

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2512, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ANIMALS**

Senate Bill 2512, Senate Draft 1 proposes to increase penalties for animal desertion. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Hawaii's native species evolved over millions of years in an environment devoid of human-introduced animals such as cats and dogs. The release of such animals, when no longer wanted as pets, presents a clear threat to Hawaii's native wildlife. Today, 28% of all threatened and endangered species in the United States are located in Hawaii, and 78% of all United States species extinctions have occurred in Hawaii. Discouraging the release of non-native animals into the environment is a necessary component of wildlife conservation in Hawaii.

The Department notes that this measure was complementary to additional legislation this session that would have prohibited the release, feeding and care of unrestrained predators (dogs, cats, mongoose, and rodents) on all state lands (Senate Bill 2905, Senate Bill 2450, House Bill 2376, House Bill 2118). A primary impact addressed in each of those measures is the release and care of feral cats. Together with Senate Bill 2512, Senate Draft 1, these measures would reduce new introductions into feral cat colonies and prohibit the maintenance of colonies on state lands. While the bills referring to feeding of predators are no longer active this session, the Department supports Senate Bill 2512, Senate Draft 1 as a disincentive for pet owners to contribute to cat colonies.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 1, 2016
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO 2512 SD1
RELATING TO ANIMALS

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2512. The bill establishes penalties should a person be found guilty of deserting an animal in their possession and as a result of that desertion, the animal suffers death or substantial bodily injury. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

Stronger penalties will deter animal abandonment and the potential impact of that action on the health of the animal and the cost to the community. In addition, the Department recommends that the language of the measure be amended to include "the injury and death of livestock caused by abandoned dogs." Abandonment of dogs can lead to feral pack formation that cause significant harm to livestock and wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 1:30 pm
Room 211

In Support of SB 2512 SD 1 Relating to Animals

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2512 SD 1, which increases penalties for animal desertion.

Deserting unwanted cats, dogs, rabbits, and other pets is not only cruel and a threat to human health and safety, it also contributes to the feral animal population and predation of native birds and other species.

Please support SB 2512 SD 1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**TO: Honorable Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Dela Cruz
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 1, 2016, 130pm**

**FROM: Inga Gibson, Hawaii Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the
United States, igibson@humanesociety.org, 808.354.3211**

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB2512; Relating to animals, pet abandonment

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States members and supporters across Hawaii we urge your support of SB2512, which would increase the penalties for the intentional abandonment of a pet animal. **There is no fiscal appropriation or funding request in this bill**, which is supported by statewide humane societies who contract with each county to enforce this provision along with other animal related statutes and ordinances.

Pets depend on people for care and compassion. Abandoned pets can become the victim of starvation, disease, injury, death or cruelty. Abandoned pets who are unsterilized may also reproduce and contribute to pet overpopulation, which increases the financial burden on animal care and control agencies and taxpayers. Abandoned pets, such as hunting dogs, have also been known to harm native wildlife. Further, in looking at abandonment laws across the nation, Hawaii's law is one of the weakest in the nation, only a petty misdemeanor with a fine of \$50, since not otherwise specified in existing statute. Other states classify animal abandonment as a misdemeanor or even a felony.

The purpose of this measure is to encourage pet owners who must find a home for their pet to work with local shelters and rescue groups on rehoming options, and not to simply abandon or desert their pets. Pets are family members and there are resources to help keep pets in their home and strengthen the human-animal bond. In addition, increasing fines would deter a person from intentionally abandoning a pet animal.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

From: hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: WAM 3-1-16 SB2512 - Pls Support
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 9:56:44 AM

RE: SB2512 - Pet Abandonment - Support

Dear WAM Legislators:

On behalf of the many supporters of HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping abandoned cats in Hawaii for over 23 years, I strongly urge you to pass this bill to provide needed added protection for animals who completely trust and depend on the humans who adopt them to care for them responsibly. Our animal companions provide us with unconditional love and loyalty and deserve the same from us. Unfortunately, many animals whose irresponsible humans have abandoned them need our help to survive.

Our community needs strong laws that will pursue justice for these animals and seek to hold accountable those humans who have callously abandoned their pets.

Please support this bill SB2512 relating to the abandonment of animals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christin Matsushige, President
HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION
1000 Bishop St Ste 1200
Honolulu HI

The Senate version of the abandonment bill is scheduled for a hearing [this Tuesday at 130pm](#). Please email "WAM [3-1-16](#) Support SB2512; pet abandonment" to WAMTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov The House bill, HB2245, also goes to a vote on Tuesday and had tremendous support. Thank you all!



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong support of SB 2512 SD 1 Relating to Animals
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, Mar. 1, 1:30 pm, Room 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda and members of the committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, President of Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP), and I am testifying in strong support of SB 2512 which increases penalties for animal abandonment. I have been involved in animal rescue for almost 20 years, was a Director at Hawaiian Humane Society, and a founder and president of Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals before I started PDP.



