that information in their stores. Please support these critical protections. Also, please support an amendment to require that the records regarding the origins of individual animals be given to purchasers at the time of sale and that they be made available to law enforcement upon request.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:49:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that ensures humane and responsible practices for pet stores. Puppy mills are cruel places that interbred breed dogs and create diseases. There needs to be regulations around the selling of animals to prevent disease spread and other health issues in our pets.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:33:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haley Hendricks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of HB849 because I believe pet stores should be allowed to sell dogs, cats and rabbits. I bought my rabbit in 2018 and my puppy in 2022 from the same pet store on Oahu. They have both been healthy and well cared for since then, and when I bought my puppy I received free beginning vet care. I would not have got my pets from public breeders because I do not wish to meet up with random people, and I knew (from pet stores) I was getting healthy pets. This specific pets store also guarantees their animals health. I believe people should have these resources so they don't get scammed, and can buy healthy animals. If pet stores were to close, the people who live on this island would still be buying dogs and rabbits from public breeders and would possibly not be getting healthy pets. I don't think people should have their resources limited when buying pets. Especially since these stores get healthy animals and makes buying pets an easy experience with knowledgeable employees and beginning vet care covered.

HB-849

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:57:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/15/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Does not clearly define what is considered humane.

Some backyard breeders are excellent. Others are lousy. Pet store owners are capable of evaluating potential animals for sale, inspecting animals, vaccination paperwork, microchipping etc. Government overreach interfering with business unnecessarily.

Also most rescues are overrun with ill, deformed, malnourished animals that are in dire need of owners and care. While the animals in their care may appear to suffer from inhumanity, it is not the fault of overrun rescues sponsoring the animals to a pet store.

Thank you,

Mrs Ruth Love