



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Date: Feb. 10, 2024

To: Chair Keohokalole, Commerce and Consumer Protection
Chair Gabbard, Agriculture and Environment and Members of the
Committees

Submitted by: Susan Rhee, Hawaii State Director, Humane Society of
the United States

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Re: Testimony in support of SB 2120: Relating to Pet Sales
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, 9:10am, Capitol Room 229

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Garrard and honorable committee members,
on behalf of my organization, the Humane Society of the United States,
I write in strong support of bill SB2120.

BACKGROUND: Selling puppies and kittens in pet store raises serious
animal welfare and consumer protection issues. By prohibiting *additional*
pet stores from selling dogs and cats (and other pet animals) and
requiring existing pet stores to increase transparency, lawmakers can
protect animals and consumers.

- Seven states and over 480 localities prohibit the sale of dogs and
cats in pet stores. New York, Maryland, California & Illinois prohibit *all*
pet stores from selling puppies, while Maine, Oregon & Washington allow
existing stores to continue selling puppies.
- There are 3 pet stores in the state that sell puppies, all in Honolulu
County.

THE PROBLEM WITH PUPPY-SELLING PET STORES

Puppy-selling pet stores pose numerous, unique issues for animals and
consumers, including:

- **Irresponsible breeders:** Pet stores incentivize irresponsible breeding
by guaranteeing a profit for those who want to hide the conditions the
puppies were born into. [Responsible breeders](#), on the other hand, sell
directly to the public because they have nothing to hide and they want
to screen prospective buyers to ensure they are a good fit.
- **Misleading sales tactics:** Pet stores often sell puppies for hundreds
of dollars with false promises of humane breeders and healthy,
socialized puppies when this is rarely true.
- **Sick puppies:** The HSUS, government agencies, and online
platforms receive a constant stream of complaints from consumers with
sick, dying or newly deceased pet store puppies and high veterinary
bills.

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- In-store mistreatment: Some puppy stores have been exposed for mistreating or neglecting puppies in their care, denying sick puppies veterinary care, or pumping puppies with antibiotics rather than taking precautions to minimize disease spread.

THE NEED FOR GREATER TRANSPARANCY

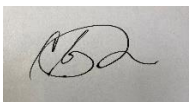
Pet stores often do not disclose breeder and health information about the animals they sell to prospective consumers, and rely on customers falling in love with their new pet and believing what they hope is true rather than pressing sales staff on the facts. In order to make informed buying decisions, customers need to be provided with the breeder and health information required in this bill.

THE HUMANE ALTERNATIVE

This law will drive the market towards pet sources and businesses that are better for animals and families.

- Residents will continue to obtain the pet of their choice from shelters, rescues or responsible breeders who sell directly to the public, never through third parties.
- There are a wide range of purebred puppies available directly from breeders in our state. Popular mixed breeders are also available directly from breeders.
- The massive retail pet industry (\$136 billion and counting) is dominated by the sale of pet food and products and in-demand pet-related services, with consumers spending more than ever on their pets. No store needs to sell puppies. With that said, our three existing puppy stores may continue to do.

Sincerely,



Susan Rhee
Hawaii State Director, HSUS





Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 11, 2024

To: Chairs Sens. Jarrett Keohokalole and Mike Gabbard
Vice Chairs Sens. Carol Fukunaga and Tim Richards
and Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer
Protection, and Agriculture and Environment

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2120: Relating to Pet Sales
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, 9:10 a.m., Capitol Room 229

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 2120, which establishes provisions relating to retail pet sales, and authorizes retail pet stores to showcase pet animals owned by a nonprofit animal welfare organization.

Pet breeding is completely unregulated in Hawaii. While responsible breeders invite potential pet owners to visit their homes and see the conditions in which animals are bred and raised, there is no such transparency from most people who sell pets in our state. There is also no ability for law enforcement to examine breeding establishments and verify the welfare of animals without a search warrant.

To address that serious gap in information about pet breeding – for the protection of consumers and animals – this bill requires stores that sell pet animals to keep records of where those animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide those records to the purchaser of individual animals as well as law enforcement.

The measure would protect prospective pet owners and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit.

This measure does NOT prevent existing stores from selling pets, nor does it limit their choice of suppliers.

It DOES prohibit new stores from getting into the pet animal trade after the end of this calendar year.

It DOES require existing stores to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health. If the breeders they are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules.

This measure also addresses conservation interests by requiring the same reporting for all pet animals sold, including rabbits and caged birds.

We urge the committee to pass SB 2120 to protect people and animals. Mahalo for your consideration.



February 9, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole and Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga and Herbert M. Richards, III
And Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: SB2120: Relating to pet sales

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports Senate Bill 2120 and the campaign to regulate the sale of pet animals.

The purchase, adoption, or rescue of a pet animal should, at minimum, always be accompanied with medical history and records. This benefits not only the pet, ensuring it has received appropriate vaccinations and care (protecting its health), but also the pet owner. There are multiple zoonotic diseases that can be spread from pet to human and there are diseases that can be spread to other pets in the household, some of which can be fatal (e.g., parvovirus in dogs).

When considering pets, our immediate thought is their presence within the home, but pets (abandoned or lost) are found in the environment outside of the home. Kaua`i has a very sensitive ecosystem, which would only become more impaired by unregulated breeding of introduced species of pets and pets carrying diseases (e.g., Avian pox in birds) in the environment passing those diseases onto endemic wildlife.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 2120 as it will promote responsible and ethical breeders, the humane care of animals, and the protection of the pets and wildlife already residing in Hawai`i. Thank you for considering our testimony.

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

We would like the opportunity to voice our opposition of bill S.B.2120. This bill in place would affect our business. This bill aims to regulate the sale of animals in pet stores.

We are the owners of Koolau Pets. Koolau pets is a small Hawaiian/local family-owned full-line pet store. This store has been owned and operated for fifty years. If it was not operating in a responsible way, it would not be in business anymore. In these times, even reputable small business struggle to stay afloat.

We feel this bill gives misguided information. It also does not just regulate puppies, but all pet animals thus would include cats, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. The beginning of the bill only encompasses concerns regarding dogs but the bill would require regulations for all pets.

Bill S.B.2120 claims that puppies in pet stores come from large-scale commercial breeders and/or so called "puppy mills". In reality these claims are not true. The pets Koolau Pets carry come from loving homes and families from all levels of society (including retired police officers, members of the military, firefighters, etc.) These families are not going to want to get a "general excise tax license or business license" for one litter of puppies. The people we purchase puppies from don't even consider themselves breeders.

The only types that would want to get a "general excise tax license or business license" would be a large-scale breeding operation. While we are personally not aware of these operations, we would not want any animals from this type of operation.

