

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 2, 2011
Contact: Representative Thielen's Office
Phone:(808) 586-6480 Fax(808) 586-6481

REP. THIELEN INTERVIEWED REGARDING PUPPY MILLS

Representative Cynthia Thielen (50th District: Kailua, Kaneohe Bay) was recently interviewed by Tim Sakahara, HawaiiNewsNow, regarding her legislation requiring annual breeding permits for large scale commercial dog breeders. These bills specifically address the need to regulate "puppy farms" or "puppy mills".

"You purchase a dog tag for your dog, why don't we have the same kind of licensing for places that are raising large amounts of puppies," said Rep. Thielen in the televised news report, adding, "People would look at Hawaii and say you mean Hawaii lets this inhumane process go on, and they aren't doing anything about it?"

The two bills Rep. Thielen drafted and introduced are:

HB1192: Requires county animal control officers to establish permitting process for breeders. This bill defines large commercial dog breeders as a person, firm, partnership, corporation, pet store, or other association that has sold, whelped, transferred, or given away all or part of ten or more litters or thirty or more dogs during the preceding twelve months. Sales include retail as well as internet sales.

HB1148: Requires pet stores and large scale commercial dog breeders to provide purchasers of dogs with written statements of the dog's medical history and allows purchasers to return dogs to a breeder within a designated time frame for a refund or exchange if the dog has a pre-existing medical condition.

Rep. Thielen also commented that there are many responsible and caring hobby breeders which, for the most part, would not be impacted by this legislation. Even large scale commercial breeders could benefit from licensing which would reassure consumers that their puppies were whelped and raised in a quality and clean environment.

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