



Office of the Public Defender State of Hawaii

Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender
Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawaii to the House Committee on Judiciary



February 20, 3:00 p.m.

RE: H.B. 1513: Relating To Offenses Against Public Order.

Chair Karamatsu and Members of the Committee:

This measure would prohibit gaffs or slashers which are intended to be used for cockfighting. We oppose H. B. 1513.

Gaffs or slashers are already prohibited by section 7-1.2 of the Honolulu Revised Ordinances. The language from subsection (1) of this measure is taken word for word from section 7-1.2. Each island has its own county codes or ordinances which address illegal cockfighting, making the need for a state law unnecessary. While the other counties do not have ordinances specifically prohibiting the possession of gaffs or slashers, the possession of such devices are prohibited, and prosecuted under ordinances prohibiting the possession of gambling devices.

We also believe that the more stringent penalties proposed in this legislation would run afoul of current caselaw. State v. Modica, 58 Hawaii 249, 567 P.2d 420 (1977) would require any prosecution for gaffs or slashers prohibited on the island of Oahu to be conducted utilizing the city ordinance (section 7-1.2) instead of this measure.

Under Modica, whenever facts support the charging of more than one offense, the state must proceed against a defendant with the lesser charge. Although the language proposed in this measure is identical to section 7-1.2, the penalty is more severe than the city ordinance, and thus could not be used against a defendant on this island.

Individuals prosecuted under section 7-1.2 are typically sentenced to a fine, and are not sentenced to jail and/or court supervision. This measure will place an additional financial burden on the Judiciary, who will have to allocate probation officers to supervise these defendants. We doubt that the Judiciary has an animal cruelty education or prevention program in place. This measure does not give the Judiciary any time in which to implement such a program.

We propose that subsection (2) of this measure be amended to read as follows:
"Any person violating any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$250 and not exceeding \$1,000 and/or by imprisonment not

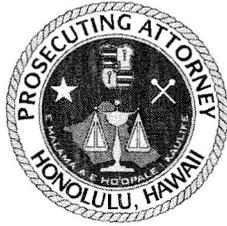
exceeding thirty days." This language was taken from §7-1.3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu.

For the reasons stated above, we oppose H. B. 1513. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
AREA CODE 808 • 527-6494

PETER B. CARLISLE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DOUGLAS S. CHIN
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE JON RIKI KARAMATSU, CHAIR
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Twenty-fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawai'i

February 20, 2009

RE: H.B. 1513; RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER.

Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations Committee, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of HB 1513.

The purpose of HB 1513 is to create a new section in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 711 which makes it a petty misdemeanor offense for a person to manufacture, buy, sell, barter or exchange, or have in the person's possession gaffs or slashers. Under HB 1513, persons convicted of this offense shall have the following included in their sentence: 1) completion of an animal cruelty education or prevention program; and 2) mandated fines of \$400 for a first offense, \$750 for a second offense; and \$1,000 for a third offense. The bill also permits the defendant to request that the fine be converted to community service.

We strongly support this bill. Gaffs and slashers are sharp instruments designed to be attached to the leg of a gamecock when the bird is fighting; they have no other uses other than in cockfighting which is illegal in state of Hawaii. Despite having no other uses, not all of the counties in the state have an ordinance outlawing the possession of gaffs and slashers; this bill would rectify that deficiency. We further note that in 2007, Congress passed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act which made it illegal to sell, buy, transport or deliver gaffs in interstate or foreign commerce; however the federal law does not cover the possession of gaffs that cannot be demonstrated to be involved in interstate or foreign commerce. We believe that this law will be useful when federal law cannot be applied when it cannot be proven or shown that the gaff was sold, bought, transported or delivered in interstate or foreign commerce.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of HB. 1513 and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org

MUFI HANNEKAWA
MAYOR



BOISSE P. CORREA
CHIEF

PAUL D. PUZULU
KARL A. GODSEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE LK-TA

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 1513, Relating to Offenses Against Public Order

I am Louis Kealoha, captain of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department strongly supports House Bill No. 1513, Relating to Offenses Against Public Order.

In 1983, the City and County of Honolulu enacted an ordinance prohibiting the possession of gaffs or slashers that are commonly used in cockfighting. However, the other counties in this state still do not have any laws specific to the possession of gaffs or slashers. They currently arrest individuals in possession of gaffs or slashers under "possession of a gambling device."

Passage of this bill will bring continuity to the charging criteria regarding gaffs or slashers. It will also assist law enforcement by streamlining the identification of repeat offenders.

In Hawaii, it is not illegal to attend a cockfighting event, and it is not illegal to possess a fighting bird. According to the Humane Society of the United States, Hawaii ranks 46 out of 50 in the nation regarding cockfighting laws.

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
and Members
Page 2
February 20, 2009

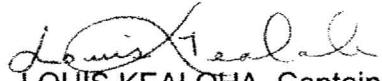
In 2007, the federal government enacted an animal fighting prohibition law that makes it a felony to illegally sell, purchase, or transport any knives, gaffs, or sharp objects between states that are designed and intended to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture. Passage of this bill will ensure consistency in the regulation of gaffs and slashers in the four counties.