Bill S.B. 2120 wants to conform to new bills/regulations adopted in other parts of the country. Koolau Pets feels this is not necessary. This bill mentions pet animals purchased from foreign brokers/breeders. No puppy Koolau Pets has sold was ever purchased by a foreign breeder or broker. The reality of the situation is Hawaii is unique. Many of our puppies come from customers who have been coming to this store for years. Koolau Pets and its employees have watched generations of these people grow up and purchase their pets from us. Some of these very customers have had a litter or two over the years or at least know someone who has. This is where most of our puppies originate. Many of these customers feel as though they are part of our family at this point -The Koolau Pets family. Our community (your community) feel more comfortable with us helping them place a litter. That's why we have been in business because this is the type of establishment people feel comfortable getting their puppy from.

Bill S.B.2120 does not stop animals from being housed and/or sold from so called "puppy mills". In fact, we feel it encourages this type of operation to continue. They are only regulating a place that offers protection for its consumers. Every puppy received by Koolau Pets goes to the vet for a full exam, vaccinations and a de-worming (if necessary). Once puppies clear their vet visit they are ready to go to their new homes. All of these records are provided to the customer at the time of purchase. Koolau pets also provides information on proper care, the benefits of spaying and neutering pets, and various tips/recommendations based on our knowledge and personal experiences owning pets. Koolau Pets does so much for the pet and the customer to develop a relationship with them which is why we have so many repeat

customers. Many come back for supplies for their pets or just to bring their puppy by to show how the pet has grown, or advice, etc.

Once purchased, the new puppy owner has one free vet visit to double check for any health problems and parasites. On this second visit if a health problem is found the customer can return puppy, which will go back to breeder. This rarely happens but we feel it is the right way to do business. Each customer who purchases a puppy, has an opportunity to start a thirty day pet insurance policy at no cost to them a service provided by the vet. After the thirty days, they can purchase this service or it ends.

If bill S.B.2120 came into effect, pet stores would not sell puppies or any pet animal for that matter. We are in the public eye, so we take precautions to ensure the health and well-being of our animals. We also educate potential new owners as much as we can. How is this bill supposed to regulate those people who give away or sell puppies out of their home or even parking lots without ANY type of vet care or accurate information? This bill has given the idea that pet stores are the problem. However, if you look in the paper or on the internet people are selling animals everywhere (even on the side of the road.) How can regulating pet stores help when this is happening everywhere?

We would also like to bring up the fact that starting in January of 2019, California was the first US state to ban pet stores from selling dogs, cats, and rabbits. However, if you look at their statistics, the numbers of pets being surrendered has increased. In fact, it has increased all over the US even though there are six states that fully restrict the sale of pet animals and a number of counties in the US in a total of “thirty-three states that require licensing from commercial pet breeders”. This tells me that pet stores are not the problem and this bill will not be the answer.

Koolau pets feels bill S.B.2120 is a direct attack on the pet industry. To make a bill that states “No retail pet store shall sell or offer for sale any pet animal unless the retail pet store was in operation in the State prior to January 1, 2025 is unfair. Full-line pet stores should not be illegal. Also, this bill states that they can sell animals (under restrictions) only if the store “operates in the same location under the same ownership in effect as of January 1,2025. Koolau Pets is in the Windward Mall, but it has been at various locations on the Windward side. So, this bill would never allow us to move locations or sell the business as is. This is a travesty. As a small business, this removes any chances of a retirement for us as owners because it is taking away the selling value of this business. Please don’t take away the opportunity for people in Hawaii to see pets in pet stores.

The reality of the situation is there are many opportunities for consumers to adopt pets (if they want). If that is what they wanted to do, they would. Please don’t take away a safe, reliable option for people to obtain a pet.

Robert Lawrence and Matthew Furtado (Owners of Koolau Pets)

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:30:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Animal Welfare Institute	Support	In Person

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR SB2120; Relating to Pet Sales

Dear Chairs Keohokalole & Gabbard and Committee Members,

The Animal Welfare Institute supports SB2120 which would set forth the most modest and necessary requirements of pet stores selling live animals. While most of the country has laws regulating pet stores and the large-scale breeders who sell animals to them, Hawaii lacks any laws regulating such businesses. The lack of laws means that consumers are unaware of the origin of the animals, their health status and the conditions they were raised in.

While we believe greater oversight is needed, such as licensing and inspections of breeders selling to pet stores, this bill is a modest approach to protect both animal and consumer health and welfare by providing buyers and local animal control agencies with the most basic information on these animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Inga Gibson

On behalf of Animal Welfare Institute

February 9, 2024

TESTIMONY FOR SB2120

RELATING TO PET SALES

PET SALES; PET ANIMALS; DOCUMENTATION; ANIMAL CONTROL; CONSUMER PROTECTION

Chairs Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

My name is Tish Rothwell and I am the owner of The Pet Depot, in Ewa Beach. We have been in business for 20 years.

In my years in the pet retail business we have placed many pets with happy families. I feel that joy when a family finds their pet in our establishment. We have many customers, who come in years later and share their stories of how their pets have enriched their lives.

It seems this bill first mentions pets, but the focus is on puppies. So I will focus my testimony of puppies.

We take the utmost care of these pets while in our care. Our puppies receive a certified veterinarian exam, worming and first vaccinations. If any problem should arise, we take measures to make sure the pet receives proper treatment. I have records as far back as 2004 that have information regarding, breeds, date of birth, vet administered health care, breeder information etc.

As far as sanitation is concerned we are already practicing very strict sanitation practices. Sanitation is of utmost importance to keep our puppies in our care from illness or disease.

To my knowledge we have never purchased from a large-scale commercial breeder. I don't even know of any. Our animals usually come from family homes that have pets, and we help them to find homes for them. Of course we purchase or consign them, to compensate them for their time. We never encourage breeding or repeat sellers. We have people call daily and have a list of puppies for sale. We reject 95% of those solicitations. We have never imported any animals from other countries.

As far as transparency, we will disclose as much information that the consumer wants to know to the best of our knowledge. We have nothing to hide.

We ask for identification from the sellers. If the occasional breeder does not obtain a general excise tax license or business license and we cannot do business with them, expect to have a lot more sales taking place on the side of the road, in parking lots etc. where the consumer really has no recourse or protection.

And it its tax revenue the state is after, in all honesty, you will not get it from those folks.

As I mentioned before, we do not encourage breeding. I don't enjoy seeing the amount of unwanted pets in shelters either. We are very selective and picky when we acquire a pet. We do our best to find them a good home.

I educate people about the importance of responsible pet ownership. If you have two intact dogs in your home, no amount of fencing etc. will keep them apart. In all our puppy packets is included a paper on "Top 10 reasons to spay or neuter your pet" along with contacts and phone numbers.

I believe education could do a lot to help cut down on the numbers of pet's being left without homes or worse euthanized. If the state could partner with the Hawaiian Humane Society and really push some strong public service announcements (PSA) regarding spay and neuter programs out there, such as the Neuter Now Program. However, they must be age appropriate spay/neuter programs.

I am not against partnering with whomever we can to get people educated. I share with customers all the time about the HHS program. If we can help people navigate the online form and get it done I think that will be a win for all.

