SB 2512

SHAN S. TSUTSUI Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1428 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512 Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 10, 2016 3:20 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILLL NO 2512 RELATING TO ANIMALS

Chairperson Gabbard 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.



DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





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 RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ELAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

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 Committees on WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE and JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 3:20 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of SENATE BILL 2512 RELATING TO ANIMALS

Senate Bill 2512 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 humanintroduced 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 is complementary to additional legislation this session that would prohibit 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 of each measure is the release and care of feral cats. Together, these measures would reduce new introductions into feral cat colonies and prohibit the maintenance of colonies on state lands.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



TO: Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran and Committee Members Senate Water, Land and Agriculture and Judiciary Committees February 10, 2016, 3:20pm

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, and your consideration of a clarifying amendment below.

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 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. Other states classify 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.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of the below clarifying amendment that desertion shall not apply to the release of an animal as part of a population management program, which has the intent of helping the animals. While caregivers conducting trap-neuter-return management programs return to care for their animals, this amendment would further protect wildlife rehabilitators who may release animals as part of a population management program.

"[+]§143-2.6[+] Animal desertion. (a) It shall be unlawful for the

owner of any animal or any person in possession of an animal that

belongs to another person to leave the animal without the intention of

returning to it.

(b) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor[+] and subject to a fine of \$1,000 in addition to any other penalties; provided that if, as a result of the desertion,

the animal suffers death or substantial bodily injury, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a penalty of \$2,000 in addition to any other penalties; provided further that each violation shall constitute a separate offense per animal."

(c)this section shall not apply to the release of an animal as part of

a population management program.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:47:52 PM
Attachments:	2016 02.10 Leg .pages

Submitted on: 2/9/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

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.



Submitted by:Donna Whitaker, Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane SocietyDate:February 4, 2016RE:Support SB 2512
Relating to Animals

The Hawaii Island Humane Society joins with other Animal Welfare Agencies in the State of Hawaii in support of SB 2512 in order to better protect animals from inhumane conditions and needless suffering associated with abandonment and homelessness.

This bill would provide much needed protection for animals by bill increasing penalties for animal desertion.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the committee and we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.

Donna Whitaker Executive Director Hawaii Island Humane Society



Testmony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture And Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

> Hearing: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 3:20 pm Conference Room 224

In Support for SB 2512 Relating to Animals

Chair Gabbard, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2512, which increases penalties for animal desertion. Not only is deserting animals, including dogs, cat, and rabbits, cruel, it is also a threat to the environment and our native plants, animals, and ecosystems. These animals become feral and pray on native species, spread disease, and/or destroy native vegetation.

Please support SB 2512.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Mayrie Zuzle

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



Hawaiian Humane Society People For animals. Animals For people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 808.946 2187 • hawaiianhumane org

February 9, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor Hawaii State Capitol 425 South Beretania Street Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2512 Relating to Animals

Chair Gabbard, Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Hawaiian Humane Society is pleased to offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2512, a bill that proposes to increase the penalties for animal abandonment.

No one knows the number of pets that are abandoned in Hawaii each year. What we do know is that it is cruel and inhumane. Increasing penalties and improving education are two ways to prevent animal abandonment and suffering. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Mary Steiner Policy Advocate

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

From:	Mary Wilder
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SUPPORT SB2512; Pet abandonment
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:12:46 AM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran,

I am in support of SB2512 to increase penalties for the intentional abandonment of a pet animal. I am the Managing Director of Kauai Community Cat Project and we see an alarming number of cats that have been dumped or abandoned on a daily basis. With our main mission being TNR, this irresponsible behavior makes it an uphill battle for us - especially because people aren't held accountable or penalized.

I BELIEVE THIS BILL (SB2512) TO DETER PET ABANDONMENT, ALONG WITH INCREASED FUNDING FOR SPAY-NEUTER, SHOULD REPLACE SB2450.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE be a part of the solution to this inhumane treatment of animals in Hawaii. We work tirelessly and passionately to help our Kauai community cats and now we desperately need YOUR HELP!

Mahalo nui loa,

Mary

Mary Wilder Managing Director Kauai Community Cat Project kauaicommunitycats.org mary@kauaicats.org 760-525-9667 cell



Submitted on: 2/4/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments: Many people in my area of small farms get animals dumped all the time. I wind up trapping them, spaying and neutering them, feeding them, rehoming them and/or allowing them to live on the farm. This is not my job. My farm suffers due to people's lack of responsibility. Increase the penalties for animal abandonment.

