

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**APRIL 2, 2024
10:05 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1527, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1527, HD1, SD1. HB1527, HD1, SD1 amends HRS sections 471-2, 471-15, and 711-1008.5. Section 471-2 adds language provided that a person who is not licensed under this chapter shall not perform any surgical procedure on a pet animal, including but not limited to: cesarean section; ear cropping; tail docking; ventriculocordectomy also known as devocalization or debarking; onychectomy also known as declawing or dewclaw removal; or elastration or castration via banding. Pet animal is defined as having the same meaning as defined in section 711-1100, HRS.

Language is added to section 471-15 where conviction of subsection 471-2(2) violation is subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment of more than one year, or both. Section 711-1108.5, HRS is amended by adding the language "when the practices are performed by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 471" after (a) accepted veterinary practices; and removes "(c) cropping or docking as customarily practiced "as an activity that Section 711-1108.5 (1)(a) does not apply to.

The Department provides comments. The proposed amendment to section 711-1008.5 (2)(a) adding "when the practices are performed by a veterinarian licensed



under chapter 471” in reference to accepted veterinary practices may be too restrictive because veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, animal health technicians, and inspectors perform accepted veterinary practices that do not require a licensed veterinarian. Further, provision “(c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced” should not be deleted or it should be rephrased: (c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced in livestock.” Alternatively, if “(c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced” is deleted, the alternative “(c) Accepted livestock practices” should be inserted to replace it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 7:13:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of HB1527.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 29, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1527, HD1, SD1:
Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 10:05 a.m., Room 016 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1527, HD1, SD1, which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals; provides that a violation of the prohibition is a class C felony; clarifies that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices when the practices are performed by a licensed veterinarian; repeals exemption of cropping and docking as customarily practiced under the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree; and takes effect 7/1/2050.

This measure closes loopholes in the veterinary licensing and animal cruelty statutes that owners have used to operate on their own pet animals, or hire unqualified people to do so, resulting in pets being harmed by backyard surgeries ranging from ear-flap removal to cesarean sections.

We request that the bill be amended to take effect upon approval, as well as the following amendment to reconcile the penalties in HRS 711-1108.5 and HRS 471-15:

Page 4, line 11 to read: "*§471-15 Criminal penalties. (a) Any person convicted of violating section 471-2 shall have committed a misdemeanor and be subject to a fine not to exceed ~~[\$500]~~ \$1,000 or imprisoned ~~[not]~~ more than ~~[six months,]~~ one year, or both, provided that any person convicted of violating section 471-2 (2) shall have committed a class C felony.*

The Hawaiian Humane Society opposes cosmetic surgery on animals, but we are pleased that this measure would at least require that such procedures must be performed by a licensed veterinarian. It is a good step.

Surgical birth certainly should never be performed by anyone but a licensed veterinarian.

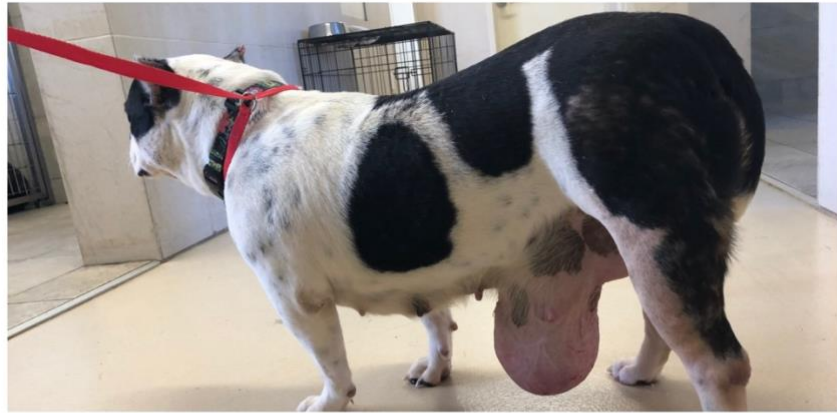
Exxy, an approximately 3-year-old bulldog mix, was brought into our care with a large ventral abdominal hernia and sent out for specialized surgery. The

Hawaiian Humane Society veterinarian who examined her and the veterinary surgeon who operated on her concurred that the injury was the result of a backyard cesarean section.

Exxy was lucky enough to survive the mutilation and get the care she needed, but it is safe to expect that many animals in similar situations die without ever making into the care of a shelter or veterinary clinic.