It's would be beneficial to start at the root of the pet overpopulation, irresponsible breeding.

I don't think that your average Retail Pet Store doing business in Hawaii is the problem.

To have to regulate a small business with even more red tape and government policing could be a burden for both state and business.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.

Mahalo,

Tish Rothwell

The Pet Depot

Ewa Beach Hawaii

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SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:01:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2120 Relating to Pet Sales requires stores that sell pet animals to keep records of where those animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide those records to the purchaser of individual animals as well as law enforcement.

We think this is reasonable and vitally important.

This measure does not prevent stores from selling pets, but requires them to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health.

We are in full support of this Bill.

LATE

Testimony in **Opposition** of SB 2120
February 12, 2023

Members of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Protection Committees, :

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy.

The Pacific Pet Alliance (PPA) would like to submit testimony for your consideration regarding the limitations of pet store operators to acquire animals from certain humane sources and the negative impact that this bill would have on small local businesses.

PPA opposes this bill because it negatively impacts the consumer by limiting their choices of the type of animals they may purchase in a store and it strips the consumer of protections that a purchase from a pet shop operator provides.

When purchasing from a store, consumers are protected by sale contracts. Pet shop operators provide health examinations and screen the sources of where they obtain their animals. This bill would drive consumers to seek animal breeders from the internet where consumers may be subject to scams or purchase animals from breeders who disappear on them after the purchase. Many consumers prefer to purchase from a pet shop because of these consumer protections. They often have no recourse when purchasing from an individual. This bill assumes that all animals in pet shops come from mass breeding operations and that all animals for sale on the internet come from responsible hobby breeders. The consumer is left to decide for themselves. In many cases, the pet shop owner is providing a service to a family whose dog accidentally became pregnant or the family wanted the experience of having a litter of puppies and were quickly overwhelmed with the work.

PPA has visited the pet shops on Oahu who sell dogs and have talked to the owners and staff. All animals are examined by a veterinarian prior to sale and health and vaccination records are provided to the purchaser. If the dog comes with purebred registration papers then that document provides the purchaser with contact information for the breeder.

There is nothing in this bill that prohibits the pet shop operator from hosting adoption events in stores that also sell animals. In the past, the Pacific Pet Alliance was aware of pet store operators who have offered to host adoption events in stores that also sell animals. We were informed by store operators these offers were declined by the humane societies and rescue groups as long as pet sales continued.

The Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully asks this committee to please oppose SB 2120 as Hawaii consumers would lose a reliable source of acquiring animals. There are other means of protecting consumers without hurting small business.

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

I am writing in **strong opposition to SB2120**. I believe **the bill will have negative consequences affecting all responsible breeders, retailers, and consumers**.

Firstly, **this bill targets all the small independent pet store owners in the state**. It does not affect large corporate stores because **Petco and PetSmart do not sell puppies**. Having the ability to sell pets that the large corporate stores do not sell is what keeps our independent pet stores afloat. It means keeping their business open, maintaining their home, putting food on the table, clothes on their back, and providing jobs for many young people in the community. **On Oahu, there are 3 independent pet stores that sell puppies. On the outer islands, the numbers are even fewer**. Is it necessary to propose a law that will penalize the few local pet stores that remain in business in the islands?"

Secondly, the imposition of **onerous and stringent regulations** on retail pet stores will drive up the costs associated with pet ownership. **Maintaining detailed records, enforcing the verification of breeders and brokers, and complying with annual reporting requirements will impose financial and administrative burdens on these small retail pet stores**. These increased costs would be passed on to consumers, making pet ownership less affordable for the average family. **Retail pet stores are in the business of selling pets and pet supplies. They are not in the business of safeguarding personal information**. Requiring a pet store to maintain detailed personal information records including photocopies of identification cards for all purchasers, breeders and brokers places these parties at **risk of identity theft**.

Thirdly, **the provision that prohibits new retail pet stores from opening unless they were in operation before January 1, 2025, and remain under the same ownership and location, is completely unreasonable and an egregious overstep of legislative powers**. Do you really want to prohibit our citizens from starting legitimate businesses that provide a valuable service to our community and provide jobs for our people? Shouldn't we be encouraging folks to be entrepreneurs? **Business owners should be free to move their business to a new location if needed. If they want to sell their business or decide to transfer ownership to a spouse or another relative that should always be an option too. Those decisions should remain the sole discretion of the business owner, and not dictated by the legislature**.

The requirement that a pet store only source animals from breeders or brokers who can provide extensive documentation and are subject to regular inspections may limit the diversity of pets available to potential owners. Many small-scale, ethical breeders may not have the resources to comply with such rigorous standards. This could lead to a decrease in the genetic diversity of pets sold, as well as **limit the choice for prospective pet owners looking for specific breeds or types of pets. What pet a person chooses to have in their homes should remain their choice**. If a family chooses to breed their family pet so their children can experience the joy of having puppies in the house, and then sell the puppies to a pet store, they should have the right to do so. Requiring folks to get a GE tax license and jump through a bunch of hoops for a one-off event will generate an unnecessary amount of bureaucratic paperwork.

The clause that states "nothing in this section shall prohibit a retail pet store from showcasing dogs or cats owned by a non-profit animal welfare organization" is the Humane Society's way of forcing their animals on pet store owners. There are reasons why retail pet stores do not sell adult animals: Size and temperament. Young animals are smaller, require less space to house, they love everybody, and they don't have the bite strength and coordination to cause physical harm to a customer. It's a liability for a business to have an animal that carries a risk of danger to their customers. The Humane Society is open and available if a person wants a dog or cat from them. If a person doesn't want an animal from the

Humane Society, they should have **the freedom to patronize legitimate businesses and purchase the animal they want to own**. But taking away our option to purchase the animal we want, from a business that we trust and enjoy patronizing, is wrong. It's too much big brother intruding into our homes and our lives.

Furthermore, Hawaii has very stringent regulations for importing dogs into the state. They must be quarantined for 120-days upon arrival or be vaccinated against rabies before they get here. Puppies cannot receive a rabies vaccination until they are 3 months old. At 3 months of age, they are no longer saleable nor feasible to house at the pet store. **Our local pet stores cannot afford to import dogs from the mainland or foreign puppy mills to sell in their stores.** The cost is too prohibitive. I have helped a lot of people move their pets from the mainland to Hawaii, or vice versa. It's not cheap. It was over \$700 to have a professional pet mover pickup and transport a small animal from South Point on the Big Island to Oahu. \$2500 to send 2 dogs to Washington state. \$1500 to transport a cockatoo to Washington. \$3000 to send a small parrot to Gloucester Massachusetts. It's just as costly to bring an animal to Hawaii, because of the quarantine rules.

I urge you to OPPOSE SB2120. This bill is bad for our local businesses. It is an unnecessary overstep of governmental authority that will make life hard on small business owners in our community.

