DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT Twenty-Ninth State Legislature Regular Session of 2017 State of Hawai`i

February 1, 2017

RE: S.B. 700; RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY.

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Riviere and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in <u>support</u> of S.B. 700.

The purpose of S.B. 700 is to amend the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree to include indigenous birds. The Department believes that indigenous birds would be an appropriate fit within our existing animal cruelty laws, which already provide felony penalties for torture, mutilation or poisoning of pet animals and equine animals. It is unknown to the Department whether anyone in Hawaii owns indigenous birds, and as such, we would defer to any experts and the Committee regarding the proposed language on page 3, lines 6-9.

Hawaii is fortunate to still have some indigenous birds that are not endangered, and we should not wait for them to become endangered before taking measures to protect them. To our knowledge, the only indigenous land animals in Hawaii are the hoary bat and monk seal, which receive heightened protection as endangered species, so it would not be necessary to consider any broader terms for this bill to protect Hawaii's indigenous land animals.

For the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of S.B. 700. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

| From: | mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| Sent: | Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:37 AM | | |
| То: | AEN Testimony | | |
| Cc: | cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org | | |
| Subject: | Submitted testimony for SB700 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM | | |

SB700

Submitted on: 2/1/2017 Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel | An <mark>imal Rights Hawa</mark> i'i | Support | Yes |

Comments: We suggest emending the bill to include ALL birds - All birds deserve protection - not just "special" ones.

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.



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:15 pm Room 224

Support for SB 700 Relating to Animal Cruelty

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 700, which amends the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree to include indigenous birds.

We hope the proposed amendment will prevent future incidents such as the horrendous slaughter of moli (Laysan albatrosses) at the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve in December 2015.

Please send a strong message that we will not tolerate animal cruelty directed at wildlife. Please pass SB 700. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Mayrie Zuzla

Marjorie Ziegler

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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 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814 President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters

| From: | mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| Sent: | Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:54 AM | | |
| То: | AEN Testimony | | |
| Cc: | ninaalena@hotmail.com | | |
| Subject: | Submitted testimony for SB700 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM | | |

SB700

Submitted on: 2/1/2017 Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nina Alena Beatty | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: These birds are so important to our ecosystem and culture. Please pass this bill to further protect our indigenous birds in Hawai'i. People need to understand the importance of these precious animals that are slowly making a comeback. They also need mental help if they violate this law.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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 | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| Sent: | Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:00 PM | | |
| То: | AEN Testimony | | |
| Cc: | marissaphillips05@yahoo.com | | |
| Subject: | *Submitted testimony for SB700 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM* | | |

<u>SB700</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| marissa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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| From: | mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| Sent: | Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:57 PM | | |
| То: | AEN Testimony | | |
| Cc: | ahuntemer@aol.com | | |
| Subject: | Submitted testimony for SB700 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM | | |

SB700

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Huntemer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha and Chair and Committee Members. I am in full support of SB700. We need stronger protections for our native birds and animals. Our native plants and animals are under great pressure from habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change. It is essential that we do everything in our power to support their populations. This bill is a huge step in the right direction. Thank you. Angela Huntemer M.Ed. Public School Teacher. North Shore of Oahu resident

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