For those of us doing rescue, animal abandonment is a regular part of our lives. On an evening in Ewa Beach when we were trapping cats at a local beach part to be sterilized as part of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), a truck pulled up and the driver got out with a basket and dumped a cat into the parking lot. The cat had a collar but no microchip. We confronted the man and he admitted it was his neighbor's cat. Two years ago, I got a call that 2 mastiff-mix dogs were sitting on the side of the road in Barber's Point – at the same spot every day. They had been there for 3 months and people were feeding them. Typical of dumped dogs – they were waiting for their owner to return. Lucy and Linus now weigh over 100 pounds each and are still with me. Just recently, we picked up a very emaciated pit bull at the golf course. Although microchipped, his owners' contact information was not current. Ozzie is currently living with me and recovering from his ordeal. And just a week ago, we rescued 10 puppies dumped in a box on the side of the road.



We are tired of the dumping. In January, a woman dumped a mommy dog and her puppy on Paaeka Rd. in Nanakuli – tying the mommy to the fence but allowing the puppy to roam on a busy road where many animals are often hit. The owner of the property (a PDP board member) had surveillance cameras and was able to get the make of the car and license plate number. Within hours after posting photos of the car and the dogs all over social media, we had the name and address of the owner of the car and found out she DID own these dogs and DID dump them in Nanakuli. Hawaiian Humane Society was called and the woman was cited. We are supporting the prosecution of this woman to deter other people from dumping animals but we need greater penalties as well along with a mandate for microchip identification to track down irresponsible owners.

PDP ends up covering the health care expenses of all these animals that we rescue which has a financial impact on us. While the toll on their lives has been an emotional one, we will continue to care for them because the alternative is likely euthanasia. And while some may be sick or face serious health challenges, we believe they deserve better. At a minimum – they deserve shelter from the elements, fresh water and food, and a little TLC after struggling to survive. Please help us hold these people accountable for their lack of compassion and caring. Mahalo for your consideration.

From: [A J MINOR](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2512
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 5:37:09 PM

Aloha,

Please register my support for SB 2512. Animals need our help, we are their voice.

Thanks

Andrea J Minor
Papaikou, HI

TESTIMONY FOR SB2512 SD1

03-01-16 1:30PM

February 19th, 2016

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz. Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

From: Damian Alonso

Subject: Support of SB2512 SD1

Aloha! My name is Damian Alonso and I am currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School on Oahu. I support SB2512 SD1, to increase penalties and establish a fine for animal desertion, and would like to request a hearing for the stated bill. As of right now, anybody who abandons an animal is guilty of a misdemeanor, but in order to lessen the amount of animal desertion in Hawaii, the penalties for it must be raised.

Deserting animals is not only terrible, morally, but also terrible for the animals and the state of Hawaii. Abandoned animals are most likely to suffer from starvation, disease, and/or injury. I strongly believe this bill, because the weak penalty right now has not stopped animal desertion and having a stronger penalty with a fine would deter animal desertion.

Deserting animals can also lead to loss of control, and loss of control can lead to over population of the animal. Over population would make animal shelters packed, and possibly harm the native Hawaiian wildlife as animals brought to Hawaii do not fit in with the Hawaiian ecosystem. Increasing the penalties and establishing a fine for deserting animals can lessen the chance of over population of animals in Hawaii.

Passing this bill would lower the amount of animals abandoned each year and make sure that all animals are taken care of properly and do not harm Hawaii. This is why I support this bill and I hope that you may consider my request for a hearing.

From: [Karen Boswell](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: WAM 3-1-16 support SB 2512; pet abandonment
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 10:58:43 AM

Please help support the animals of Hawaii. Thank you.

Karen H. Boswell, 73 Hale Nani St., Hilo, HI 96720

303-807-1233

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ollo1188@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 9:31:48 AM

SB2512

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Rae Gee
Email: raege2012@gmail.com
February 29, 2016

Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Legislature
House of the Senate
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda and Committee Members:

Subject: House Bill 2512, SD1 Relating to Stricter Penalties for Animal Deserters and Establishes a Fine for Abandoned Animals

I strongly urge you and the committee members to vote in favor of Senate Bill 2512, SD1,, Relating to Animals that provide stricter penalties for animals like cats and dogs and others that are abandoned by human cruelty. The bill provides stronger penalties and establishes a fine to those to prevent animal desertion by those that possess animals.

I encourage you to amend the bill to provide higher penalties than \$1,000 to \$2,000 penalties to those persons guilty of deserting, neglecting and harming animals. However, this is a great start to provide penalties to save our animals.

My animals are the divine's gift of unconditional love to me, please, please encourage others to be educated by this measure and not harm or desert the beloved animals by strongly urging the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Signed,
Rae Gee

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 11:33:24 AM

SB2512

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. If anything, the Committee should consider increasing the fine even further to \$5,000 and \$10,000. There is no excuse to abandon an animal when you can easier take in to the humane society where it at least has a chance of being adopted and getting a better home.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: viviansuet@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 6:33:14 PM

SB2512

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dumping of animals needs to stop. Not only is it inhumane it cost the community in so many ways. You can even make the penalties higher ! Mahalo,

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