Lastly, the proposed penalties include animal cruelty education or a prevention program. We support this as a means to prevent future violations.

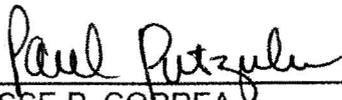
The Honolulu Police Department urges you to support House Bill No. 1513, Relating to Offenses Against Public Order.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


LOUIS KEALOHA, Captain
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:

for: 
BOISSE P. CORREA
Chief of Police

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



BENJAMIN M. ACOB
Prosecuting Attorney
PETER A. HANANO
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
150 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

February 19, 2009

HONORABLE JON RIKI KARAMATSU, CHAIR
HONORABLE KEN ITO, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009
STATE OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY OF BENJAMIN M. ACOB,
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI,
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. NO. 1513
RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER

The Honorable Chairpersons and Committee Members:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui supports H.B. 1513 Relating to Offenses Against Public Order.

This proposed bill seeks to prohibit the manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession of implements commonly known as gaffs or slashers, which are typically used cockfighting. These sharp instruments are attached to the gamecock in order to specifically kill or inflict serious injury on the opposing fowl.

Presently, there is no state law that specifically prohibits the possession, sale, or distribution of these types of paraphernalia associated with cockfighting. As such, current prosecution of these cases are usually based upon some other law or ordinance.

We fully support this proposal as it will send a clear message to individuals involved cockfighting that the possession, sale, or distribution of these types of instruments are prohibited. In addition, the proposal seeks to educate offenders by requiring the completion of animal cruelty education or prevention programs as part of their sentence.

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above, our Department supports H.B. 1513. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(H.B. 1513 Relating to Offenses Against Public Order)

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

February 19, 2009

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

Representative Jon Karamatsu, Chair

And Members

Committee on Judiciary

State Capitol

415 Beretania Street, Room 06

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: House Bill 1513, Relating to offenses against public order

Dear Representative Karamatsu and members of the committee:

The Hawai`i Police Department supports the passage of H.B. 1513, which adds a new section to be appropriately designated as Gaffs or slashers prohibited. This bill seeks to prohibit the possession, manufacturing, buy, sell, barter, and exchange of gaffs or any sharp instrument designed to be attached to a gamecock or other fighting fowl.

Cockfighting is a cruel blood sport that pits two roosters against each other. Spectators place bets, and the fight ends after one or both roosters die. The birds, even those who do not die, suffer in cockfights. The birds cannot escape from the fight, regardless of how exhausted or injured they become. Common injuries include punctured lungs, broken bones, and pierced eyes.

Such severe injuries occur because the birds' legs are usually fitted with razor-sharp steel blades or with gaffs, which resemble three-inch-long, curved ice picks or knives. These custom made artificial spurs are specially designed to puncture and mutilate and have no known legitimate use other than for cockfighting.

As it stands now, cockfighters are well aware that our current laws fail to address gaffs that are solely intended and designed to be attached to a gamecock or fighting fowl. The Hawai`i Police Department, for years now, has encountered participants at these large gatherings who are in possession these devices but know very well that if they separate the gaff from the fighting cock, they would avoid arrest.

This bill would definitely address that loophole and would act as a deterrent to some. But more importantly, this bill provides law enforcement officers the tools they need to enforce these laws and to have a positive impact on Cruelty to Animals investigations.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to support this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to testify on H.B. 1513.

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF

"Hawai`i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"

PO Box 44571
Kamuela, HI 96743
February 19, 2009

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu,
Vice Chair Ken Ito
House Judiciary Committee
Friday, February 20, 2009 3:00 pm

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for introducing HB 1513, Possession of Gaffs/Slashers. Prohibiting the possession of implements used exclusively for the cruel activity will help law enforcement crack down on cockfighters. This activity is usually accompanied by illegal gambling, drug distribution, illegal firearms, and human violence. In addition, children are often present at these affairs and such exposure is detrimental to them and encourages future cruelty to animals and humans.

Please support HB 1513 to reduce cruel, illegal cockfighting activity and its associated crimes.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Sterne
HI Coordinator
American Bouvier Rescue League

House Judiciary Committee
Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito
February 20, 2009
3:00pm

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
In support of H.B. 1513

Dear Honorable Chair Karamatsu and Committee Members:

On behalf of our 47,704 members and supporters of the Humane Society of the United States in Hawaii, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of H.B. 1513; to prohibit the possession of gaffs/slashers. The HSUS is in strong support of this bill and we thank Chair Karamatsu for his introduction of this measure.

Need for prohibition on possession of implements:

There is currently no statewide law that explicitly prohibits the possession of cockfighting implements, commonly known as gaffs, knives or slashers. These implements serve only one purpose- to be strapped to the legs of a fighting rooster in an illegal cockfighting match. We believe the increased penalties for possessing such implements would be a deterrent for such illegal activity and its associated crimes.

This law would also put Hawaii in line with the language under the recently upgraded Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, which prohibits knowingly selling, buying, transporting, or delivering, in interstate or foreign commerce, a knife, a gaff, or any other sharp instrument for attachment to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture.