Many of these backyard surgeries are performed for profit-driven breeders who would rather make more money on the animals they sell than go to a licensed veterinarian for either necessary or cosmetic care. Allowing animals to be bred and sold for profit without regard for their welfare is sadly the norm in our state, but this is one harm we can prevent.

We urge the committee to pass HB 1527, HD1, SD1, with the suggested amendments and stop this form of animal cruelty. Mahalo for your consideration.



Exxy before and after surgery for an abdominal hernia, suspected to be secondary to a backyard C-section. She also has very short, cropped ears, which are prone to infection and usually an indication of amateur surgery.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 8:16:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Bill HB1527 Relating to Veterinary Medicine closes loopholes in your current veterinary licensing and animal cruelty statutes that allow non-veterinarians to perform certain painful surgical procedures on companion animals, and raises penalties. It has been a priority for animal welfare and the veterinary community for several sessions and it has advanced further than ever this year, despite some initial concerns by the ranching community. The bill was never intended to impede accepted farming and husbandry practices – though we wonder whether these are always humanely performed - We understand that has been clarified in the current version of the bill.

This measure will protect companion animals from having to endure backyard surgeries that are performed in unsanitary conditions without anaesthetic, which is appalling.

Victims of these harmful procedures are often seen by our colleagues the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
10:05 a.m.**

Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1527, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcella Chock, and I am the Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) prohibit animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals; (2) provide that a violation of the prohibitions is a class C felony; (3) clarify that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced when the procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian; and (4) repeal the exemption of cropping and docking as customarily practiced under the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree.

The Board recognizes that surgical procedures require proper training, knowledge of anatomy, and the ability to prescribe proper pain management therapeutics, which the typical pet owner or their employees would not have received or be able to access.

The Board requests that subsection (2)(C) "Tail docking" on page 2, line 6, either be removed in its entirety or amended to read: Tail docking or amputation of adult dogs. The Board makes this recommendation as it does not appear that complications appear in the tail docking of neo-natal puppies by owners. If subsection (2)(C) "Tail docking" is not removed from the list of on page 2, line 6, the Board recommends that page 5, line 7, not be stricken and remain in its current form, to read: "(c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced in livestock management."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



March 30, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: HB1527: Relating to veterinary medicine

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports House Bill 1527 prohibiting animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on their dogs and we hope you will consider expanding this prohibition to cats.

When harnessing the term surgical, we should take immediate pause. Surgical is something done with great precision, it is a specialty, and it relates to surgeons (those licensed to provide medical care). Surgical care should not be provided or performed by someone that is not trained and educated on how to create a hygienic and sanitary area, how to provide pain relief, how to provide after care antibiotics, how to respond in an emergency, and how to perform the precision needed for the operation. These procedures done by the unqualified have brought animals to KHS with infection, increase scar tissue, and more. The number of pets that did not survive these operations is unknown as it was too late for the Kaua`i Humane Society to help. Performing a surgical procedure without the qualifications constitutes animal cruelty.

We urge you to pass House Bill 1527 as it will promote responsible and safe care to dogs. It will end unnecessary suffering due to unlicensed pet owners acting as surgeons. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,
Nicole Schafer Crane
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society
nicole@kauaihumane.org



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HB1527 HD1 SD1
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **offers comments HB1527 HD1 SD1** which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals, and prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. They follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of their livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

To ensure that the restrictions do not apply to livestock, we ask for the "accepted livestock practices" to be added to the list of activities this bill does not apply to:

(2) Subsection (1)(a) shall not apply to:

- (a) Accepted veterinary practices; or
- (b) Activities carried on for scientific research governed by standards of accepted educational or medicinal practices; or
- (c) Accepted livestock practices.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 8:26:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will make the practices I do a felony. I follow good husbandry practices and can competently perform these procedures on my livestock.

This bill should be clarified to clearly state it does not apply to livestock

If this bill passes as written, it will be devastating to Hawaii's ranchers and all livestock producers

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 9:06:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Friel	Testifying for Haleakala Ranch Company	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HB1527 HD1 SD1

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 10:05 AM

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

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

I would like to **offer my comments to HB1527 HD1 SD1** which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals, and prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal.

Hawaii's ranchers are capable of safely performing these procedures on their livestock and must be able to continue these practices. They follow acceptable husbandry practices and the health and well-being of their livestock are of utmost importance. Taking away this ability and deeming it a Class C felony would put an undue burden on farmers and ranchers who are able to competently perform these procedures.

I have averaged over 1000 of these procedures over the past 40+ years, there is no veterinarian in this State that has done this many of these procedures. There would be an inability for every veterinarian in this State to be able to service the Livestock Industry in completing these procedures in a timely manner and at an affordable cost.

