



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 24, 2:05 p.m.

RE: H.B. 730: Relating To Cruelty to Animals

Chair Karamatsu and Members of the Committee:

This measure would repeal the current dog fighting statute and replace it with a new, more comprehensive dog fighting law. Dog fighting is not a problem in the State of Hawaii. No one has been prosecuted under our current dog fighting law. There is no demonstrated need to rewrite our current dog fighting statute. The Office of the Public Defender opposes H.B. 730.

Section 1(f) of this measure would proscribe the "knowing possession of any dog used for a fight or any device intended to enhance the animal's fighting ability." This provision would make any animal shelter, Humane Society, or individual who knowingly possesses a fighting dog in an attempt to rescue it from its previous owner guilty of a class C felony. This measure makes no distinction between the lawful ownership of a dog formerly trained for fighting and the owner of a dog currently being used for fighting, or intended to be used for fighting.

We also oppose the imposition of mandatory jail in this measure. Anyone convicted of a second or subsequent offense would be subject to five years imprisonment or probation with a mandatory thirty day jail sentence. Not all of the people present at dog or chicken fights bear the same degree of culpability, and our courts should have the discretion to sentence them accordingly. There is a significant difference between a dog trainer or owner of a fighting dog, and a non-gambling bystander who is "knowingly present" at a fight. Under this measure, both individuals would be subject to same mandatory jail sentence. Innocent family members who reside with a dog owner or trainer should not receive the same treatment as the owner or trainer. Furthermore, the progressive sentencing scheme would prohibit even a first-time offender from obtaining a deferred acceptance of guilty or no contest plea. If this measure passes, the only way for a court to grant a deferral would be to include specific language within the dog fighting law.

We oppose H.B 730. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito
February 24, 2009
2:05pm**

**Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
In Support of H.B. 730; Related to dogfighting**

Dear Honorable Chair Karamatsu,

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. 730; relating to dogfighting. The HSUS is in strong support of this bill. We thank Rep. Mizuno for his introduction of this bill and Chair Karamatsu and Committee Representatives Luke and McKelvey for their co-sponsorship of this critical crime and cruelty reduction measure.

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws in the states and the District of Columbia, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also include those who use stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight.

The 2007 Michael Vick case sadly exposed that no community is immune from dogfighting. Tough dogfighting laws, such as the proposed, are what allowed Vick and his co-conspirators to be successfully charged and convicted. There are an estimated 40,000 people involved in dogfighting nationwide. Our organization has assisted in hundreds of animal fighting raids across the country and we are aware of numerous dogfighting suspects across Hawaii that sadly, have been active for many years.

Need for more comprehensive language:

Due to the clandestine nature of such activity, is extremely rare for law enforcement to catch a dogfight in progress. Even if law enforcement were to encounter a dogfight in progress, under current law only those who actually own or fight the dogs may be held accountable. The money generated by admission fees and gambling helps keep this "sport" alive. Because dogfights are illegal and therefore not widely publicized, attendees do not merely happen upon a fight; they seek it out. They are willing participants who support a criminal activity through their paid admission, wagering and attendance.

There are also many components to illegal dogfighting aside from the people who actually fight the dogs. This criminal industry is supported by people who specialize in the promoting, breeding, training, "handling" and refereeing of dogfighting matches. Most often the trainers, breeders, "handlers" and promoters are not the owner of the dogs, as was the case with Michael Vick.

Public Safety Issue:

Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals. The presence of these dogs in a community increases the risk of attacks not only

on other animals but also on people. Children are especially at risk, because their small size may cause a fighting dog to perceive a child as another animal.

Associated Crimes:

Dogfighting is also associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. According to a study conducted by the Chicago Police Department, of more than 300 people arrested for crimes against animals (including dogfighting), more than 65 percent had also been arrested for battery-related violent crimes and 70 percent for illegal drugs.

Cruelty to dogs and “bait” animals

The injuries inflicted and sustained by dogs participating in dogfights are frequently severe, even fatal. Dogs used in these “events” often die of blood loss, shock, dehydration, exhaustion, or infection hours or even days after the fight. Other animals are often sacrificed as well. Some owners train their dogs for fights using smaller animals such as cats, rabbits or small dogs. These “bait” animals are often stolen or stray pets or animals obtained through “free to good home” advertisements.