Reduce associated criminal activity:

Law enforcement raids across the country have revealed several disturbing facets of cockfighting. Illegal gambling is the norm at cockfights. Thousands of dollars can exchange hands as spectators and animal owners wager large sums on their favorite birds. The owners of birds who win the most fights in a derby (a series of cockfights) may win tens of thousands of dollars of presumably unreported income. Firearms and other weapons are common at cockfights, mainly because of the large amounts of cash present. In addition, cockfighting has been connected to other kinds of violence—even homicide, according to newspaper reports.

Law enforcement officials have also documented a strong connection between cockfighting and the distribution of illegal drugs. Drug enforcement agents often learn about animal fighting operations as a result of narcotics investigations.

The presence of young children at cockfights is an especially disturbing element. Exposure to such brutality can promote insensitivity toward animal suffering and enthusiasm for violence.

While it is true that birds will fight over food, territory, or mates, such fights are only to establish dominance within a group (the pecking order) and seldom result in serious injury. This natural

behavior is quite different from what happens in staged cockfights, where pairs of birds, bred for maximum aggressiveness (and sometimes given steroids or other drugs to make them more successful fighters) are forced to fight until a winner is declared.

Unnecessary Cruelty

A cockfight usually results in the death of one of the birds; sometimes it ends in the death of both. A typical cockfight can last anywhere from several minutes to more than half an hour. The birds, even those who do not die, suffer in cockfights. The birds cannot escape from the fight, regardless of how exhausted or injured they become. Common injuries include punctured lungs, broken bones, and pierced eyes. Such severe injuries occur because the birds' legs are fitted with razor-sharp steel blades or with gaffs, which resemble three-inch-long, curved ice picks. These artificial spurs are designed to puncture and mutilate.

Recent Animal Fighting Cases in Hawaii demonstrate need for stronger penalties:

Aug. 4, 2008 — A Louisiana man was sentenced to 2 months in federal prison for attempting to smuggle more than 200 cockfighting gaffs into the United States through Hawaii.

March 1, 2008 — Hilo Police arrested ten people for gambling and cruelty to animals, seized 36 birds, more than \$27,000 in cash, multiple firearms and extensive cockfighting implements.

Jan. 20, 2008 — Four Molokai men were arrested and charged with gambling and animal cruelty. 150 people were said to be at the cockfighting site.

March 25, 2007 — One man was shot to death, one man arrested and several others fled the scene from what police said appeared to be a botched robbery of a cockfighting operation.

Sept. 27, 2006 — An official from Aloha Stadium pled guilty to extortion. The investigation was part of a massive FBI bust involving an alleged drug-trafficking and cockfighting ring that led to the arrests of an FBI worker and 29 others.

Nov. 21, 2001 — Police arrested 3 men in Kalihi in connection with a death after a post-cockfight argument.

We respectfully urge your support of H.B. 1513

Please contact me at (808)922-9910 or igibson@humanesociety.org if I may provide additional information.

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 5:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society

House Judiciary Committee
HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order
Hearing Date: February 20, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society and its 20,000+ supporters, we ask that the House Judiciary Committee SUPPORT HB1513, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, knife-like instruments used in cockfighting.

Hawaii continues to be under national scrutiny as ranking 48th out of 50 states in relation to our laws relating to cockfighting. In fact, Honolulu is the only county that has an ordinance in place that outlaws the possession of gaffs. With the federal Animal Fighting Prohibition Act in place, Hawaii needs to strengthen its laws at the statewide level to provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to put these people behind bars and work to end cockfighting in Hawaii once and for all.

Let us not forget that cockfighting is already an illegal activity and often these derbies serve to draw other illegal activities such as: gambling; drug and narcotics possession; illegal fire arms possession, and in some instances, homicide. Our public officials can no longer turn a blind eye to this barbaric bloodsport. Earlier this year, U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo expressed these thoughts when asked about the Toralba case, which was tried and convicted under the federal Animal Fighting Prohibition Act, "we hope that this case will send a clear message to Hawaii's animal fighting community that the times have changed and the community will no longer stand for these illegal and heinous activities. There can be nothing honorable about people who are making thousands of illegal dollars off of the suffering of animals."

This legislative body has the opportunity be a part of this change and we ask that you support HB1513.

Sincerely,
Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society

2700 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: 808.946.2187

E-Mail: kyim@hawaiianhumane.org

When it comes to giving, go local. On Oahu, Hawaiian Humane Society is the only animal welfare organization that shelters, rescues, adopts and welcomes all animals – all day and every day. 100% of your gift stays in the islands for the benefit of Hawaii's animals and people.

www.hawaiianhumane.org

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 7:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1513;JUD;2/20/09;3PM;Rm325

Importance: High

HB1513, Relating to Offenses
JUD; Chair, Rep Karamatsu

PLEASE, PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

There is only one reason that any one would own or sell a gaff: to illegally engage in the illegal torturing of animals. It really is amazing that we have taken this long to close this loophole in the law.