Lea Hollingsworth-Ramsey

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 5:59:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it can only benefits animals and there is no harm to people who have the interest of animals at heart. If the breeders pet stores are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules. I support this bill

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 9:10:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've had several friends buy dogs from breeders only to find out later that they have health issues. The breeders didn't disclose the issues. If someone buys a dog, they should at the very least know who bred the dog so they can do their research.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 11:02:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. People who sell pets to others need to provide detailed information on where they got the pet and its history. This will hopefully prevent people from operating backyard puppy mills which are cruel and inhumane to dogs and produce puppies with health problems.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 3:07:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARGO I AKAMINE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because pet shop owners may buy animals that have been stolen or puppies from a unreliable puppy mill. Pet Shopowners should be required to provide information about where the animal was obtained, any medical treatment that may have been administered and have contact information from the person or company where the animal was obtained. This bill will help pet shop owners know the animals they buy are from a reliable source and the consumer will have contact information if after purchase they discover the animal is ill or not the breed they were told it was etc. Pet shop owners should see this as protection for everyone.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:32:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
virginia Kalvelage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I bought a puppy from a pet store and it had many health issues and died young. I found out later that the puppy was the product of siblings. Broke my heart.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:35:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards III and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please support SB 2120 relating to pet sales. My understanding is that this bill will help consumers and law enforcement by requiring pet store owners to keep records of where animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide this information to pet owners and law enforcement.

Again, please support SB 2120.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:45:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:02:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Ribuca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I, Natasha L Ribuca am writing this to oppose the bill sb2120.

As I am a caretaker and owner of Parrots and dogs that I have personally rescued and took into my home as a rehome due to their personality issues. I personally work with these animals on proper care and nutrition. I'm also the secretary for our local parrot rescue Hawaiian Feathered Friends Network. This bill will drastically affect my life and my passion in the parrot community.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:04:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 1:15:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Parubrub	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

As a cat mom of two (one from the Hawaiian Humane Society and the other I rescued as a stray), I believe that no one should ever support a dog breeder or puppy mill. However, I am aware that this bill doesn't aim to ban those but instead to ensure that these pets being sold in retail stores are from responsible and ethical breeders. Thus, I am in support of this bill with reservations.

Thank you for your time,

Grace

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 2:27:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is an important measure to protect against puppy mills, etc., who raise animals in poor conditions only to make money selling them to a store. This measure can help the health and safety of animals sold at stores, and also provide important information for the people purchasing these animals, so they are well informed and capable of providing necessary care.

Thank you for supporting this measure.

Jennifer Wood

2502 Henry Street, Honolulu, HI 96817 808-221-7229

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 2:43:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clayton Cotton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2120 because animals has always been a part of everyone's life for centuries. To prohibit the sales of dogs or other pets is totally wrong. We need more pets and less electronics. This world has become so ridiculous to the point where our values has changed drastically. I breed, show and raise both dogs and birds. My father instilled the love for animals in me. Petshops and breeders have always been around for people who are interested in purchasing pets. Raising and breeding animals ain't cheap. Veterinarian bills are outrageous. What do you expect us breeders to do? Spend all our money for vet costs and give our animals away for free?? Come on! The humane society and all these animal rights activists are insane. Why don't people spend more time focusing on real life issues like homelessness, education, etc instead of ridiculous bills like this. Get with it!

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 3:34:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Burgess	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would hurt our already lacking locally owned pet stores. It removes a reputable, reliable, brick and mortar place of business for families to visit and purchase a beloved family pet

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 5:02:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

This measure would protect consumers and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit.

This measure does NOT prevent stores from selling pets. It simply requires them to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health. If the breeders they are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules.

Please move this bill forward.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:15:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Consumers should be privy to all information relating to an animal being considered for purchase. This protects the public from unscrupulous retailers. Ethical breeders and retailers would have no problem being honest and transparent to their patrons. Those retailers that oppose this bill are suspect, and we, the consumers, should take our business elsewhere.

I am a Hawaii resident in Palolo and strongly support this bill.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:49:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Schenk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is the alternative for pets if they are not sold at stores? More often than not, they are left out on the street or they are euthanized.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:21:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa Furtado-Fischer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Richards, and Members of the Committees.

I offer my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of this measure.

As you undoubtedly heard or will hear from my family today, our family business has been serving the Windward community and beyond for over 45 years. Many local families know of Ko‘olau Pets or "the pet shop in Windward Mall". Countless families have added to their ‘ohana a puppy, cat, bird, rabbit, guinea pig, fish, or even pigs, rats, and chinchillas. What you don't hear about this shop is how it sources its dogs from puppy mills. Or sells sickly dogs. Or refuses to provide care during and after the purchase of a puppy, or won't refund a customer when it's discovered the puppy has a medical condition discovered at the initial vet visit that Ko‘olau Pets pays for. Why? Because that doesn't happen.

Nor have I heard these comments about other pet stores in the island.

The allegations that pet stores are supplied by puppy mills and foreign breeders is simply a myth.

You are more likely to buy a puppy mill dog or animal online or in a parking lot than you are from a pet store. The risk of the puppies coming from unsafe and unsanitary places such as a puppy mill would put at risk all the other puppies in their shop and could cause detrimental impact in terms of cost and health of the animals.

This measure is another attempt at special interest groups and animal shelters to force the public to adopt, not shop.

While unsheltered animals is a crisis, it's not due to people who spent hundreds to thousands of dollars on a puppy just to abandon it to a shelter. People who opt to purchase from a pet store aren't doing so on a whim.

The idea of "adopt don't shop" pressures people to rehome a shelter dog that may not be a perfect fit for their family because it can't be trained to the family's schedule or dynamic. Even if a dog is listed as "great with kids", are they great with all kids? If not, they may be placed back into the shelter through no fault of their own. It's unfortunate, but reality.

Rather than regulate pet stores, shelters should advocate for responsible pet ownership by finding ways to reduce the financial burden of spaying or neutering animals to prevent accidental breeding would be more effective than regulating pet store sales. Those in receipt of public assistance are offered vouchers to sterilize their pets for a small fee. Why not utilize the costs

associated with the regulation and enforcement of this bill to expand the funding more vouchers for those not in receipt of assistance?

This bill would also be detrimental to the income that small, locally owned business generate from animal sales. In a time where we are fighting to support local stores and our economy, we should not be overregulating these same businesses into extinction.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I pray you will oppose this bill.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:13:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Inkster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi I am Kiana Inkster, and I would like the opportunity to say my opposition of bill S.B.2120. This bill in place would affect not only my job but my boss's business. This bill aims to regulate the sale of animals in pet stores.

I am a manager at Koolau Pets. Koolau Pets is a small family owned local business, located in Windward Mall that has been around for fifty years. Here at Koolau Pets, we do our absolute best to keep the animals enclosures as clean as possible and constantly refilling their waters. The puppies we take in come from loving and caring homes and families, some of them are actual breeders and sometimes it was on accident. The families who had puppies on accident or who just wanted one litter don't even count themselves as breeders and I'm sure they wouldn't want to get that "business license".