To ensure that the restrictions do not apply to livestock, we ask for the “accepted livestock practices” to be added to the list of activities this bill does not apply to:

(2) Subsection (1)(a) shall not apply to:

(a) Accepted veterinary practices; or

(b) Activities carried on for scientific research governed by standards of accepted educational or medicinal practices; or

(c) Accepted livestock practices.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter,

Gregory Friel

Livestock Manager/ Vice President

Haleakala Ranch Company



April 2, 2024

JDC Committee

RE: HB1527; Relating to Veterinary Medicine, SUPPORT with one amendment

Dear Chair Rhoads and Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

The Animal Welfare Institute **strongly supports HB1527 HD1 SD1 with one important amendment**, noted below, to ensure consistency in the proposed penalties.

This bill has long been needed to close a loophole in our first degree animal cruelty law that has shockingly exempted non-veterinarians from performing painful surgical procedures on animals, without access to pain medication, antibiotics to prevent infection and other critical pre and post-operative care that can only be provided under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. While numerous countries and municipalities across the US completely prohibit ear cropping, tail docking, de-clawing and other procedures, this bill would still allow for such procedures if performed by a licensed veterinarian. **Please note this measure does not apply to livestock, it only applies to pet animals as “pet animal” is defined in existing statute.** Further, the American Veterinary Medical Association opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes, as that remains the primary justification for such unnecessary procedures and thus, the AVMA also encourages the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards.

Locally, there have been countless cases of painful “home/backyard” ear cropping and tail cutting incidents done with scissors or garden shears and male dog “castration” being performed using rubber bands, which painfully restricts blood flow to the animals testicles and can result in death. Further, cases demonstrate that these incidents aren’t limited to a person doing this to their own animal, but performing these cruel and painful acts on animals belonging to others, falsely presenting themselves as veterinary medical experts and charging fees for these procedures.

Under existing law, if a person were to cut off or attempt to cut off any other part of an animal they would be rightfully charged with animal cruelty—whereas under current law there is no penalty for “customary” practices such as cropping or docking performed by any person. We ask the Committees to please amend the bill to ensure this gaping loophole is closed once and for all, that it is enforceable and holds those who victimize animals and their owners accountable.

The current version of the bill removes the exemption for “cropping and docking” of pet animals (does not apply to livestock) from our first-degree animal cruelty statute (711-1108.5), violations of which are a class C felony. However, under HRS 471-15, the bill only provides a misdemeanor penalty with a fine not to exceed \$1000 or one year in jail. To be consistent in removing the exemption for surgery on pet animals by non-veterinarians in our first-degree cruelty statute, and to avoid the requirement that prosecutors must default to the lesser misdemeanor charge, we recommend the penalty be raised to a class C felony, to read as follows:

Page 4, line 11 to read:

"§471-15 Criminal penalties. (a) Any person convicted of violating section 471-2 shall have committed a misdemeanor and be subject to a fine not to exceed [\$500] \$1,000 or imprisoned [not] more than [six months,] one year, or both, provided that any person convicted of violating section 471-2 (2) shall have committed a class C felony.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge your strong support.

Inga Gibson

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 6:28:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1527 as it relates to ranching.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 7:27:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Wood	Testifying for Parker Ranch	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it does not recognize the good animal husbandry practices that many livestock producers have been trained to perform and would

make our current production practices a

felony violation.

The bill needs to be clarified that it does not include livestock

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:32:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Unger	Testifying for McCandless Land & Cattle Co. LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state needs to find ways to encourage agriculture, not throw up more roadblocks and regulations.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 10:05a
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to **OPPOSE** HB 1527.

The intent of HB1527 is to prevent individuals from performing illegal surgery on dogs and cats. As a veterinarian and Chair of Hawaii Cattlemen's Council Animal Health and Well-being Committee, I strongly support the **intent** of this measure.

However, as written, the bill would also severely and negatively impact our agricultural community by limiting their ability to care for their livestock needs. Castration and tail docking of calves, lambs/kids and piglets are widely accepted practices that prevent injury and improve the overall well-being of livestock. The procedures are done by skilled livestock producers who adhere to best practices and low stress handling techniques. As a livestock veterinarian, I have worked with producers to develop herd health programs that follow recommended guidelines and have full confidence in their ability to perform these tasks safely and humanely.

HB1527, as written, would apply to all animals and would have a negative impact on our local food production.