If you hear any testimony in opposition to the bill, you know that these people are evading the law and torturing their animals. Please do not let their testimony prevent you from doing what is right.

Thank you for hearing this bill and passing it.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: barbara ikeda [barbaraikeda@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:59 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Re: testing

Subject: testing

To: JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 11:48 PM

H.B. 1513 mentions "knives used for cockfighting". Please do what you can to further this bill. Cockfighting is high-stakes gambling and I doubt there's another state even needs a bill like this. Hawaii's animals need all the help they can get. Please do what you can to further this bill. Barbara Ikeda 95269 Waikalani Dr. 723-2207

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Vito Makauskas [alohavito@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 7:01 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: H.B. 1513 (Karamatsu) Possession of Gaffs/Slashers

Dear Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito,

H.B. 1513 (Karamatsu) Possession of Gaffs/Slashers: *Thank you for introducing this important bill. Cockfighting goes hand in hand with illegal gambling, drug distribution, illegal firearms possession and human violence. Prohibiting possession of implements used exclusively for this cruel activity will help law enforcement crack down on cockfighters. Please support H.B. 1513 to reduce cruel, illegal cockfighting activity and its associated crimes.*

Aloha,

*Vito N. Makauskas
Ohia Construction
Ohia Design
B.I.A. Overall Grand Award Winner
www.ohiaConstruction.com
www.ohiaDesign.com
808.291.1851 cellular
808.373.4979 office
808.373.4460 fax*

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Sandi Hino [SandraHino@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:25 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Please Support HB1512 and HB 1513

Categories: Yellow Category

Please support HB 1512 and HB 1513!

Mahalo,

Sandra Hino, 46-078 Emepela Place, #E-103, Kaneohe, HI 96744

HB1512 - Relating to Temporary Restraining Orders. Authorizes family court, when issuing a temporary restraining order, to award exclusive care of a pet animal and enjoin the restrained party from having any contact with the pet animal.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1512_.pdf

- I strongly **SUPPORT HB1512**, which amends the family court temporary restraining orders statute to include the care and treatment of pets and ask that the House Judiciary Committee support this bill.
- By providing TRO protection to family pets, judges are prompted to include pets in their domestic violence protective orders, thereby ensuring their safety. Without such court-ordered means, human victims often remain in violent households in an attempt to protect their pets from harm.
- When the victim has left the situation, the perpetrator will often turn his or her aggression and violence on the family pet as a form of control and revenge.
- Decades of research have shown that individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals will often escalate their violence towards humans.
- This type of legislation is the result of increasing public awareness about the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Animal cruelty is family violence and we as a society will no longer tolerate these heinous acts.

HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order. Prohibits possession of gaff designed to be attached to gamecock or other fighting fowl.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1513_.pdf

- I strongly **SUPPORT HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.
- Hawaii was recently blasted as ranking 48th out of 50 states for its laws related cockfighting.
- Hawaii is ranked as one of the weakest states when it comes to animal fighting protection laws.
- Cockfighting is animal fighting and the community is no longer tolerating this bloodsport.

- The activities surrounding cockfighting derbies include illegal firearms possession, gambling, narcotics and drug possession and in some cases, homicide. Legislators can no longer turn a blind eye to these illegal activities -- we must make a stand and end this barbaric form of animal fighting immediately.
- Oahu county is the only county that has ordinances related to possession of gaffs as a misdemeanor -- which basically is a slap on the hand to individuals who are making hundreds of un-taxed, illegal dollars in the cockfighting arena.
- We have Federal legislation that prohibits the transport and/or possession of gaffs across state lines. With State legislation in place this will provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to put these people behind bars and bring an end to cockfighting in Hawaii.

From: Jennifer Chiwa [jenniferc@oha.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:56 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1513

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

**HB 1513
RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF KNIVES USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR
COCKFIGHTING**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 20, 2009
p.m.

3:00
State Capitol, Room 325

Aloha, Chairperson Karamatsu, Vice Chairperson Ito and Members. I am Jennifer Chiwa. I support House Bill 1513 relating to the prohibition of knives used exclusively for cockfighting.

Thank you for considering this important bill. Although cockfighting in Hawaii is already illegal, which is a great achievement in humane treatment of animals thanks to you, the lawmakers, this bill strengthens this illegality. Prohibiting possession of implements used exclusively for cockfighting will help law enforcement officers crack down on individuals who are intent on engaging in this cruel activity.

Please support House Bill 1513 to strengthen the law against cockfighting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Chiwa

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: C. F. Gregorio [crisologo@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:56 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB 1513 and HB 1512

H.B. 1513 (Karamatsu) Possession of Gaffs/Slashers: Thank you for introducing this important bill. Cockfighting goes hand in hand with illegal gambling, drug distribution, illegal firearms possession and human violence. Prohibiting possession of implements used exclusively for this cruel activity will help law enforcement crack down on cockfighters. Please support H.B. 1513 to reduce cruel, illegal cockfighting activity and its associated crimes. My parents currently live in the Philippines, my grandfather made a living cockfighting, and I find it repulsive. Make it illegal here please, as any form of gambling is illegal anyway, passage of this measure would solidify the state's position.