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Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edwin Lesperance	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I approve of raising the fines, however, we need some legislation for improved enforcement. People are still abandoning animals and not getting caught or fined.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	jamisona@hawaii.edu
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:14:56 PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis E. Jamison	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Animal abandonment is an enormous problem in Hawaii and is the reason for overcrowded shelters, high euthanasia rates at the Hawaiian Humane Society, and increased feral cat colonies. Please support this bill, as the lives of animals matter and animal abandonment will continue if there are not harsher penalties for doing so. Please pass this bill and show the constituents in our state that the government cares about the lives of animals and will show an increased effort to protect their lives and penalize those who add to the animal overpopulation problem. Without stricter penalties and efforts to enforce abandonment laws, the pet overpopulation problem will continue to grow and people will continue to view animals as disposable.

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Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Asato	Individual	Support	No

Comments: KILL BILL 2450.

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Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. Dog and cat desertion is a serious problem in Hawaii and the problem will not get better, apparently, until fines upon irresponsible owners are legislated.

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Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Mello	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support stronger penalties for desertion/abandonment/mistreatment of animals. I think this is a step in the right direction for both preventing cruelty AND controlling predators. If people were more afraid of abandoning an animal (because of fines) then there would be less feral animals destroying wildlife and habitat. Please pass this bill and work on one for stronger penalties for abuse/mistreatment of animals as well.

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I am writing in to give my **full support** to SB2512. Those who would willingly abandon an animal deserve the harshest fines the state can enforce. The fines proposed are a good start. The higher the better in my opinion.

Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bri Harvey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a wonderful bill and I absolutely support it. Hawaii has a reputation for harboring a culture of animal cruelty and neglect. The shelters here are always full beyond capacity from abused and most often abandoned animals that have to be rescued from terrible situations. Raising the penalty for animal abandonment and consequences suffered to the animal after abandonment is definitely a step in the right direction. People should have to face harsher punishments/penalties for animal abandonment. It causes unnecessary suffering on the part of the animal, distress on those in the community that work so hard to help these animals and further spreads the reputation that Hawaii is a terrible place when it comes to animal welfare. I truly believe this bill should be passed and that it will have a positive effect on the community, both human-wise and animal-wise. As this bill (SB2512) is a positive solution to a troubling problem, I urge the bill SB2450 be opposed as to some extent it goes against this bill and will have a very negative impact on Hawaii's reputation as well as a negative impact on the community.

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From:Carole RichelieuTo:WLA TestimonySubject:SUPPORT SB2512; Pet abandonmentDate:Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:45:49 AM

--Carole R. Richelieu crr@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Spitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill! Animal cruelty has no place in our society! Mahalo!

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	AKOE002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM*
Date:	Monday, February 08, 2016 3:52:01 PM

Submitted on: 2/8/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	Ginger Towle
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SB2512 - Increasing penalties for pet abandonment- SUPPORT
Date:	Sunday, February 07, 2016 5:30:01 PM

TO -WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 3:20 p.m.

Bill SB.2512. -Increasing penalties for pet abandonment.

Chairs - Gabbard & Keith-Agaran

We are supposed to be care takers of the animal world. Protect those who cannot protect themselves. To abandon an animal means you have thrown them away. You don't care! They are not garbage. This attitude and these actions are not acceptable and should never be tolerated.

I have been involved in animal welfare for almost 40 years here in Hawaii and it's next to impossible to correct this or any problem without the proper laws. I have seen how effective spay/neuter programs are here in Kona....it is making a difference but we all need more help! We need to keep having more clinics, however, people also need to learn that If they continue this heartless practice there will be stiff penalties for such behavior.

Hawaii has one of the weakest abandonment laws in the nation. We have not extended the aloha spirit to them and it's high time we correct this oversight..

We also need additional funding for more spay/neuter clinics. This is a very necessary step to accomplish our goal of no more litters of puppies and kittens dumped along the highway etc. Right now all humane agencies work diligently to do as much as they can in the spay/neuter programs but they all need help.

