



HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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*The Hawaiian Humane
Society is dedicated to
promoting the human-
animal bond and
the humane treatment of
all animals.*

LATE TESTIMONY

March 28, 2011

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

Re: Testimony on HCR 79

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Members of the Committee on
Economic Revitalization & Business:

We support passage of HCR 79, requesting a sunrise review to determine
whether large scale dog breeders should be licensed; if this is determined to be
necessary by the legislature.

The large scale dog breeding legislation would regulate businesses that have 20
or more intact female dogs over the age of six months; or who have a total of 30
intact dogs that are 6 months or older; or sells 25 or more puppies within a year.

These large scale breeders would be required to be licensed and establishes
minimum standards of care that includes: veterinary care, space requirements,
exercise and access by inspectors at any reasonable time during regular business
hours.

We ask for your unwavering support of HCR 79.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely Yours,

Pamela Burns
President and CEO



LATE TESTIMONY

improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by: Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

In support of HCR 79 – with amendments

Requesting the Auditor to conduct a sunrise review to determine whether large scale breeders should be licensed by the Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

The House Committee Economic Revitalization and Business

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 - Room 312, 8:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and members of the committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, President of Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP), a local nonprofit organized to help people care for their pets. I am also the former Director of Community Relations for the Hawaiian Humane Society and the founder and former president of the Oahu SPCA. PDP supports HCR 79 but we propose a few amendments:

1. Expand the scope of the Auditor's sunrise review by eliminating any reference to "large scale" so that a comprehensive review of all breeder activity can be analyzed including large and small, commercial, hobby or backyard.
2. Require the auditor to report on both the economic and social impact of breeding in the report to the legislature such as the proliferation of an unregulated cash economy and the unnecessary euthanasia of animals due to pet overpopulation.

We believe these two amendments will enable the Auditor to more effectively review the best and worst in breeder licensing laws across the country as well as take into consideration issues not currently addressed in proposed legislation. To limit the Auditor's from reviewing the vast number of breeders in Hawaii would be a missed opportunity to fully understand the breadth of the industry. Our elected officials, as well as animal welfare advocates, need full disclosure in order to craft meaningful legislation.

Dog breeding licenses are required in most states if two or more dogs are being bred for the sole purpose of making a profit from their offspring. Hawaii has no licensing requirement – for breeders or sellers of dogs and puppies of any size. In the long run – PDP would like to see a reduction in the unnecessary euthanasia of dogs due to pet overpopulation in addition to addressing the conditions in which puppies are being bred. This applies to all breeds – purebred or poi. Not everyone should be able to obtain a license to breed or sell dogs.

As an example of why the Sunrise Review should be expanded: one option not even addressed in proposed legislation is mandating a license number in pet advertisements. Anyone selling more than one litter within 12 months must possess and list a special permit number similar to contractors. By

becoming licensed, we believe breeders will need to embrace greater levels of responsibility that will hopefully reduce the number of unwanted animals. Hawaii's 70 percent euthanasia rate mirrors the national average because homeless dogs and cats are euthanized simply because no one wants them. And this includes purebred dogs.

So we would ask the committee to consider the fact that the Sunrise Review may well shed additional light on the best possible legislation to address the regulation of breeders. A few minor changes in the resolution will give the Auditor greater flexibility to complete a more comprehensive review and analysis.

Mahalo for your caring and compassion for Hawaii's pets and their people.

LATE TESTIMONY

House Economic Revitalization & Business Committee

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, March 29, 2011 at 8:00 am

RE: Support HCR 79; Sunrise Review of Large-scale Breeders

TO: Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy and Committee Members

In light of the current legislation regarding puppy-mills and the alleged puppy-mill in Waimanalo, the need for HCR 79 could not be any greater. Regulating large-scale breeding facilities is the first step in fighting animal cruelty. Licensing breeders is necessary for effective regulation of this industry and preventing inhumane treatment of animals and pet overpopulation.

Currently, breeders have no accountability for the welfare of the dogs they breed and sell. This lack of regulation may result in the breeding of dogs in a cruel and inhumane manner under conditions that can inflict long-term suffering on dogs and may also lead to the sale of unhealthy dogs to unsuspecting consumers.

Pet overpopulation is also a major issue. The annual result of large-scale breeding is more puppies in a state where we don't have enough loving homes for the dogs already on island. Regulating large-scale breeding controls the number of puppies born here and gives shelter animals a better chance of adoption.

Thank you for considering this resolution.

Respectfully,

Rachel Huff-Wagenborg
Volunteer, Oahu SPCA