H.B. 1512 (Karamatsu) Pet Protective Orders: Thank you for introducing this important bill. Pets are considered members of the family, but if the family is experiencing violence they can become targets as well. Pets are often an important source of comfort and stability to the victims of abuse, particularly children. But sadly, abusive family members may threaten, injure, or kill pets, often as a way of threatening or controlling others in the family. Please support H.B.1512 to reduce violence against families and pets.

Crisologo F. Gregorio
808-284-1843
crisologo@earthlink.net

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Annie Sherman [annie96745@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:46 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: House Bill 1513 and House Bill 1512

Categories: Yellow Category

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito

House Judiciary Committee

Friday, February 20, 3:00pm

H.B. 1513 (Karamatsu) Possession of Gaffs/Slashers: Thank you for introducing this important bill.

Cockfighting goes hand in hand with illegal gambling, drug distribution, illegal firearms possession and human violence. Prohibiting possession of implements used exclusively for this cruel activity will help law enforcement crack down on cockfighters. Please support H.B. 1513 to reduce cruel, illegal cockfighting activity and its associated crimes.

H.B. 1512 (Karamatsu) Pet Protective Orders: Thank you for introducing this important bill. Pets are considered members of the family, but if the family is experiencing violence they can become targets as well. Pets are often an important source of comfort and stability to the victims of abuse, particularly children. But sadly, abusive family members may threaten, injure, or kill pets, often as a way of threatening or controlling others in the family. Please support H.B.1512 to reduce violence against families and pets.

Submitted by:

Annie Sherman
P.O. Box 9036
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-9036
Phone: (808) 325-7818

From: Rosita Sipirok-Siregar [RSipirok-Siregar@ahldesign.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 11:31 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: MY TESTIMONY TO BILL HB 1512 AND 1513

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS CORRESPONDENCE AS MY TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT THESE TWO BILLS. SHOULD YOU NEED FURTHER INFORMATION, I CAN BE REACHED AT (808) 523-9636 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

- **HB1512 - Relating to Temporary Restraining Orders. Authorizes family court, when issuing a temporary restraining order, to award exclusive care of a pet animal and enjoin the restrained party from having any contact with the pet animal.**

I strongly **SUPPORT HB1512**, which amends the family court temporary restraining orders statute to include the care and treatment of pets and ask that the House Judiciary Committee support this bill.

- By providing TRO protection to family pets, judges are prompted to include pets in their domestic violence protective orders, thereby ensuring their safety. Without such court-ordered means, human victims often remain in violent households in an attempt to protect their pets from harm.
- When the victim has left the situation, the perpetrator will often turn his or her aggression and violence on the family pet as a form of control and revenge.
- Decades of research have shown that individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals will often escalate their violence towards humans.
- This type of legislation is the result of increasing public awareness about the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Animal cruelty is family violence and we as a society will no longer tolerate these heinous acts.

HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order. Prohibits possession of gaff designed to be attached to gamecock or other fighting fowl.

I strongly **SUPPORT HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.

- Hawaii was recently blasted as ranking 48th out of 50 states for its laws related cockfighting.
- Hawaii is ranked as one of the weakest states when it comes to animal fighting protection laws.
- Cockfighting is animal fighting and the community is no longer tolerating this bloodsport.
- The activities surrounding cockfighting derbies include illegal firearms possession, gambling, narcotics and drug possession and in some cases, homicide. Legislators can no longer turn a blind eye to these illegal activities -- we must make a stand and end this barbaric form of animal fighting immediately.

- Oahu county is the only county that has ordinances related to possession of gaffs as a misdemeanor -- which basically is a slap on the hand to individuals who are making hundreds of un-taxed, illegal dollars in the cockfighting arena.
- We have Federal legislation that prohibits the transport and/or possession of gaffs across state lines. With State legislation in place this will provide our law enforcement officials

THANK YOU.

Rosita Sipirok-Siregar, CSI, CDT
Construction Administration
Architects Hawaii Ltd
ASB Tower, Suite 200
1001 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 523-9636 ext. 400
email: rsipirok@ahldesign.com

This message is intended solely for the recipient identified above and should not be opened, read or utilized by any other party. This message is intended as above and shall not be construed as official project information or direction except as expressly provided in the contract documents.

From: Liza Souza [liza.souza@royalhawaiianmovers.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 11:55 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: My written testimony

Importance: High

Aloha,

I strongly support the follow bills...

HB1512, which amends the family court temporary restraining orders statute to include the care and treatment of pets and ask that the House Judiciary Committee support this bill.

- By providing TRO protection to family pets, judges are prompted to include pets in their domestic violence protective orders, thereby ensuring their safety. Without such court-ordered means, human victims often remain in violent households in an attempt to protect their pets from harm.
- When the victim has left the situation, the perpetrator will often turn his or her aggression and violence on the family pet as a form of control and revenge.
- Decades of research have shown that individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals will often escalate their violence towards humans.
- This type of legislation is the result of increasing public awareness about the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Animal cruelty is family violence and we as a society will no longer tolerate these heinous acts.

HB1513, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.