When puppies come in they have to pass our physical exam, meaning they have to look healthy, no missing fur or any physical medical issues and injuries. If they have hernias, inguinal or umbilical, or over and underbites they will be seen by the vet. All the puppies are then seen by the vet, Haiku Veterinary Clinic is the place we work closely with. The vet does a full exam on the puppies, gives the up to date vaccinations, takes a fecal test and if they have any parasites we treat them. The vet also tells us whether or not if the puppies are healthy or have a medical issue that may cause problems later in the future. If the issues are high rankings those puppies are not able to be sold and given back to the breeder. Haiku also offers a 30 day free trial of Trupanion pet insurance to those who go to the free vet visit we provide within 7 days. When a puppy goes home we go over a contract that talks about the puppies medical record, how to take care of the puppies, what the risks are with the parvovirus, hypoglycemia, highly recommending spay and neutering, and going over our one free vet exam to double check they go home with a healthy puppy.

Even with the other animals such as, birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats, tortoises etc. we provide a health contract that says "within 5 days if they see any health concerns to contact us immediately. They can bring in the animal for observation, return or exchange." Same thing with the dogs they go home with a care sheet and we give them the best knowledge from what we learned on the job or even from personal experiences. If the customer has any questions they can feel free to contact us during shop hours.

Many of these customers have been coming to our store for years and we have watched the generations of customers and their fur babies grow up. They come back for more supplies and

even bring their puppies or other animals to show us how they have grown. They tell us how proud they are to have purchased these animals from us and they basically became part of our family. Most of the employees have bought at least one of the animals, myself included. I bought three dogs, a bunny, fish, and an axolotl.

Selling animals in a pet store isn't the problem, especially since we take the precautions to ensure the pet's health and wellbeing. If animals weren't sold in pet stores, yes people can find breeders online but there's also the risk of people getting scammed, some people will sell them off the roads, dump them on the streets or people will take them to the pound and the pound will complain that they're full of animals and start euthanizing them instead of finding loving homes. Pet stores are the safest place and the most reliable option that a person can find their newest member to add to their family.

Kiana Inkster

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:09:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ann Napualani Furtado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My ohana has been in the Pet Store industry for over 45 years. Hawaiian owned, supported and loved by our community. The humane society has continually tried to push and pass these laws "protecting animals" by regulation of pet stores since I was a child.

45 years is a long time, our reputation as well as other pet stores have been around for a while. Each store has their loyal customers that extend pass generations. If we were guilty of selling these types of dogs the community would have called us out and stopped supporting our businesses. It has actually been the exact opposite. The community continually supports our business and we have developed relationships with customers who are so thankful and keep coming back.

If any of these pet stores were selling "puppy mill," puppies, we would have been out of business. Animals are important to us and the bond that animals have with their owner is increased when they purchase their puppy from a reputable pet store instead of illegally in a parking lot. They are all examined and vet checked before and after sale. If any issues are found with the animal my Ohana will provide the customer with support and offer refunds at customers request. They eat all of the costs of taking care of the dog, and we all know veterinary bills aren't cheap. Pet owners themselves won't even foot the bill sometimes but as Pet STORE owners we make sure the animals are healthy and taken care of no matter the cost. I used to work at the store and know first hand how well the dogs are treated and taken care of. My Ohana wouldn't risk buying a "puppy mill" dog, never have and never will.

"Puppy mill" dogs aren't well taken care of and can carry contagious diseases that can harm other dogs, sometimes resulting in death. Some are highly contagious and passed through contact. Why would a pet store risk bringing a contaminated dog into their business? The cruelty and amount of money lost doesn't support these claims. It simply doesn't happen. You imply we don't care about the animals, when its the exact opposite.

This over regulation of pet stores won't stop puppy mills. You are more likely to buy "puppy mill" dogs in a parking lot or off the side of the road. How are those dogs being protected? What about the people who are selling that animal for thousands of dollars with cash? How is the person selling the dogs and the customer protected if there is a "disagreement?" Especially with the cost of living so high in Hawaii, crime is rising because people are desperate to make money so they don't get displaced out of Hawaii. THAT IS why people are breeding dogs, so they can make money and afford to live here. Maybe focus on the high cost of living. These "puppy mills"

only do it for the money. At the end of the day people and animals could get hurt and thousands of tax dollars could be tied up in crime and the courts.

Why are we attacking the hard working people of hawaii who have not committed any crime? You are taking their livelihood away and putting the sell of animals at a high risk. Imagine if these people sell these dogs out of their homes? Burglarries will rise. If the concern is for the pets then you should be regulating these, "puppy mills" directly that are doing the illegal activity, not the innocent Pet Stores.

It's an island, we are not in the mainland. Finding these said, "puppy mills," wouldnt be hard. I'm sure their neighbors would've complained about noise or smell. We live on top of each other in Hawaii. So maybe address the root of the cause, THE COST OF LIVING for local people. Stop scapgoating innocent hard working people. Leave the pet stores alone.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:27:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill will support record keeping from stores that sell pet animals to keep records of where those animals are acquired and any pertinent health information, and to provide those records to the purchaser of individual animals as well as law enforcement.

The measure would protect consumers and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit. It will not prevent pet stores from selling animals.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:53:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 2120.

Pet stores should be required to disclose information about where the pets they sell are obtained and anything they know about their health.

If the breeders they are buying from are providing safe and healthy care, they should have no reason to object to these rules.

This bill ensures compassionate and healthy care for all creatures. It is the most humane course of action.

Please pass SB 2120.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

I am in opposition of bill HB2120. My name is Victoria Furtado. I have always lived on the windward side of Oahu, and have been coming to Koolau Pets since I was a little girl. I've always loved animals and frequented pet stores. It's a wonderful thing for people young and old to be able to come here and see animals. If this bill passes, as it is, we would not carry animals.

First of all, this bill would require people who bring us animals to get a business license or general excise tax license. The families that bring us our animals are not going to want to get a license. They are not "breeders"; they just happened to have pets that bred.

Secondly, this bill starts off referring to puppies, but then makes these regulations for all pets. How much does a license cost? Would it even be financially smart to get one just to sell the pet store a couple of bunnies or guinea pigs? The reality is the people who bring us guinea pigs, rabbits, and birds are not breeding for profit. The cost of caring for these animals cost more then the "breeder" is paid. Most of these are families that just enjoy their pets.

Not only have I been a customer at pet stores, I have been working for Koolau Pets for the past 18 years. I have heard hundreds of times how happy this store makes people. Many customers grew up coming to this store. There are not many locally owned pet stores that are still operating. These owners and employees live paycheck-to-paycheck. This bill would end local pet stores and in effect many people will loose jobs. And you may be saying pet stores don't have to sell animals they can sell products or work with the nonprofit animal welfare organizations.