We respectfully urge your passage of HB 730 to reduce all forms of crime and create safer communities for pets and people.

Please contact me at 808-922-9910 or igibson@humanesociety.org for additional information.

FAX.....1 page

TO: Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu,
Vice-Chair Ken Ito
House Judiciary Committee

FAX #: 1-800-535-3859

RE: HB 730

DATE: 2/23/09

I would like to go on record as being in favor of HB730.

By nature dogs are social animals. In the wild, they live together, hunt together, sleep together and play together. They might fight over territory or to protect their young, but they do not fight for the 'fun' of it.

Unbelievable cruelty is involved in dog fighting. Dogs are tortured to make them aggressive. Kittens and puppies are used as "bait" to teach dogs to kill. Illegal drugs and weapons are common at dogfights and they promote illegal gambling.

Dogs used for fighting usually live in horrific conditions, at the end of chains or in small cages all of their lives.

Dogs are living creatures with feelings. They feel pain and loneliness and yet give unconditional love. They should be treated the way you would like to be treated, with respect and kindness.

Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety.

Thank you,

Madelyn R. Barrea
Executive Director
West Hawaii Humane Society
82-773 Kamakani Street
Captain Cook, HI 96704

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 12:34 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB730;JUD;2/24/09;2:05PM;Rm325

Importance: High

HB730, Relating to *Cruelty*
JUD; Chair Rep Karamatsu

PLEASE, PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

The title of this bill says it all: This is a bill about *animal cruelty*. It is very important to re-address our laws when they may not be as effective as we want them to be. So, I am very grateful to you for introducing this bill.

There are no reasons these beautiful, sensitive, loving creatures should ever be raised to maim and kill each other for the entertainment of insensitive humans. Thank god we are not back in the days of the ancient Romans who enjoyed this kind of brutal, cruel and inhumane activities.

Thank you for hearing this bill and passing it.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 4:22 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dina.brooks@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB730 on 2/24/2009 2:05:00 PM
Attachments: HB 730 testimony

Testimony for JUD 2/24/2009 2:05:00 PM HB730

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dina Brooks
Organization: Individual
Address: 41-016 Hilu Street Waimanalo, HI
Phone: 808-679-6199
E-mail: dina.brooks@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/21/2009

Comments:

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Annie Sherman [annie96745@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 9:54 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: House Bill 730; related to dogfighting

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito
House Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, February 24, 2:05pm, Room 325

H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also prohibit the use of stray or stolen pets as “bait” to train dogs to fight. As we learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety. In addition, dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety

Submitted by:

Annie Sherman

P.O. Box 9036

Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-9036

Phone: (808) 325-7818

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: C. F. Gregorio [crisologo@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 11:16 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also prohibit the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight. As we learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety. The state needs to crack down on bad owners of any animals, especially those that may harm humans. I am the proud owner of American Pitbull Terriers and my favorite breed has a tarnished reputation because of the criminals that engage in animal cruelty and violence associated with dogfighting. Not passing this bill would show the world that Hawaii finds nothing wrong animal cruelty and that Hawaii chooses to allow violence within its borders. In addition, dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety.

Chuck Gregorio
(C)808-284-1843
or try cfgregorio@yahoo.com

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: barbara ikeda [barbaraikeda@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 12:55 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: h.b.730

In favor of h.b. 730 banning dogfighting. Bloody bad. Barbara Ikeda 95269 Waikalani dr. c-101 Mililani 96789 Hearing on Feb. 24

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Rosemary Karlsson [rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 5:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB 730

H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also prohibit the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight. As we learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety. In addition, dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety.

The people watching are just as GUILTY as the trainers/promoters of dogfighting. I have been doing dog rescue for 10 years, and I am very saddened by the fact that many stray dogs and 'free dogs' end up as bait, to be torn to shreds by another dog, and bleed to death. This is disgusting. Anyone involved in this is not a human, and should be locked up.