I strongly recommend that the language of SB2562 be revised to limit the scope of the measure to dogs and cats.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wood, DVM
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Animal Health and Well-being, Chair



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

April 1, 2024

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: HB1527, HD1, SD1, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Judiciary,

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA) is in favor of this version of the bill, which closes the loophole currently allowing non-veterinarian owners from performing surgical procedures on their own pets. Veterinarians have extensive training in surgery, anesthesia, anesthetic monitoring, asepsis, and pain management; their expertise allows them to perform surgical procedures humanely and safely. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for local veterinarians to be asked to treat pets suffering from botched surgeries performed by non-veterinarians. We support ending the current legal practice of allowing pet owners and their employees from performing surgical procedures on their own pets.

We support HB1527, HD1, SD1's placement of the surgery restriction in Section 1(a)(2) as this specifically closes the pet owner loophole in question.

We request the following addition to Section 3(2) to protect the legality of acceptable livestock animal husbandry practices currently performed by non-veterinarians in the state:

Add to Section 3(2):

"(2) Subsection (1)(a) shall not apply to:

(a) Accepted veterinary practices;

(b) Activities carried on for scientific research governed by standards of accepted educational or medicinal practices;

~~(c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced.~~

(c) Accepted livestock practices."

Thank you for considering our testimony and recommendations for HB1527, HD1, SD1. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo".

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 7:26:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to prevent cruelty to animals by persons wanting to profit from unnecessary procedures.

Diane Ware

Volcano 96785

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 10:00:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia C	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support [HB1527 HD1](#), SD1.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 10:09:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Tomey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 10:09:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Zavodny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB1527 HD1 SD1.

Olivia Zavodny, Mō‘ili‘ili

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 11:11:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

For me, even clipping my birds nails was traumatizing for us. Especially since I cut them too close and sent my bird into shock.

Only one who is trained and certified should be doing any type of surgery on animals.

All animals need protection against needless suffering.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Joanne Parker

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 11:23:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1527. Thank you.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 11:58:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure closes loopholes in our veterinary medicine and animal cruelty statutes that allow non-veterinarians to perform certain painful surgical procedures on pet animals and raises penalties.

Hawaii Kai

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 6:08:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta J Freidus-Flagg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the ban on non-veterinarians performing procedures that should only be performed by veterinarians.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 8:27:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1527 HD1, SD1. i live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 6:18:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly supporting Bill HB1527 HD1 SD1

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 7:53:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHNNY KELLY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill must be passed! It must take affect NOW not 2050! How dumb can you lawmakers be? Do you like to have idiots operating on helpless animals? If you do you are a sick freak like the people engaging in this practice!!!

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SEN Karl Rhoads, Chair
SEN Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HB 1527_HD1 - RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

- DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- TIME: 10:05 AM
- PLACE: (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE) Conference Room 016, State Capitol

In Support

Thank you for the opportunity to articulate my support for this important bill. As a (rescue) pet owner and animal lover, I firmly support this effort to bring Hawaii's veterinary regulations into the 21st century. Surgical procedures for all of our animals must be handled by skilled, licensed veterinarians. We have taken great strides in recent years to grow and enhance our veterinary services in Hawai'i. It is unbelievable to me, at this point, that any unskilled/unlicensed individual would risk harm, permanent injury, or worse to an animal by performing a surgical procedure without proper training, certifications, and care.

The existing legal loopholes **MUST BE CLOSED** by this legislative session. Please support our veterinarians, concerned citizens, and (most importantly) our animals by endorsing and approving this measure. I urge you to favorably consider this long overdue legislation and to stand up for our animals.

I support the position of the Hawaiian Humane Society on this Bill.
Anne Forshey/annejforshey@gmail.com/Ewa Beach, HI 96706

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 11:18:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and its intent to stop non-veterinarian cutting on animals. These "home operations" performed on animals cause so much pain and sometimes serious infections that lead to maiming and death.

Please help stop these cruel practices for animals.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 11:44:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill that protects animals from needless harm. Backyard surgeries are nothing short of intentional animal torture and cruelty.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 8:45:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Surgical procedures should ALWAYS be performed by a licensed veterinarian. It is cruel, unethical, and dangerous to allow non-veterinarians to perform surgeries on animals. When those without veterinary training attempt surgery, they put the animal through indescribable pain and can cause irreversible damage. This should be illegal, and frankly I am surprised it is not already! Please do the right thing and support bill HB1527!

