



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong support of SB 2512 Relating to Animals

Senate Committees on Water, Land and Agriculture, and Judiciary and Labor
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 3:20 pm, Room 224

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran 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. I 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 to be sterilized at a local beach part, 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. And 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.



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.