The fact of the matter is these small mom-and-pop pet stores are going to be affected a lot by this bill. If the sale of these animals were regulated, it would drastically affect sales. Koolau Pets and other small locally owned pet stores cannot compete with the financial backing that these large mainland-based pet stores have. We are already competing with online prices and convenience. If Koolau Pets were to be restricted in the sale of animals, the owners would NOT be able to make the rent. It would be an end to one of the few long-standing locally owned pet stores. This not only affects businesses, it affects the people. People in your community.

The reality of the situation is there are different avenues to get animals. There are animals for sale through Craigslist, Facebook, classifieds, rescues, and pet stores. Is this not America; do people not get options? Do not take away the people choice to buy a pet at a pet store.

Pet stores are not the problem. We are in the public eye, so we take precautions to ensure the health and well-being of our animals. We also educate potential new owners about breed, care, training, etc. How is this bill supposed to regulate those people who sell puppies out of their home or even parking lots without ANY type of warranty?

I also hear heart-breaking stories of customers getting scammed. They would much rather have a safe/reliable place to get a pet. This day an age its just not safe to be carrying around wads of cash to buy an animal from someone you don't know.

I would like to explain what goes on at Koolau Pets.

Koolau Pets has been operating for almost fifty years. They do so much for the pet and the customer and develop a relationship with them which is why it has survived. Many customers come back for supplies for their pets or just to bring their puppy by to show us how they've grown. Every puppy that goes home has been examined by a veterinarian (a clinic which they have worked with for over 25 years), their 1st vaccination, fecal check, worming and/or any other medication the puppy may need. We send them home with a medical record that has notes from the veterinarian and a 7-page contract with information on care. Then the new customer has 7 working days to take their puppy into the veterinarian again for a 2nd examination to make sure everything is clear with their purchase, otherwise they notify us.

People bring their animals to us they KNOW that we find good homes and that they are well taken care of. Bill HB2120 calls these people we get our puppies from large-scale breeders or puppy mills. The people who bring us their puppies love their puppies like members of their family. Koolau Pets does not get puppies from people that own tons and tons of dogs. The reality is the majority of the people we get puppies from have 2-4 dogs and that's it. Koolau Pets often gets photos of the puppies, and/or photos of the parents, and in those photos we can often see their living conditions. We would not want ANY puppies that appeared to be kept in unsanitary or inhumane living conditions. Why would we want the financial responsibility of caring for sick animals?

So in conclusion please stop bill SB2120.

I (Matthew Furtado) own the pet store in Windward Mall called Koolau Pets. We carry pets and their supplies. Koolau Pets was started in 1974 by my parents (Mel and Napua Furtado). In 2014, when my parents retired, my cousin (Robert Lawrence) and I bought the business. Both of us have worked here most of our adult lives and are proud of the business. We believe Koolau Pets has been successful because it has been run the right and responsible way.

I feel sad to think that this would be my last year in business (due to the bill.) Already many local businesses closed and many people lost their jobs (due to the pandemic). I am hoping that we don't become another statistic.

Many of our customers have been coming to the store for years. I have watched generations of these people grow up and purchase their pets from Koolau Pets. Many of these customers I feel are part of my family at this point -The Koolau Pets family.

The bill says puppies in pet stores come from irresponsible pet breeders and/or puppy mills. In reality these claims are not true and can't be proven. The puppies Koolau Pets carry come from loving homes and families. I believe in the customers that we have purchased these puppies from so much that I have sold many of my own family members pets from the store. We trust them enough to even have purchased these dogs for our own household.

Many of the people who have bred these puppies don't consider these dogs just pets, but family members. Many show us photos of their dogs sleeping in their bed, or dressed up, or at our local beaches and parks, etc. These people wanting to ban pet shops from selling puppies don't know me or my business. I take pride in my store, and I invite you to come and see for yourself what Koolau Pets is all about. Koolau Pets is an extension of me and my family.

In conclusion, I oppose bill HB2120 because this bill unfairly punishes/targets pet stores.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:45:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Next month my family makes 50 years in business as owners of Koolau Pets on the Windward side of Oahu. I strongly oppose this bill as our local pet shops are not the enemy. They should not be punished and risk livelihood that this bill will for sure cause. My family has been responsible shop owners, treat all their animals well, provide love until the pets are purchased by their forever families, provide vet care and do not purchase from so called "puppy mills." The attempt to control a problem with unhoued animals by targeting a source that is not responsible for this problem is not the solution.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:09:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of bill SB2120

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:18:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kyra Kane and I am a manager working at Ko'olau Pet store. I have worked at this pet store for a little over 2 years. I appose the SB2120 bill. As an employee working here I am able to see the care and thought put into each animal as well as making sure we receive our animals from local breeders. I have also purchased multiple puppies from this pet store both prior to working here as well as while being employed by this shop. The workers were very thorough with the pet purchased and helped me to feel safe with my purchase, they went over the the physical exam vet records from the vet appointment that the shop took the puppies to prior to me even being able to take the puppy home. I know how thorough the shop is when making sure the animals are all healthy and if there is something wrong, the puppies go to the vet to get treated directly from the clinic. I felt safe purchasing a puppy knowing that my puppy is healthy and that the pet store is ensuring that they are from local breeders and they are healthy. Thank you for your time.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:00:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly this bill.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:43:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshiko Hollingsworth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB2120. This bill, aimed at regulating pet sales, presents severe unintended consequences for our local pet stores, breeders, and the wider community. I urge you to consider the far-reaching impact of this legislation and oppose its passage.

SB2120 threatens the foundational aspects of our local pet economy by imposing regulations that disproportionately affect small, independent pet stores. These businesses, unlike their larger counterparts, rely on the sale of animals not carried by the larger chains to sustain their operations. The bill's restrictive nature not only endangers their existence but also jeopardizes the livelihoods of those they employ and serve.

In Hawai'i, a very small number of independent pet stores serve our communities and offer pets for sale. These stores are at risk of closing due to the stringent regulations proposed by SB2120, which unfairly targets their business model.

The bill introduces onerous requirements for record-keeping, breeder verification, and annual reporting. Such measures will inevitably lead to higher costs for pet retailers, which will be passed on to consumers, making pet ownership increasingly unaffordable for many families. Furthermore, the demand for detailed personal information raises significant data security and identity theft concerns.

SB2120's limitations on the establishment of new pet stores and the stringent conditions for existing ones hamper entrepreneurial freedom and economic growth. This legislation would prevent new entrants from joining the market and restrict current owners from relocating or transferring ownership, which is essential for business evolution and community service.

The bill's strict sourcing requirements could significantly limit the variety of pets available, and narrow consumer options. This is especially concerning for prospective pet owners seeking specific breeds or types of pets and undermines the principle of consumer choice.

While the bill permits pet stores to showcase animals from non-profit organizations, it should not limit the ability of retailers to offer a broad selection of pets. Consumer preferences for pet size,

age, temperament, breed, species and other factors should guide these business decisions, not legislative mandates.