- Hawaii was recently blasted as ranking 48th out of 50 states for its laws related cockfighting.
- Hawaii is ranked as one of the weakest states when it comes to animal fighting protection laws.
- Cockfighting is animal fighting and the community is no longer tolerating this bloodsport.
- The activities surrounding cockfighting derbies include illegal firearms possession, gambling, narcotics and drug possession and in some cases, homicide. Legislators can no longer turn a blind eye to these illegal activities -- we must make a stand and end this barbaric form of animal fighting immediately.
- Oahu county is the only county that has ordinances related to possession of gaffs as a misdemeanor -- which basically is a slap on the hand to individuals who are making hundreds of un-taxed, illegal dollars in the cockfighting arena.
- We have Federal legislation that prohibits the transport and/or possession of gaffs across state lines. With State legislation in place this will provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to put these people behind bars and bring an end to cockfighting in Hawaii.

Not only am I a pet owner and a concern citizen, I have worked with domestic violence victims and helped them find a foster family for their beloved pet while they seek help. I see what pets go through because they too are victims of domestic violence. I hope you will consider in favor of this testimony to help support and pass these bills.

Thank you,

Liza Souza
Safety Officer/Maintenance Assistant
Royal Hawaiian Movers, Inc.

3005 Ualena Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Tel: (808) 432-9549
Cel: (808) 368-1289
Fax: (808) 836-7786

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Steve Slater [kipuka@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 12:34 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: house rules
Attachments: logocam.jpg; ATT00001.htm

Aloha,

I strongly **SUPPORT HB1512**, which amends the family court temporary restraining orders statute to include the care and treatment of pets and ask that the House Judiciary Committee support this bill.

I strongly **SUPPORT HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.

Thanks, Steve Slater, Maui

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Peggy [punahoupoidog@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 12:49 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: RE: HB1513 and HB1512

Subject: HB1513 and HB1512

Good afternoon,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1513

Hawaii was recently blasted as ranking 48th out of 50 states for its weak laws related to protection against animal fighting. Aloha state with little aloha for our animals. While this might be the case for now, I know our community has tremendous aloha for our animals, as indicated by the large % of families that own pets. We just need to change some of our laws to reflect the majority of the community wish to stop animal fighting.

The activities surrounding cockfighting include illegal gambling, narcotics, and illegal firearms. There has even been homicide in some cases. They don't fight cocks without the gambling.

Legislators can no longer turn a blind eye to these illegal activities. Oahu county is the ONLY county that has ordinances related to gaffs as a misdemeanor, which is a slap on the hand, for those people making tons of illegal dollars, un-taxed, and adding to our crime, not to mention the unnecessary cruelty.

I urge your support, and please help put an end to cockfighting in Hawaii.

I also ask your support on HB1512.

When a victim of abuse tries to leave the situation, the perpetrator will often turn his/her aggression on the family pet as revenge. Victims will often remain in violent households, to protect the family pet. Providing TRO protection to family pets, not only safeguard animals, but help human victims to leave an abusive household without fear of retribution to their beloved pets.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

P. Fern

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Giovanni, Naomi [ngiovanni@kiuc.coop]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 2:47 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB 1512 & HB1513

2-19-09

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I am humbly requesting your support of HB1512 & HB1513, and to pass these 2 important bills out of committee.

HB1512 ensures protection for all victims of domestic violence which often times includes pets. I personally know someone whose dog was strung up in retaliation. We know so well the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

By passing HB1513 we can prevent accessibility to the "tools of the trade" for the horrible "sport" of animal fighting. It is our responsibility to work towards ending this barbaric sport.

Thank you for your consideration,
Naomi Y. Giovanni
PO Box 1001
Lawai, HI 96765

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Francie Boland [bolandf001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 2:55 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1513

HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order. Prohibits possession of gaff designed to be attached to gamecock or other fighting fowl.

This email is in strong support of HB 1513 which provides a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers which are only used in cockfighting. Hawaii is ranked 48th out of 50 states for its laws related to cockfighting and one of the weakest states in the U.S. when it comes to laws protecting against animal fighting. This is a cruel bloodsport and it is time for our community to put a stop to it. In addition the activities surrounding cockfighting include illegal firearms possession, gambling, narcotics and drug possession and in some cases, homicide.

Please provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to put people behind bars who engage in cockfighting and the illegal activities related to it. Put a stop to cockfighting in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Francie Boland

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Toni Bennett [aftonb83@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 4:06 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Laws HB1512 and HB1513

Dear Judge,

I am a long-time resident of Kihei, Hi. I would like to see our quality of life improve with the passage of this bill.

Thank you, Toni Bennett

From: Jennifer and Steve Rappenecker [therapps@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 8:00 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB1512 & HB1513- Bills to be heard on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Importance: High

Please consider my testimony IN SUPPORT of these two bills: **HB1512**, which extends TRO protection to companion animals involved in domestic violence situations; and **HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers.

HB1512 - Relating to Temporary Restraining Orders. Authorizes family court, when issuing a temporary restraining order, to award exclusive care of a pet animal and enjoin the restrained party from having any contact with the pet animal.