SB2512 should replace SB2450.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

Ginger Towle - President West Hawaii Humane Society Box 1208 Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96740 808-329-2051

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	hilson.reidpath@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Monday, February 08, 2016 12:37:38 AM

Submitted on: 2/8/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hilson Reidpath	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish to express my strong support for SB2512 which would increase the penalty for animal abandonment in Hawaii. The issue of stray animals, particularly cats, has become a topic of hot debate recently, with many proponents of euthanasia and other heavy handed techniques arguing for capital-punishment, end-game solutions that fail to address the central parts of the problem. One of the main impetuses for so many stray cats in Hawaii is because they are an untold number of irresponsible and selfish owners who abandon their pets, thus laying their perceived burden onto the rest of the community at the sake of the animal's well being. The logic is simple, if there is stronger disincentive to be a responsible pet owner, their will be less stray animals in the end. As such, I strongly urge the committee members to support this bill.

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Submitted on: 2/8/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	jfischer@hawaii.edu
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:44:17 PM

Submitted on: 2/4/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joel fischer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB2512: PLEASE PASS THIS BILL! Animal desertion is perhaps the most awful thing a person can do to a pet. That pet may be condemned to a short and brutal life on the streets...OR WORSE! Ironically, my dog Ipo was deserted in Wahiawa, and - thank God- picked up by the Humane Society where I was able to adopt her. But I am still amazed that someone would just desert a wonderful dog like Ipo. So, I completely support penalties for these cowardly deserters. After all, there are so many facilities where unwanted pets can be dropped off and subsequently adopted. Desertion is truly the cowardly way out. Thank you for supporting this bill. Aloha, joel Dr. Joel Fischer Professor (RET.) UH, Manoa

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	makahacondo@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Sunday, February 07, 2016 10:18:24 PM

Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Sabin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Stop the problem at the source - criminals who are dumping animals at our beaches,parks and rural areas after they decide they no longer want to provide care for these commitments they agreed to. We all have hard times, let there be a grant that allows a person to take their animal to a shelter without a cost to surrender and those who still continue to dump should be convicted to the highest standard the law has available, A FELONY!

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	petrask001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Monday, February 08, 2016 9:45:40 PM

Submitted on: 2/8/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Petras	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the strongest penalties possible for those convicted of animal abandonment. As a rescuer of many abandoned and abused animals, I have seen the horrific ordeals the animals go through when dumped, and I support any measure to help prevent this from happening.

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Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
karen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No reason for an animal to suffer because of a lazy human. There are humane society's that can help out unwanted animals. It should be a hatch penalty since it is so common here in Hawaii

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Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard, Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB2512 by increasing penalties for animal desertion substantially. The amount of abandoned and stray pets on our islands is outrageous. Animal desertion is contributing to increased animal control costs and increased euthanasia rates at our local animal shelters, burdening tax payers.

I feel sad for the animals left to fend for themselves, as well as a safety concern for our communities, and possibly threatened indigenous wildlife.

Hawaii's current animal desertion statute has failed to adequately deter animal abandonment and needs to be strengthened by not punishing the animals being deserted but rather holding the perpetrators committing this selfish act accountable.

Sincerely,

Karin Riedel,

Keaau/Big Island

Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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Aloha Senate,

This is in support of SB2647, SB2642 and SB2512. Endangered sea animals should be protected! These animals which provide such valuable support to our ecosystem need a chance to regain their population and grow their numbers before their species is disappeared from our earth forever. My grandchildren and their grandchildren deserve to grow up in a world where they can see these animals, too! Please represent the people and vote in support of SB2647, SB2642 and SB2512!

With Love,

Kristen Moux Kristen Moux Events Chat: 389-7421 Write: hello@kristenmouxevents.com www.kristenmouxevents.com

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	pottishl001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:59:09 AM

Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support increased penalties to deter animal abandonment. This is cruel and is a big contributing factor to the population growth of free roaming cats. I would encourage increased funding for Spay/neuter services and have this bill with increased funding replace SB2450.

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Aloha,

I would like to submit my support of SB2512, which penalizes those caught deserting their pets. I assist with a feral cat colony (and earlier on submitted testimony opposing SB2450), and a huge part of the problem with the numbers of cats are those who dump their unneutered pets. It is an awful thing to do to your pet, and really spikes the number of feral animals all over the state. If this is addressed, all while making it easier and cost effective to neuter pets, the population increases in feral animals will decrease, as long as the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts are also supported. A HUMANE solution is what I and many others are hoping and working towards.

Mahalo for your time.

Lee A. Cuccia

Kailua, HI

Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is occurring more and more. There are no ramifications to abandoning an animal.

