

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:04:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Rilling-Smith	Testifying for The American Kennel Club	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today on behalf of our Hawai'i based kennel clubs and the many responsible dog owners in the state with a few comments respecting Senate Bill 593 that is set for a hearing in your committee on Monday, February 10. The AKC appreciates the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the bill in attempting to define and regulate what it means to be a dog breeder in Hawai'i. As currently worded, Senate Bill 593 will ensure that dog breeders will have the necessary oversight that befits a commercial style operation while also respecting differences of hobbyist breeders. That said, the AKC has a couple of suggestions to make the bill stronger:

- Senate Bill 593 sets a statewide limit law by prohibiting the ownership of more than thirty dogs over the age of one year with intact sexual organs. The AKC does not support attaching a specific (and largely arbitrary) number of dogs someone can own; there *are* great dog owners who own *many* dogs, and there are people who own as *few as one* dog who *are not* great dog owners.
- Senate Bill 593 is currently worded to define a dog breeder as someone who owns, possesses, controls, or otherwise has charge or custody of more than ten dogs over the age of twelve months with intact sexual organs, AND who sells, barter, or otherwise ***transfers more than three litters or more than twenty-five dogs per calendar year***. This is very thoughtful definition. However, there are some dog breeds who have very small litters; someone could have four litters in a year and have less than 10 puppies from those dogs. **By changing this portion from an OR to an AND would better captures a commercial dog breeder.**

To reiterate, the AKC greatly appreciates the careful thought and intent behind Senate Bill 593. We also greatly appreciate the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection's attention to the welfare of animals.

Regards,

Bob Rilling-Smith

Legislative Analyst/Community Outreach Coordinator

BXK@akc.org

O: (919) 816-3960|C: (510) 365-5031



SB-593

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:15:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is legislation long needed. Please support SB593 Mahalo

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:25:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB593 to keep island dog population sustainable and prevent the cruelty of puppy mills and abandonments.

CONCERN: How will this be enforced? Animal Control cannot even handle basic responsibilities. Recommendation to have Compliance Plans and anonymous complaints.

Sylvia Dolena

Aloha Animal Advocates, 96778



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 7, 2025

To: Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga
and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 593: Relating to Commercial Dog Breeders
Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, 9:35 a.m., Room 229 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 593, which defines a "dog breeder" as any person who owns, possesses, controls, or otherwise has charge or custody of more than ten dogs over the age of twelve months with intact sexual organs, and who sells, barter, or otherwise transfers more than three litters or more than twenty-five dogs per calendar year; requires dog breeders to meet minimum standards of care and not place certain types of dogs in the same enclosure to ensure the proper treatment and care of dogs and the dogs' offspring; prohibits any person from owning or having custody of more than thirty dogs over one year with intact sexual organs; requires dog breeders to maintain specific written records for each dog for a specified period; authorizes each county to assess, implement, and enforce its own licensing system; and establishes civil and criminal penalties for violations.

The state of Hawai'i is an outlier in its lack of regulation of animal-related businesses or nonprofits. There is no transparency for the consumer about where and how animals are being bred and 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. The status quo results in animal suffering and the Hawaiian Humane Society stands in strong support of the regulation of dog breeders.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

As written, however, this measure represents an unfunded mandate to the counties. SB593 asserts that regulating dog breeders would not add a cost burden to the enforcing agencies, whether they be county departments or private contractors. That is untrue. Standing up a regulatory regime for dog breeding, like standing up any regulatory regime, would require an investment of funds. County animal services are significantly underfunded across Hawai'i. The Hawaiian Humane Society has had to reduce animal law enforcement and subsidies for low- and no-fee spay/neuter have been cut in fiscal year 2025 due to inadequate county funding. Breeder regulation, like other animal law enforcement, is a government function and requires government funding.

County animal services do have the expertise to execute the provisions of this measure. I would urge the committee to show its commitment to this issue by adding funding for the counties to SB593 so that they are able to stand up and maintain this regulatory regime for the protection of animals and consumers.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:00:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suyin Freiberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because we must put an end to backyard breeding and reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats at shelters or abandoned on our islands.

