

# SB2698

Measure Title:	RELATING TO STUDENT INFORMED CONSENT.
Report Title:	Student Informed Consent to Animal Dissection and Vivisection
Description:	Allows public school students in grades K through 12 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection and other procedures harmful to animals. Prompts schools to make alternative educational projects available, and the board of education to develop rules and give notice to all schools.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	EDU, JDL
Introducer(s):	SLOM, ESPERO, GABBARD, INOUE, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, Chun Oakland, Keith-Agaran, Nishihara, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/01/2016  
**Time:** 01:15 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2698 RELATING TO STUDENT INFORMED CONSENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows public school students in grades K through 12 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection and other procedures harmful to animals. Prompts schools to make alternative educational projects available, and the board of education to develop rules and give notice to all schools.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) takes no position on SB 2698 regarding student informed consent and educational alternatives to dissection and vivisection of animals and offers the following comments.

Existing Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) policy and Department regulations guide school choice regarding use of dissection as a pedagogical approach to studying organisms, structures, and processes in life science. Board policies 105.1, Academic Program, and 105.3, Curriculum, outline the role of schools in making curricular and instructional decisions to provide a quality, standards-based academic program.

Further, Board policy 101.13 (formerly 2210), Controversial Issues, and its related regulation describe the opt-out process for lessons or activities that may be considered controversial. The process includes parent/guardian notification, options for parents/guardians to exclude students from specific instructional activities, and providing alternative learning opportunities for students. An annual memorandum on this subject is distributed to all complex area superintendents, principals and teachers.

For the committee's information, the primary professional organizations for teachers of science (National Science Teachers Association, NSTA) and biology (National Association of Biology Teachers, NABT) support the choice of teachers and schools in using safe, responsible dissection as a method for teaching and learning about structures and processes of organisms. Both organizations encourage teachers to provide alternative activities to students who object to dissection. However, these organizations call attention to the possible limitations of these types

of alternate activities in achieving the same learning objectives as dissection.

Given the Board policies and Department regulations currently in place, we respectfully submit that this measure is not needed at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2698.



## THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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January 29, 2016

### Re: **SUPPORT of SB 2698, Student Informed Consent to Animal Dissection and Vivisection**

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee (Sen. Kidani, Sen. Harimoto, Sen. Chun Oakland, Sen. Dela Cruz, Sen. Kahele, , Sen. Riviere, and Sen. Slom),

On behalf of the Hawaii-based supporters of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), please accept this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2698, Student Informed Consent to Animal Dissection and Vivisection.**

Dissection choice provides students with the opportunity to participate in high quality biology education activities without participating in instructional methods that involve the killing of animals.

A significant and growing proportion of students at all educational levels have objections—ethical, religious, and otherwise—to harming animals for learning activities. Research shows that students may be unable to learn new information when they feel forced to participate in, or watch their peers participate in, activities that harm animals. Some students are even dissuaded from pursuing careers in science.

Dissection choice legislation will help create a more inclusive learning environment, guarantee that students will be provided with meaningful alternative assignments, and ensure that students will not be punished for their ethical or religious beliefs.

Alternatives to dissection (e.g., computer programs, DVDs, lifelike models) have been shown to teach anatomy and biology as well as or better than traditional animal-based lessons, offering enhanced potential for the customization and repeatability of learning exercises. Dozens of comparative studies have demonstrated that students who choose alternative methods perform as well as or better than students who dissect animals.

High school dissection activities are not a prerequisite for any veterinary or medical school. The overwhelming majority (>90%) of medical schools (including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Stanford) have eliminated use of animals in teaching. Computer-based methods and anatomical simulators are being used for teaching everything from basic physiology to hands-on trauma care and even microsurgical techniques.

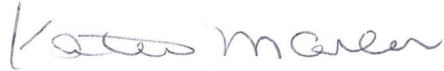
In terms of the benefits to educators, studies have shown that alternative methods are more time and cost efficient in general than animal-based teaching methods: They require less set-up time and less clean-up time for teachers, and cost thousands of dollars less than animal specimens (some are web-based and available for free), last for years, and do not need to be re-ordered for each incoming class.

In 2008, the National Science Teachers Association amended its official position statement to acknowledge the educational efficacy of non-animal replacements for dissection. The National Association of Biology Teachers also encourages educators to be receptive to students' objections to harming animals and to provide them with alternative assignments in place of dissection when requested.

Currently, 20 states have laws or policies allowing K-12 students to opt-out of dissection and other animal-based classroom exercises.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Conlee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Conlee  
Vice President, Animal Research Issues

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
To: [EDU Testimony](#)  
Cc:  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2698 on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM  
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 9:05:13 AM  
Attachments: [testimony.pdf](#)

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**SB2698**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sydney Ross Singer	Good Shepherd Foundation	Support	No

Comments: We strongly SUPPORT this bill. It is imperative that students be given a choice to not participate in educational experiences which involve cruelty or the suffering or destruction of animals. The use of animals in education creates a lasting emotional impression on children. This is why humane education should be part of the curriculum, showing children how to respect and care for animals and helping children develop their senses of empathy and compassion. On the other hand, vivisection creates emotional detachment and desensitizes children to the suffering of animals. This can leave emotional scars on sensitive students who love animals, and may deter compassionate students from entering the biological sciences. There are many ways to education students about anatomy, physiology, and psychology without the use of animals. These alternatives should be offered to all students. We also encourage any school which uses vivisection to present to their students the pros and cons and ethical issues related to using animals in education and research. This would help students understand that the use of animals in education and science is a controversial subject. Mahalo to the senators who submitted this Bill. Sincerely, Sydney Ross Singer Medical Anthropologist Director, Good Shepherd Foundation

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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Good Shepherd Foundation  
P.O. Box 1880  
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778  
808-935-5563

**Testimony on SB 2698 Relating to Student Informed Consent**

We strongly SUPPORT this bill. It is imperative that students be given a choice to not participate in educational experiences which involve cruelty or the suffering or destruction of animals.