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Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Greentree	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Giesick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As someone who has worked with Animals over 30 years, I have seen the tragedy of animal who have been abandoned. Starvation, injuries, and abuse are an awful way to live. There are options. Shelters exist to care for unwanted pets. It would be a step in the right direction to pass this piece of legislation. People need to be more responsible. Mahalo

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From:	<u>M Markl</u>
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SB2512
Date:	Sunday, February 07, 2016 10:25:43 PM

Please make harsher penalties for those ignorant or insensitive people who think their cats, dogs or other pets will instinctively know what to do in the wild. Primarily they have deep need for attachment, safety, security, food and water just like us. The emotional and physical attachment is deep and if after we who are also from the animal kingdom, were flung into the competitive wild, we would be in deep shock, hurt and terrified. Also finding clean water, food especially if they had no prior experience doing it as well as any attack wounds could be lethal to them, just as if we were flung into the wilderness empty handedness. Please prosecute such people strongly and now for their lack of compassion for the animals sake. It is in large part, irresponsible people who create such suffering for these innocent animals.

From:	<u>M Markl</u>
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SB2512
Date:	Sunday, February 07, 2016 10:45:53 PM

I would like to add from my recent email that overpopulation of these innocent animals are often caused by such people and that they often neglect to get their pet fixed, causing immeasurable pain to the animals and their offspring who themselves have done nothing wrong or anything different from us in trying to survive. If we want compassion for ourselves from life and for a more humane world, we must give compassion to the innocent animals. For those people who could be so callous to do such things, they should send them out to the wilderness for a week to experience the terror their actions subject those innocent animals to. Thank you.

From:	Mary James
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SB2512, Feb 10, 2016, hearing
Date:	Monday, February 08, 2016 7:56:02 PM

I support this bill. Pet abandonment not only is animal cruelty, putting domesticated animals in tremendous danger, it also increases the number of roaming animals, a major reason for the need for the trap, neuter, return, and manage program (TNRM). This bill along with more funding for spay/neuter programs should take the place of SB2450, set for hearing on Friday Feb 12, 2016 by WLA/EET. This measure plus support for spay/neuter programs will decrease the population of roaming cats which is also the purpose of TNRM.

Mary James, M.S., University of Hawaii <u>felinitous@yahoo.com</u>

From:	mary & robert
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SUPPORT SB2512; Pet Abandonment
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 2:05:09 PM

Please pass this bill for increasing penalties for pet abandonment. Pets depend on people for care and compassion. Abandoned pets can become victims of injury, starvation or death. This bill would increase penalties for the intentional abandonment of a pet animal to deter such cruelty. Hawaii currently has one of the weakest abandonment laws in the nation.

It is wrong for people to accept pets into their home or part of their family, and then abandon them when it is no longer convenient for them to have as a part of their family any longer. And they are teaching our keiki that it is ok to do this which creates a pattern that never ends. There are other options. That is why humane societies and shelters exist. Or taking the time to find another home for their pet. Pet owners need incentive to show responsibility for their commitments, even for pets. Abandoning their pets may relieve their conscience since they can think oh, they'll find a way and be okay, but it is denial and is not solving the problem and is laziness.

On a personal note, I am feeding many cats on my back lanai due to them being abandoned. And have already had them spayed/neutered.

This bill, to deter pet abandonment, along with increased funding for spay-neuter, should replace SB2450.

Mahalo, Mary Menacho

Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Pillen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In addition to strongly SUPPORTING SB2512, I urge lawmakers to kill SB2450. If Hawaii wants to decrease the feral cat population, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only humane and effective solution. Feral cats are the same species as pet cats, but feral cats are not adoptable because they are not socialized to people. Under TNR, cats are humanely trapped, neutered, and vaccinated and returned to their outdoor homes. The feral cat population stabilizes and decreases.

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	mmmahalo2000@aol.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 6:40:33 PM

Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Since elected officials cannot be experts in all things, voters expect you seek information from credible guys in the field of endeavor. Doing so with so called "animal bills"means listening to those who work with them. Dogs provide countless ways to help humans expecting little in return, so humans who abandon them should be severely reprimanded and punished. Let's bring HI up to the national standard. Please approve. Mahalo. Mike Moran, Maui

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Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	WLA Testimony
Cc:	changeamerica@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2512 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM
Date:	Sunday, February 07, 2016 1:14:44 PM

Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Abandoning animals is wrong. So is chaining animals up fulltime. Hawaii is infamous for being cruel to animals, look at the Rooster Fighting Yards we see everywhere where Roosters are chained and obvious for Cock Fighting and that gets no attention. There is one of these places right next to the Police Station in Pahoa, yet we do nothing and let it continue? THIS IS WRONG!! FIGHT THIS CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMALS IN ANY FORM PLEASE! Cultural practices may allow for cruelty but this must not be accepted, change these cultural practices by education and fighting for new standards!