The existing stringent import regulations for pets into Hawai'i and the high costs associated with importation already hamper local pet stores from bringing in animals from other states and countries. SB2120 would exacerbate these difficulties by adding more layers of bureaucracy, further hindering the ability of stores to provide a diverse selection of pets to accommodate their customers.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to oppose SB2120. This bill poses a significant threat to the vitality of our local pet industry, the affordability of pet ownership, and the freedom of consumer choice. We must protect our local businesses, support economic diversity, and ensure that pet ownership remains accessible to all families in our community.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope you will stand with our local pet stores and consumers in opposition to SB2120.

Yoshiko Hollingsworth

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:55:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Ramsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Council Members,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB2120. This bill presents significant adverse effects on local pet stores, responsible breeders, retailers, and consumers alike. Below, I outline my concerns and urge you to reconsider the bill's implications.

SB2120 disproportionately affects small, independent pet stores in Hawai‘i, threatening their survival. Unlike large chains like Petco and PetSmart, which do not sell puppies, our local pet stores rely on these sales. This differentiation not only sustains their business but also supports their livelihoods and contributes to community employment. Specifically, on Oahu, only three independent stores sell puppies. Targeting these few businesses with this bill could lead to their closure, impacting local economies and job opportunities for young individuals.

The bill imposes stringent regulations on pet retailers, significantly increasing operational costs through detailed record-keeping, breeder and broker verification, and annual reporting. These administrative burdens will likely raise the cost of pet ownership, making it less accessible for average families. Additionally, the requirement for retailers to maintain extensive personal information raises concerns about data security and identity theft risks.

Prohibiting the establishment of new pet stores unless operational before January 1, 2025, under the same ownership and location, is an unjust restriction on entrepreneurship. It not only hinders business growth and relocation but also limits the transfer of ownership within families. This overreach into business owner decisions is detrimental to our community's economic development and job creation.

The bill's stringent requirements for sourcing animals could decrease the variety of pets available, affecting genetic diversity and limiting consumer choice. This is particularly concerning for families and small-scale breeders who may be unable to meet these demands, thus restricting the types of pets available to prospective owners.

While allowing non-profit animal welfare organizations to showcase pets in stores is commendable, it should not be at the expense of retail pet stores' ability to offer a broader range of animals. Size, temperament, and the specific needs of the businesses customer base should determine what animals they choose to sell, not legislative mandates.

Hawai'i's strict import regulations, including the 120-day quarantine or pre-arrival rabies vaccination, further complicate the ability of pet stores to offer a diverse range of animals. The financial and logistical challenges of importing pets underscore the need for local pet store support, not additional hurdles.

In conclusion, SB2120 poses unnecessary challenges to local businesses, pet owners, and our broader community. **I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and consider the far-reaching implications of its enactment.**

Bruce R. Ramsey

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:43:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill.

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:43:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICKY BAKER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 2120 Opposition

This overly broad reaching measure is obviously designed, as previous bills before it, with the intent of making it nearly impossible for an individual to offer a pet for sale, or even adoption.

We have federal laws in place (The Animal Welfare Act) that protect the animals in anyone's care, regardless of being a household pet, a pet being offered for adoption, or for sale. Time and time again, we see animals rights lobbyists and activists doing their best to introduce legislature that prohibit not only the ability to provide pets to the public, but even to own a pet.

It has been demonstrated over and over that the public wants the option of adopting *or* purchasing their pet, not being restricted in their ability to choose by legislation penalizing everyone for the misdeeds of a few.

If you want to see Hawaii's parking lots, state parks, and street corners inundated with folks selling puppies out of cardboard boxes with no health warranty, no Humane Society involvement, and no accountability, than pass this bill.

Otherwise, please vote no on SB2120, and allow common sense and the rights of Hawaii's pet loving community to prevail.

Respectfully,

Ricky Baker

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 6:49:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Asia Forgeron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 7:45:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

SB2120, RELATING TO PET SALES

- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024
- 9:10 a.m., Conference Room 229 & Videoconference State Capitol

In Support of the Bill

Introduction

I am a private citizen who has volunteered with and adopted a pet from the Hawaiian Humane Society. I fully support this addition to our important animal welfare protection measures. The origin of any animal presented for sale must be documented to protect the animal and the buyer. A key element of successfully integrating an animal into a family is knowing and understanding the background of that animal. Certainly, we must work to ensure that animals sold as pets are obtained from certain humane sources and that these sales are regulated/documentated.

This measure seems like a small step but a legal requirement for background information and formal record keeping could be a game changer for the breeding of animals/pets. It also encourages well-meaning pet store owners to play a key role in defining how the animals in their care are bred and cared for prior to adoption/sale. Importantly, it raises the bar for pet sales and adoptions to include a solid system of record keeping - this protects the animals and supports more successful adoptions by Hawai'i's families.

I appreciate the Committee's careful review of this measure, with input from the Hawai'i Humane Society and other entities committed to the protection of all pet animals as defined in HRS 711-1100. This is a solid step toward protecting our animals and the people who care for them. Thank you for your consideration.

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

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:32:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorene Maki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee, I oppose SB 2120.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lorene Maki

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:38:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for allowing me to share my support for SB2120 by Senator Keohokalole. It is very important that we be sure that the animals that appear for sale in pet stores are healthy and are not the product of irresponsible breeders. Maintaining records of the origin of and the pet health records concerning each animal is a good beginning. This bill does not interfere with pet stores holding adoption events for nonprofit animal rescue groups, which are an important resource for finding homes for dogs and cats.

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2120

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:48:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

This measure protects consumers and provide law enforcement with a baseline level of transparency on who is breeding animals for profit.



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LATE

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
Government Relations

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: AKC Opposes Senate Bill 2120 – Limiting Hawaiians’ Freedom to Purchase Pets

Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today to offer comments on Senate Bill 2120. We respectfully ask you to not advance the bill as currently worded, which we believe would unreasonably restrict future consumer choice and have a negative impact on dogs and dog owners throughout Hawaii.

RETAIL SOURCING RESTRICTIONS CREATE INCENTIVE FOR UNREGULATED ANIMAL PRODUCTION

The American Kennel Club shares concerns about the well-being of all pets. AKC is the world’s largest purebred dog registry, our affiliated clubs operate America’s largest breed rescue network¹, and for over 135 years we have been proud to be the only non-profit purebred registry devoted to the health and well-being of all dogs. We advocate for responsible dog ownership and support strong enforcement of current local and Hawaii state laws and the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Our commitment to the well-being of all dogs and our extensive experience with both rescue and purpose-bred dogs compels us to weigh in on this issue and oppose SB 2120. Proposals that restrict pet shop sources, whether at the state or local level, are founded on the same model that makes **a false, unverified, and uncorroborated assumption: that professionally-bred dogs sold by retail pet shops are raised in poor conditions.**² In doing so, they undermine the very pet dealer regulations that work to protect consumers and advance responsible breeding practices.