Rosemary Karlsson
966-6589
PO Box 492266
Keaau, HI 96749
rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com

PO Box 44571
Kamuela, HI 96743
808/882-1513
February 22, 2009

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu,
Vice Chair Ken Ito
House Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, February 24, 2:05pm, Room 325

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to ask your support for HB 730 (Mizuno) related to Dog fighting. Dog fighting is a cruel and inhumane sport. After the arrest of Michael Vick, it became very apparent that the public supports strong anti-dog fighting laws. Hawaii's law ranks 50th in the nation in part because it does not include penalties for those who pay to attend dogfights, bet on dogs, or raise and train dogs. This bill provides penalties for these individuals and also prohibits the use of stray or stolen dogs as bait in the training of fighting dogs. Besides the suffering of the dogs involved, fighting dogs who get loose (and they do) may attack pet animals and children who come in contact with them. Finally dog fighting goes hand in hand with other illegal activities including gambling, drug use, and human abuse.

It is time to put some teeth into Hawaii's anti-dog fighting bill. Please support this important health and safety bill. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Sterne
HI Coordinator
American Bouvier Rescue League

February 23, 2009

Committee on House Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chairman **Ken Ito**
House Judiciary Committee:
Tuesday, February 24, 2:05pm, Room 325

I am writing in support of

HB 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

Dogs should not be used for this bloody sport. Hawaii ranked 50th in the nation in dogfighting laws. No penalties are set for people that commit the offense of dog fighting allowing them to continue paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would prohibit such act and stop the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight.

We learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty.

Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a **threat to public safety**. Dogfighting also attracts and/or feeds on other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. For the protection of pets and public safety I strongly urge you to support HB 730.

As a pet owner, concern citizen and resident of Kapolei I hope you will strongly consider in favor of this testimony to help you make your decision in the bills introduced before you.

Mahalo,

Gayle Puou

Resident of Kapolei

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Dave McArthur [daveandtaramc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 10:15 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: H.B. 730

H.B.730 (Mizuno)Related to dogfighting
Please support H.B.730 to help bring us in step with other civilized society's Thank you for
your consideration, David McArthur Makiki

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Jennifer Chiwa [jenniferchiwa@oha.org]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 1:11 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 730

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

HB 730
RELATING TO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 24, 2009
Room 325

2:05 p.m.

State Capitol,

Aloha, Chairperson Karamatsu, Vice Chairperson Ito and Members. I am Jennifer Chiwa. I strongly support House Bill 730 relating to cruelty to animals.

Section 1 of this bill is very specific and clearly defines all acts related to dog fighting to be a punishable offense. This serves to strengthen the existing law which does not specify any penalty for (1) paying admission or wagering on dog fighting, (2) selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight; and (3) using stray or stolen pets as bait to train dogs to fight.

Please support House Bill 730 to strengthen the existing law against dog fighting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Chiwa

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Peggy [punahoupoidog@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 2:41 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB730

The crime of dog fighting is not an isolated animal welfare issue, but an insidious underground organized crime. There is a large body of legal and empirical evidence that exposes the clandestine culture of dog fighting, and its nexus with other crimes, and community violence. Dog fighters are violent criminals that engage in a whole host of peripheral criminal activities. Many are heavily involved in organized crime, drug distribution, and they arrange the fights as a forum for gambling and drug trafficking. Law enforcement agencies throughout the nation have identified the overwhelming correlation between dog fighting and other criminal activity.

The commitment of agency resources to the apprehension of dog fighters, and those who attend dog fights, is not a sacrifice of those resources from other areas of law enforcement. On the contrary, the individuals that are apprehended are the same gang members, drug dealers, robbers, and violent criminals that the vice, narcotics, and gang units actively seek to apprehend. Dog fighting raids tend to result in mass arrests for multiple offenses whereby serious and habitual criminals, are easily apprehended.

The dogs literally bite and rip the flesh off of one another while onlookers cheer, scream, and place bets. After the fight, both dogs are critically wounded, often with massive bleeding, ruptured lungs, broken bones. When the dogs are killed after a match, they are shot, beaten, stabbed, hung, drowned, or tortured to death. The dogs that survive never see a vet, regardless of the gravity of injuries, or the amount of suffering the animals must endure.