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From:	Rosemary Karlsson
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SB2512 - increase penalties for pet abandonment
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 10:50:01 AM

I have done dog rescue for 16 years and have seen first-hand how much dogs and cats suffer from being dumped on the road or left behind when someone moves. First there is the emotional damage, but the dogs & cats also starve, have no water, get very sick, get hit by cars, and get fleas and other parasites.

The state should also provide funding for FREE spay/neuter of cats & dogs. It pays off after a few years and would save millions for the taxpayers. The state of New Hampshire did this over 10 years ago. State funding & lots of public service announcements, publicity, and such.

I attached a pic of a dog that was abandoned (the owner told a mutual friend that she had abandoned her when she moved, the mutual friend found & brought me the dog). After I took her in, she died 7 weeks later of illness that the original owner never treated, and was totally preventable.

Please replace SB2450 with SB2512.

Rosemary Karlsson PO Box 492266 Keaau, HI 96749 808-966-6589 Physicial address: 16-1885 Uilani Drive, Keaau.

Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I would like to testify in support of this bill to address the issue of abandoned animals.

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Support SB2512

Sue Leonard 1425 Liliha Street #11D Honolulu, HI 96817

310-344-8282

From:	Susan S Scott
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	Support SB2512
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 10:50:46 AM

Pet abandonment on Kauai is a huge problem since our Humane Society is known to be a high kill "shelter". Many are dumped on state lands. This, in addition to the low number of people who neuter pets, results in too many homeless animals. Passing this bill is a step in the right direction.

Providing funding for spay/neuter and implementing TNR programs is more humane and more effective than SB2450, which is going to make the problem worse. Tourists and residents alike are going to feed hungry animals no matter what the law says. Making sure they are fixed will eventually result in many fewer on the landscape.

Mahalo,

Sue Scott 6931 Pomaikai St Kapaa, HI 96746

"The soul is the same in all living creatures...although the body of each is different".

Submitted on: 2/8/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support the is bill for the animals and don't leave this to starve or be abused by others. Humans need to be humane with all living beings.

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From:	Sylvia Rogers
To:	WLA Testimony
Subject:	SUPPORT SB2512; Pet abandonment
Date:	Monday, February 08, 2016 6:40:05 PM

I am in complete support of SB2512 and I feel strongly that this bill to deter pet abandonment, along with increased funding for spay-neuter, should replace SB2450. The abandonment of pets is a major contributing factor in the growth of homeless cat colonies and to the suffering of these animals. I can personally testify to the fact that if pets are not abandoned to these colonies, and if the cats can be spayed or neutered, the colonies would eventually shrink in size. I feed kitties in a small colony that is not known to a lot of people so not many pets are abandoned there. The rare time that kittens were abandoned to this colony, these kittens, including a sweet little Siamese cat, were trapped and fortunately were able to be adopted to homes. Over the approximately five to six years that I have been feeding this particular colony the size has decreased from 23 cats to only 3 cats. This is because all the cats were spayed or neutered and not many pets were abandoned there. Sadly, there are many areas where pets are abandoned faster than they can be trapped and spayed or neutered so those colonies grow. There are wonderful people who work tirelessly for the feeding, care, trapping, spaying, neutering and general wellbeing of these unfortunate creatures, but they cannot keep up with so many pets that are abandoned. Educating the public to NOT abandon their pets and increasing deterrents would, hopefully, help those who are working so hard for the humane treatment of these animals.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Sylvia Rogers

Submitted on: 2/9/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tony hunstiger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill will encourage people to be responsible pet owners and will provide penalties for those who are not. I support this bill and I urge you to pass it.

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Submitted on: 2/9/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Please pass this humane legislation. Hawaii needs a strong law to deter abandonment of pets and the suffering and death that abandonment can cause.

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Submitted on: 2/9/2016 Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Kushima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We whole heartedly support this measure. We wish to thank the compassionate legislatures for writing a bill that will actually help and not harm abandoned, abused, mistreated pets.

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