Furthermore, by pushing pet sellers to showcase pets that come from unregulated and random sources, such proposals not only remove the most regulated and vetted source of pets from the market, but they also **exacerbate sourcing problems by creating a perverse demand for dogs that are not subject to, and do not benefit from, animal welfare regulations or the health tests and reporting that result from them.**

We urge you to consider these specifics:

- According to the American Pet Product Association³, approximately **40% of Americans obtained their pet from a retail rescue, traditional breed rescue, shelter, or similar source.** The U.S. currently has a large market for “rescue pets”, and with it, significant economic incentive for individuals or organizations who can avoid regulatory oversight by irresponsibly breeding or flipping pets directly to meet this demand. By comparison, **only 9% of Americans obtained a pet from a traditional retail pet shop.**
- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that approximately one million dogs are imported into the United States on an annual basis.**⁴ The vast majority of these dogs come with little valid health information, receive little regulatory or welfare oversight, and are likely destined for the large, unregulated U.S. retail rescue market.

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- Assuming no growth in U.S. human population or demand for pet dogs, the demographic replacement rate for owned pets in the United States demands eight million pet dogs each year. Small hobby dog breeders who register their litters with the AKC simply cannot meet this demand. Rather than limiting future pet owners to internet scams or unregulated sources of pets, access to high-quality, professionally bred pets from a regulated source should remain an option for Hawaiian households.
- Pet shop sourcing bans do little to address any actual issues of cruelty or negligence. Instead, they are likely to cause harm to responsible Hawaii residents who seek a quality purpose-bred pet but who may not have access to a local breeder, do not want to be put on a long waiting list, etc.
- Residents may wish to purchase a dog from a pet shop where they can still benefit from receiving their new pet's substantiated health history and with which they can maintain ongoing professional relationships to support their pet ownership. Ordinances that impose pet shop sourcing restrictions, however, limit these consumers' freedom of choice and the ability of residents to responsibly select pets based on the breed, health, and temperament traits that they seek and believe will make a good match for their lifestyle. Pet shops can be a humane, viable option for many families, as reputable shops will carefully source their animals and are themselves subject to oversight.
- When people are forced obtain a pet that is not the right fit for their lifestyle, that pet is more likely to end up in a shelter. We believe a better approach is to keep pets out of shelters in the first place. Instead of pet shop bans, one of the best ways to keep pets out of shelters is by educating prospective dog owners and enabling them to obtain a pet that is the right fit for their lifestyle. Great pets come from a variety of sources, including breeders, responsible rescues, and regulated pet shops and shelters. But in every case, **freedom of choice to select the right pet is the crucial first step to success.**
- Instead of harsh anti-business legislation like SB 2120, **AKC encourages Hawaii's legislators to consider the adoption of substantive consumer protections for pet purchasers.** To learn more on this issue and view model consumer protection legislation, go to AKC's Consumer Protection/"Puppy Lemon Laws" key issue page at <https://www.voterve.net/AKC/campaigns/94320/respond>.
- **The American Kennel Club also recommends** requiring pet shops to adhere to appropriate care standards and prohibiting them from purchasing animals from any breeder that has been found to have committed a direct violation of USDA animal welfare regulations or three or more indirect violations of USDA regulations related to the health or welfare of an animal in the last two years. Such safeguards not only protect animal welfare but also preserve consumer choice and businesses in your community.

It has become common for animal rights/protection groups in the U.S. to advocate for closing down U.S. dog breeders by restricting the public sources of pets to random or unknown sources (often mislabeled as "rescues"). Doing so is a next step in their agenda to stopping the breeding of dogs and human interaction with animals.

As the nation's largest breed rescue network, AKC strongly supports *responsible* rescue. We recognize the appeal of assisting dogs from unknown origins, particularly from other countries. However, putting regulated U.S. breeders out of business—despite USDA's reports of a 96% compliance rate of its federal Animal Welfare Act licensees and registrants⁵—in favor of animals from undocumented sources with unknown health and temperament histories has the potential to create enormous public health risks, including increased zoonotic disease transfer from animals to humans.⁶ This would also reduce overall oversight of canine health and welfare, weaken consumer protections available for purpose-bred dogs, and continually undermine breeders who produce purpose-bred dogs.

The most effective way to shut down irresponsible breeders, irresponsible rescues, and irresponsible pet sellers is to stop them from making money from the sale or transfer of unhealthy pets. Our recommendations would (1) hold pet shops accountable for the pets they sell and (2) mandate reimbursement for the purchase/fees or veterinary care for an unhealthy pet in cases where illnesses at the time of transfer were not disclosed to the new owner. Shelters and rescues should also be held to the same standards.

Many are unaware that the American Kennel Club represents the largest breed rescue network in the United States. We are proud that our national breed clubs take great care of the animals that come into their rescues. Unfortunately, there are rescues and transports that do not provide such diligent care of their animals. We believe strong enforcement of current federal and state laws and regulations for breeders, pet shops, and pet dealers, and regulating shelters, rescues, and transports, to ensure dogs sourced through those channels receive the same level of humane care and oversight is a better policy solution.

AKC does not oppose the recordkeeping requirements included in SB 2120.

The American Kennel Club welcomes any opportunity to work with you and local communities to address your concerns without punishing responsible breeders, pet shop owners, or Hawaii's pet owners. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 919-816-3503 if I may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,



Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
AKC Government Relations

CC: Lynn Muramaru – Pacific Pet Alliance

¹ “Facts and Stats,” *American Kennel Club National Breed Club Breed Rescues*, accessed October 20, 2020, at <https://www.akc.org/press-center/articles-resources/facts-and-stats//akc-national-breed-club-rescue/>.

² For example, see Kavin, K., “When ‘Puppy Mills Rescue’ Blurs the Line Between Saving and Selling Dogs, Questionable Practices Inside the High Profile Nonprofit National Mill Dog Rescue are not What Most People Expect ‘Rescuing’ to Be”, *The Huffington Post*, July 14, 2019, accessed October 20, 2019, at https://www.huffpost.com/entry/national-mill-dog-rescue-puppy-mills_n_5d07cdd2e4b0953278381e02?ncid=APPLENEWS00001&guccounter=1.

³ APPA National Pet Owners Survey, 2021.

⁴ “Guidance Regarding Agency Interpretation of ‘Rabies Free’ As it Relates to the Importation of Dogs Imported into the United States”, *The Federal Register*, vol. 84. No. 21 pp. 724 – 730. January 31, 2019.

⁵ *2022 Animal Welfare Impact Report*, accessed February 12, 2024, at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/aphis_general/2022-impact-report.pdf.

⁶ See Cima, G., “State authorities see disease risk in imported dogs, November 14, 2020, accessed October 20, 2020, at <https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2019-12-01/state-authorities-see-disease-risk-imported-dogs>.