DOG FIGHTING IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS FORMS OF ANIMAL ABUSE, NOT ONLY FOR THE HEINOUS ACTS OF VIOLENCE THAT THE DOGS ENDURE DURING AND AFTER THE FIGHTS, BUT THEY LETERALLY SUFFER THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

The dogs are chained their entire lives, without adequate food, water, or shelter. They are not socialized with humans, or other dogs. Young fighting dogs are put in sacks and beaten repeatedly, then let out of the sacks, where a bait dog, that is usually a stolen pet, with its mouth taped shut, is shown to the fighting dog, in a training exercise, to teach the fighting dog to attack the bait dog.

The victims are not only the dogs used for fighting, or the bait dogs that are brutally killed, but the communities that are morally, socially scarred by this menacing pestilence.

Even seasoned law enforcement agents are appalled by the atrocities that they encounter at dog fights, yet the children/youth that grow up exposed to it are conditioned to believe that the violence is normal, they are desensitized to the violence, and ultimately become criminalized. The routine exposure of the children to unfettered animal abuse and neglect is a major contributing factor in their later manifestation of social deviance.

Hawaii is ranked 50th in the nation in dog fighting laws because we are one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on a dogfight. There is no penalties for breeding, selling, or possessing dogs with the intent to fight.

There is nothing to prohibit the use of pets, stolen, or stray, as bait to train dogs to fight.

I urge your support on HB730, not only for justice for the animals involved, but to rid the community of this menace, and for the children of Hawaii.

HELP HAWAII AGGRESSIVELY ERADICATE DOG FIGHTING

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

Sincerely,

P. Fern

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: stefanie brendl [stefaniebrendl@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 3:44 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Dogfighting legislature

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito

House Judiciary Committee

H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also prohibit the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight. As we learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety. In addition, dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety

Stefanie Brendl

Waialua, Hi

From: Cindy Moragrega [cindym@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 4:09 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Dog Fighting is cruel and should be severely punished!

H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also prohibit the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight. As we learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety. In addition, dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Moragrega

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 6:03 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB730 - Related to Dog Fighting

House Judiciary Committee Meeting
February 24, 2009, 2:05p.m.
Re: HB730

Position: SUPPORT

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society and its 20,000+ supporters, we SUPPORT HB730, which provides for enhanced penalties and a more comprehensive prohibition on dog fighting and activities related to dog fighting.

We ask that this committee give serious consideration and full support of HB730.

Sincerely,
Kawehi Yim

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waiialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: 808.356.2212

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: nomi image [nomie_34@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 12:43 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB730 (Relating to Cruelty to Animals)

**Committee on Judiciary
Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair**

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Rida Cabanilla	Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Robert N. Herkes	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Sylvia Luke	Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. John M. Mizuno	Rep. Cynthia Thielen

**Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Time: 2:05pm
Place: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

Dear Representatives:

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 730 which, if passed, will Repeal existing prohibition against dog fighting and enact more comprehensive prohibition of dog fighting and related conduct.

Unfortunately, I am unable to be here in person due to work.

I am in support of the passing of this bill because dogfighting is undeniably cruel and hainous and should not be considered sport of anykind. Dogfighting promotes gambling, drugs and violence.

As most of us are well aware of the Michael Vick incident, dogs used for dogfighting suffer immense physical and emotional pain, their wounds go uncared for as they do not receive vet care. Losing dogs are electrocuted, hung, slammed to the ground until they die, or used as bait dogs. If rescued, these dogs will never be allowed to live among the public because they are deemed vicious. The dogs only lose in the end.

I urge you to please pass HB730!

Respectfully,

Naomi Egami
2850 Pukoloa St., Ste. 200
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808)349-8334

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: CROZER [crozer@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 9:21 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: dog fighting opposition

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito
House Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, February 24, 2:05 pm, Room 325

H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting:

Hawaii is one of two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety.

I think we need to pass this bill to prohibit dog fighting and also the use of stray or stolen pets as “bait” to train dogs to fight.

Dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence. Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety.

Lois Crozer
Kailua