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1512 .pdf>

- I strongly SUPPORT **HB1512**, which amends the family court temporary restraining orders statute to include the care and treatment of pets and ask that the House Judiciary Committee support this bill.
- By providing TRO protection to family pets, judges are prompted to include pets in their domestic violence protective orders, thereby ensuring their safety. Without such court-ordered means, human victims often remain in violent households in an attempt to protect their pets from harm.
- When the victim has left the situation, the perpetrator will often turn his or her aggression and violence on the family pet as a form of control and revenge.
- Decades of research have shown that individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals will often escalate their violence towards humans.
- This type of legislation is the result of increasing public awareness about the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Animal cruelty is family violence and we as a society will no longer tolerate these heinous acts.

HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order. Prohibits possession of gaff designed to be attached to gamecock or other fighting fowl.

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1513 .pdf>

- I strongly SUPPORT **HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.
- Hawaii was recently blasted as ranking 48th out of 50 states for its laws related cockfighting.
- Hawaii is ranked as one of the weakest states when it comes to animal fighting protection laws.
- Cockfighting is animal fighting and the community is no longer tolerating this bloodsport.
- The activities surrounding cockfighting derbies include illegal firearms possession, gambling, narcotics and drug possession and in some cases, homicide. Legislators can no longer turn a blind eye to these illegal activities -- we must make a stand and end this barbaric form of animal fighting immediately.

- Oahu county is the only county that has ordinances related to possession of gaffs as a misdemeanor -- which basically is a slap on the hand to individuals who are making hundreds of un-taxed, illegal dollars in the cockfighting arena.
- We have Federal legislation that prohibits the transport and/or possession of gaffs across state lines. With State legislation in place this will provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to put these people behind bars and bring an end to cockfighting in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Jennifer & Steve Rappenecker

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Bobbie Becker [bobbibecker@mindspring.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 8:43 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: I strongly SUPPORT HB1513
Attachments: Bobbie Becker.vcf

To whom it may concern,

It is about time that Hawaii recognizes that cockfighting is a blood sport that is dead in America. How can we possibly allow our citizens to participate in this cruel and pointless activity. I believe that the only reason that it has persisted for so long is that there are many illegal activities perpetrated by the people involved in cockfighting. The only people who support this barbaric activity are those who also understand the statewide network of gambling, narcotics and gun sales. Certainly people are not paying taxes or contributing to society in any positive way if they believe that this form of cruelty is "normal behavior."

For these reasons I strongly **SUPPORT HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.

Thank-you for considering my testimony.

Bobbi Becker
Makawao, Maui, 96768

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Bonnie Nelson [mauicheetah@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 6:26 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: In strong support of HB1512 and HB1413

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1512_.pdf

- I strongly **SUPPORT HB1512**, which amends the family court temporary restraining orders statute to include the care and treatment of pets and ask that the House Judiciary Committee support this bill.
- By providing TRO protection to family pets, judges are prompted to include pets in their domestic violence protective orders, thereby ensuring their safety. Without such court-ordered means, human victims often remain in violent households in an attempt to protect their pets from harm.
- When the victim has left the situation, the perpetrator will often turn his or her aggression and violence on the family pet as a form of control and revenge.
- Decades of research have shown that individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals will often escalate their violence towards humans.
-
- This type of legislation is the result of increasing public awareness about the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Animal cruelty is family violence and we as a society will no longer tolerate these heinous acts.

HB1513 - Relating to Offenses Against Public Order. Prohibits possession of gaff designed to be attached to gamecock or other fighting fowl.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1513_.pdf

- I strongly **SUPPORT HB1513**, which provides for a statewide prohibition on the possession of gaffs and slashers, sharp knife-like instruments only used in cockfighting.
- Hawaii was recently blasted as ranking 48th out of 50 states for its laws related cockfighting.
- Hawaii is ranked as one of the weakest states when it comes to animal fighting protection laws.
- Cockfighting is animal fighting and the community is no longer tolerating this bloodsport.
- The activities surrounding cockfighting derbies include illegal firearms possession, gambling, narcotics and drug possession and in some cases, homicide. Legislators can no longer turn a blind eye to these illegal activities -- we must make a stand and end this barbaric form of animal fighting immediately.
- Oahu county is the only county that has ordinances related to possession of gaffs as a misdemeanor -- which basically is a slap on the hand to individuals who are making hundreds of un-taxed, illegal dollars in the cockfighting arena.
- We have Federal legislation that prohibits the transport and/or possession of gaffs across state lines. With State legislation in place this will provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to put these people behind bars and bring an end to cockfighting in Hawaii.

I have lived in Hawaii for over twenty one years. I have been incensed for many years at the cruelty exhibited to animals to have them fight with one another for entertainment. I have heard it said that cock fighting is part of our culture. So

was human sacrifice at one time. It is time for this culture to evolve and if it takes putting people behind bars to stop them for exploiting our animals, so be it.