The use of animals in education creates a lasting emotional impression on children. This is why humane education should be part of the curriculum, showing children how to respect and care for animals and helping children develop their senses of empathy and compassion.

On the other hand, vivisection creates emotional detachment and desensitizes children to the suffering of animals. This can leave emotional scars on sensitive students who love animals, and may deter compassionate students from entering the biological sciences.

There are many ways to education students about anatomy, physiology, and psychology without the use of animals. These alternatives should be offered to all students.

We also encourage any school which uses vivisection to present to their students the pros and cons and ethical issues related to using animals in education and research. This would help students understand that the use of animals in education and science is a controversial subject.

Mahalo to the senators who submitted this Bill.

Sincerely,

Sydney Ross Singer  
Medical Anthropologist  
Director, Good Shepherd Foundation

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [EDU Testimony](#)  
Cc:  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2698 on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM  
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 4:49:20 PM

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**SB2698**

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Green	Animalearn	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing on behalf of Animalearn, a nationwide humane science education program that represents thousands of constituents, to ask you to support SB 2698, which would require K-12 public schools to make educational alternatives to the dissection and vivisection of animals available to all students. While some schools may already have policies in place to accommodate student requests for an alternative to animal dissection, it is not afforded to all students throughout the state. Students in one school may find accommodation for their individual ethical or religious beliefs, but students in another school may face a failing grade in science for acting on those beliefs. The sponsors of this legislation find that advancements in science education now make it possible for schools to respect each student's ethical, moral or religious position regarding the humane treatment of animals without sacrificing learning objectives. There are, in fact, many educationally effective alternatives to dissection available, both online and through free loan programs, such as Animalearn's The Science Bank, which offers a variety of innovative software programs, realistic models and mannikins that provide an equal or superior educational experience without making students choose between their moral convictions and the study of science. Please vote in favor of SB 2698, to ensure that students in Hawaii have access to humane alternatives and can exercise their informed consent to request them instead of participating in animal dissection or vivisection in the classroom. Thank you for your consideration.

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**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2698 on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2016 3:11:16 AM

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**SB2698**

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Hairgrove	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear Senate Education Committee:

I am writing today to express my support of Senate Bill No. 2698 relating to informed student consent.

I very strongly believe that Hawaii should adopt a law giving students the choice to opt out of animal dissection exercises without penalty and be given access to dissection alternatives. As the Director of Science Programs at the National Anti-Vivisection Society, an Advanced Lecturer in the Biology department at Loyola University Chicago and a scientist who has undergone extensive graduate and post-graduate training, I believe that alternatives to animal dissection in the classroom have a number of advantages over traditional animal dissection exercises.

Advancements in technology have led to the widespread availability of free and fee-based interactive virtual dissection alternatives designed to work on tablets, laptops and desktops that provide students with effective ways to learn biology while integrating technology in the classroom.

Several studies comparing the efficacy of student learning when using animal dissection or alternatives have concluded that alternatives can be used to meet most learning objectives and that students using non-animal alternatives perform *as well as or better than* students using animal models.

Alternatives are less expensive than traditional animal dissection and require less class time for preparation and cleanup, giving students the ability to work at their own pace and repeat virtual dissections numerous times, which can increase their ability to retain information. Many virtual alternatives include detailed background information on specimens, as well as built-in self-assessment, further enhancing students' learning experiences and enabling them to gauge whether they have met the learning objectives of the exercise.

Importantly, students are interested in using dissection alternatives. A recent survey conducted on behalf of the National Anti-Vivisection Society and published in *The American Biology Teacher* in May 2015 indicated that *4 out of 10* biology students would prefer using dissection alternatives rather than animal specimens in biology class.

Please pass this legislation to ensure that Hawaii joins the 15 states that have already adopted policies or laws to accommodate students whose moral, ethical or religious principles make them unwilling to dissect a once-living animal.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill.

Pam Osenkowski, Ph.D.  
Director of Science Programs  
National Anti-Vivisection Society  
Advanced Lecturer in Biology  
Loyola University Chicago

**From:** [Pamela Davis](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB2698  
**Date:** Saturday, January 30, 2016 7:10:24 AM

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**Monday, February 1, 2016**

**1:15 PM**

**Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Conference Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813**

I believe that students in the state should have the right to opt out of classroom dissection exercises.

Therefore, I am in support of SB 2698, which would permit "public school students in grades K through 12 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection and other procedures harmful to animals".

Pamela Davis  
2464 A Pali Highway  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
[liberate@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:liberate@hawaii.rr.com)

**From:**  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB 2698 - Students have the Right to Humane Science Education!  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2016 6:09:34 PM

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Dissection, vivisection and other procedures harmful to animals are cruel and inhumane. Students have the right **not** to participate in such procedures.

**Nancy R. Yamachi, R, CRS, GRI**  
**HAWAII RESOURCE REALTY**  
**1357 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 1080**  
**Honolulu, HI 96814**  
**(808) 973-0837:Direct**  
**(808) 371-1223: Cell**

**From:**  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** S.B.2698  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2016 7:50:38 PM

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Please allow students to opt out of any procedure that would be harmful to any animal.

Please put an end to all dissection, vivisection or anything that brings harm to animals.

Ginger Westerman  
P.O.B. 44  
Kailua, Hawaii  
96734-0044

808 386-6544

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2698 on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2016 7:12:43 PM

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**SB2698**

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I support this bill

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