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:15:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clayton Cotton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB593. I do understand there has always been a law for Oahu residents on a ten dog limit per household which I think is not fair since the outer islands don't have a limit in place. I do think it's unrealistic to put a limit on the amount of litters and puppies produced per calendar year. First off, if a person that owns larger sized dogs, they have larger litters. Therefore, the amount of puppies can easily exceed the 25 dog limit per year. I think so long the dogs are well cared and are in a nice and clean environment, and have proper vet care, that's what should really matter. A person can own just one dog and mistreat them. Whereas a person can own more than ten dogs and take better care than the person with just one. It's not the amount of dogs that's the problem. It's the level of care an owner gives to each dog that they own. Why don't you create bills to try and figure out ways to control the feral chickens instead? That has become more of a nuisance than the focus of this bill that you're trying to pass.

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:52:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorene Maki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Chair and Members,

I strongly oppose this bill. This regulation is not not needed in our State.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lorene Maki

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:36:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Nii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

How will it be enforced? How will the enforcement be paid for? If it is a voluntary registration, I do not think it will prevent puppy mills from operating. They certainly are not going to register themselves. And if someone turns them in, then there are already procedures in place to deal with it within our current laws and enforcement. If they are reported for animal mistreatment then the Humane Society is authorized to investigate and remove the animals.

Last time a similar bill was brought up, The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs testified that it does not feel qualified to regulate dog breeders. Entities such as PETA and the Humane Society want to prevent dog breeding and they discourage even responsible dog breeding. Will they be the ones enforcing and regulating these laws? It seems like they would be biased and prejudiced against all dog breeders. If the responsible breeding of dogs is made too onerous, then the only dogs available will be the mixed breed dogs at the pound.

Responsible breeders spend thousands of dollars taking care of their dogs, on health care and veterinary care, and spend a lot of time finding their puppies the perfect home. The goal of a good breeder is to better the breed not to make money. If you take away the rights of dog fanciers, then all you will be left with is large commercial kennels who are breeding only for money and can afford the licensing fees and don't mind the invasion of home and property.

Some of the measures in the bills such as inspections at anytime would be a violation of privacy for those who breed their dogs at their home. Most breeders keep their dogs at home and whelp their dogs in their homes. Does that mean that regulators could invade your home at any time if you are a breeder? If this bill does pass, then I think that inspections should be scheduled with the licensees at certain times and certainly during the day before hand.

There are so many other issues that need to be addressed in Hawaii. Look at our homeless population explosion, the lax enforcement of fireworks regulations, our failing sewage systems and the rail that is causing our cost of living to increase each year. I feel that there are so many other things that the legislature should be spending time and money on.

Respectfully,

Terry Nii

SB-593

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:41:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/10/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bobbie becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support these regulations on people who own and breed dogs. We have far too many dogs in our animal shelter to allow anyone who is not serious about the care and welfare of dogs to be "creating" (breeding) more. These regulations are common sense to anyone who has ever been involved with the care and training of dogs.

Testimony for SB593

February 10, 2025

LATE

Members of the Senate committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy.

The Pacific Pet Alliance (PPA) would like to submit testimony for your consideration regarding the regulation of commercial dog breeders.

The Pacific Pet Alliance was established because of the Waimanalo breeding incident of 2011. Our members as well as members of the American Kennel Club dog community assisted with the rescue of those purebred dogs. Organizations like Hawaii Dachshund Rescue and Support were the outcome of this effort.

The Pacific Pet Alliance has concerns regarding how this bill would affect small hobby breeders. AKC conformation dog shows in Hawaii are significantly declining in entries. The last AKC dog show held in January drew an entry of only 156 dogs compared to close to 700 in the 1980's. Many of the dogs that compete are never used for breeding however a requirement of eligibility to be shown is that a dog must be intact. We also participated in meetings with former Rep. Sharon Har and former Hawaiian Humane Society investigator Keoni Vaughn to obtain a better understanding of what the process is for their investigations.

The Pacific Pet Alliance also recognizes that some dog breeders advertise that they are Limited Liability Corporations (LLC) and yet this is not included in the definition of a commercial breeder requiring a breeding permit.

The Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully offers the above comments for this committee's consideration during decision making. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lynn Muramaru

Board Member

Pacific Pet Alliance