Bonnie j Nelson
Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii

Aloha Representatives,

I **Strongly Oppose HB 1513** and any other bills that would come before you that would prohibit the **Ancient, Traditional and Cultural Heritage** practices of Hawaii. These are similar types of bills which has been introduced and proposed by this same nonprofit groups in the pass years, you as our representatives should know that they are in **violation** of the Hawaii nonprofit tax exempt laws in which **proposing or lobbying** of any **State Laws** against the people of Hawaii is prohibited, and these groups should lose their Hawaii nonprofit tax exempt status. These groups are paid with our tax dollars for animal control only, and not to be used for lobbying their animal rights agendas

I request an investigation into this matter by the Attorney Generals Office at once and remove all bills which has been proposed and lobbied for by all the Humane Societies of Hawaii. They are not above the **Law**. These nonprofit groups are the **Hypocrites**, they kill without need thousands of pet dogs and cats yearly in Hawaii, that is in violation our Hawaii Animal Cruelty law. Kill without need.

I'm sending a Resolution from Maui County that was certified and adopted 37 years ago that stated:

**Requesting the Recognition, Preservation
and Acceptance of Cockfighting in the
State of Hawaii as a Cultural Heritage.**

Mahalo
Ke Akua
Alton De Gama



Resolution

No. 45 Introduced By JOSEPH E. BULGO Councilman

Joseph E. Bulgo

REQUESTING THE RECOGNITION, PRESERVATION
AND ACCEPTANCE OF COCKFIGHTING IN THE
STATE OF HAWAII AS A CULTURAL HERITAGE

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is an outstanding symbol of East and West cultural heritages; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars have been appropriated by government for the establishment of an East-West Center in Hawaii, where all East-West cultural heritages are recognized, preserved and fostered; and

WHEREAS, government's indifference and unacceptance of cockfighting in the State of Hawaii is contrary to the aims and philosophies represented in the establishment of an East-West cultural center; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is known throughout the world for its recognition and acceptance of all ethnic groups and cultures; and

WHEREAS, cockfighting is one of the oldest recognized sports in the history of mankind and today internationally recognized as a game sport based on highly skilled training techniques; and

WHEREAS, cockfighting is as honorable and recreational a sport as the All-American football, baseball, soccer, tennis, golfing, bowling, horse racing, basketball, rodeo, drag racing, hockey, boxing and all other sports enjoyed by the American society; and

Resolution No. 43

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has neglected to recognize cockfighting as a prominent cultural heritage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui that it does hereby respectfully request the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the members of the 1972 Legislature, and the Mayors and Councils of the several counties to recognize the great significance of cockfighting as a cultural-heritage contribution to the State of Hawaii and that its promotion, recognition and preservation be given just consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, to the President of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House, to each legislator of the County of Maui serving in the Legislature of the State of Hawaii, and to all the Mayors and Councils of the several counties in the State of Hawaii.

Richard Caldito
Mayor

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793									
CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION									
It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the <u>3rd</u> day of <u>March</u> , 19 <u>72</u> by the following vote:									
MEMBERS	Joseph E. BULGO	Richard I.C. CALDITO	E. Loy CLUNEY	Goro HOKAMA Chairman	Harry N. KOBAYASHI	Marco M. MEYER	Lanny H. MORISAKI	Bernard H. TOKUNAGA	Yoneto YAMAGUCHI
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Excused	Aye	Aye
<i>Daniel S. [Signature]</i>									

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: sweet potato [ldrd@wave.hicv.net]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 10:17 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB 1513

HB 1513
RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER

My name is Lynn DeCoite and I oppose HB 1413 due to cultural practices. I believe this bill will look at penalizing those who practice this sport culturally. Like many sports you have your good and your bad. Like our fathers and our forefathers before them they have practice this cultural sport. Civil Rights and civil right movements have all been a part of our expression and freedom of speech. You want to take that away from us. Not mention that collectors of these items will be affected. You just as well start shutting down museums and anyone that chooses to preserve history and historical events forever. For that reason I oppose HB 1413.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Lynn DeCoite
P.O. Box 125
Hoolehua, HI 96729

Ph: 808-567-9234

February 20, 2009

Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Ken Ito
Vice Chairman, Committee on Judiciary

And members of the Committee on Judiciary

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION OF HB 1513

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon on HB1513, relating to Cruelty to Animals and Possession of Gaff. Possession of gaffs or slashers should not be designated unlawful therefore I am opposing HB1513.

As a person of Filipino ancestry where gamecock or fighting fowl is a part of our culture, it is not unusual to have in our possession a gaff. Over 100 years ago, the first Filipinos migrated to Hawaii to work on the plantations and at that time they brought with them their "worldly" possessions which they have passed on to future generations. Although we have these items in our possession it is not necessarily that it is used in an unlawful manner but may be a part of a family history. Therefore I feel that possession of gaffs should not be prohibited.

Roy Azaveda

February 20, 2009

Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Ken Ito
Vice Chairman, Committee on Judiciary

And members of the Committee on Judiciary

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION OF HB 1513

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon on HB1513, relating to Cruelty to Animals and Possession of Gaff. Possession of gaffs or slashers should not be designated unlawful therefore I am opposing HB1513.

ALEY SABELLA