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 7:52:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to the bill as currently drafted for the reasons explained in the testimony from the Hawaii Cattlemens Council; however might reconsider if the changes proposed by HCC were incorporated.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 8:35:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 9:45:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support HB 1527 HD 1 SD 1 which, to my understanding, prohibits non-veterinarians from performing certain painful surgical procedures on pet animals and increases penalties for doing so.

This bill is clearly meant to advance animal welfare in Hawaii.

Mahalo for considering support for HB 1527 HD 1 SD 1, and mahalo for every time you have voted to support bills for the humane treatment of animals.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 11:46:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Napier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will make the practices I do a felony. I follow good husbandry practices and can competently perform these procedures on my livestock.

This bill should be clarified to clearly state it does not apply to livestock

If this bill passes as written, it will be devastating to Hawaii's ranchers

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 1:04:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helene Navaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1527 HD1 SD1. Best for pet animals is to have surgeries done by licensed veterinarians. Animals have no voice and it is up to us to make sure that they are not suffering during backyard surgeries. Too many times animals are under tremendous pain during these botched surgeries. A great beginning for these voiceless animals is to support HB1527 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Mahalo Nui Loa!

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 2:23:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1527 and stand in support of Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony to oppose.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 8:43:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a licensed veterinarian of 43 years and a cattle rancher for the past 34 years.

This measure continues to make accepted practices in livestock management illegal class C felonies. Therefore, "Cropping or docking as customarily practiced" should not be deleted in Section 711-1108.5.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 9:08:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is so stupid. We ranchers have been caring for our animals for years. We get training from certified vets. There are so many times if we did not step in right away the animal would die. It is like knowing CPR. You don't have to be a doctor to try to save someone's life. On the ranch a lot of times by the time you get to call a vet and they are available the animal will bleed to death or die of collic. I was a firefighter for 37 years and went to a lot of accidents there was no doctor there and we had to try to stop bleeding, establish breathing and do what ever we could to save that person. Yes we got trained as first responders, But we in the animal industry also get trained as care givers for animals. This bill is coming from people who really are not care givers and on the farm and ranch on a daily basis. Please don't pass this bad bill.

Brendan

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 10:56:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. It will help animals in Hawaii who are suffering because of stupid and insensitive humans.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:54:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis E. Jamison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was honestly shocked to learn that there are individuals out there trying to perform surgeries on animals without a veterinary license. It did not even occur to me that someone would think to do that, let alone that it is happening here in Hawaii. However, now that I am better educated on this, I am saddened to hear that we did not have protections against this in the first place. Accordingly, I strongly support HB15127 HD1 SD1 that would close loopholes in our veterinary medicine and animal cruelty statutes that allow non-veterinarians to perform certain painful surgical procedures on pet animals and raises penalties. Thank you for your time.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 4:45:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1527 HD1 SD1 as it will devastate Hawaii's animal industry.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:14:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill because it will make my practices as a rancher and beef producer a felony. I am a 5th generation and have been taught and will continue to teach our future generations how to competently and effectively perform procedures on my livestock that this bill may pertain to. We care for our livestock with the utmost respect and appreciation for all that they provide to us.

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:57:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carolyn auwelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will make the practices I do a felony. I follow good husbandry practices and can competently perform these procedures on my livestock. This bill should be clarified to clearly state it does not apply to livestock.

If this bill passes as written, it will be devastating to Hawaii's livestock industries.

Mahalo,

carolyn auwelo

HB-1527-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:00:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure closes a loophole in the veterinary licensing statute that owners have used to operate on their own animals, or hire unqualified people to do so, resulting in animals being harmed by backyard surgeries ranging from ear-flap removal to cesarean sections.

Please move this bill forward.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HB 1527
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

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

Aloha,

My name is Wilma J. Paris and I am the Managing Partner of Palika Ranch Family Limited Partnership located in Lehuula, Kona, Hawaii. I would like to offer my comments of opposition of Bill **HB 1527** SD1 which prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals, and prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal.

My ancestors started ranching in Kona, Hawaii in the mid 1860s. Throughout the generations, our family was raised with the importance of following good husbandry practices in regards to the health, treatment and safety of our livestock and these principles were shared further with our employees. The inability to conduct the practices and deeming it a Class C felony would be a hardship for Hawaii's ranchers.

In addition, there should be clarification and clearly stated that **HB 1527** does not apply to livestock.

If **HB 1527** passes as written, it will be extremely devastating to Hawaii's ranchers and farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Wilma J. Paris
Managing Partner
Palika Ranch Family Limited Partnership
P.O. Box 229
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

