

TESTIMONY

SB 30

LATE



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

LATE

**Testimony in Support of S.B.30; Relating to Animals
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
January 30, 2009 3:00pm**

**Submitted by: Inga Gibson
Hawaii State Director
The Humane Society of the United States**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Committee Members:

On behalf of our 47,704 members and supporters of the Humane Society of the United States in Hawaii, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of S.B. 30; prohibiting, with exception, the practice of tethering dogs. The HSUS is in strong support of S.B.30 and we thank Senator Taniguchi for his introduction of this important animal welfare and public safety measure.

The introduction of this measure could not be more timely. More than 100 ordinances across 30 states have recently been enacted to prohibit certain types of chaining. In addition, local media has recently reported a number of dog bites and a proposal to prohibit certain breeds of dog. The most effective, efficient and affordable way to reduce dog bites is to prohibit the inhumane practice of chaining, coupled with strong dangerous dog and anti-dogfighting laws.

Tethering Causes Aggression - a Threat to Public Safety

The practice of chaining or tethering leads to aggression in dogs—even in dogs who start out friendly and docile. Continuously tethered dogs become lonely, bored, territorial, and aggressive. Like many animals, dogs react to perceived threats with a “fight or flight” response. Because tethered dogs do not have a “flight” option, they are more likely to respond aggressively to perceived threats—whether it’s another animal or an unlucky child who happens to enter their territory.

Chaining is a known risk factor for dog bites. Health and Public Safety professionals have long recognized a connection between chained dogs and dog bites. For example, in a 1994 edition of the journal *Pediatrics*, researchers found that chained dogs are nearly three (2.8) times more likely to bite than unchained dogs and over five (5.4) times more likely to bite children than unchained dogs.¹

Numerous attacks on people by tethered dogs have been documented. For example, a study published in 1985 in *Public Health Reports* showed that half of the dogs involved in severe attacks on humans were chained during the attack or broke free from their chains to attack.² Tragically, the victims of such attacks are often children.

The United States Department of Agriculture and American Veterinary Medical Association also note the negative effects of chained dogs:

¹ K.A. Gershman, Jeffrey J. Sacks, and J.C. Wright, “Which dogs bite? A case-control study of risk factors,” *Pediatrics* 93 (1994), 913-917.

² John C. Wright, PhD, “Severe Attacks by Dogs: Characteristics of the Dogs, the Victims, and the Attack Settings,” *Public Health Reports* Vol. 100, No. 1 (January-February 1985), <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1424716>.

L.A.I.F.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

From the Federal Register Vol. 1, No. 68 (July 2, 1996): “Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts the dog’s movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog’s shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog’s movement and potentially causing injury.”

AVMA – American Veterinary Medical Association

From press releases dated May 17, 2002 and May 5, 2003 for National Dog Bite Prevention Week: “Never tether or chain your dog because this can contribute to aggressive behavior.”

Scientific study

From the study *Which Dogs Bite? A Case Control Study of Risk Factors*: “Our finding that being chained in the yard may be a risk factor for biting is in agreement with prior studies which have demonstrated that chained dogs account for a substantial portion of serious and fatal bites.”

Tethering is Inhumane

Dogs are pack animals and are naturally social. Chained dogs live an isolated existence that is contrary to their own instincts. This lack of socialization is part of what makes chained dogs more dangerous.

Chained dogs are at risk of getting hurt. Aside from the psychological harm endured by chained dogs, they are at risk from a number of other dangers. Weather conditions such as extreme heat or flooding can adversely affect a chained dog’s health. Plus, chained dogs cannot escape attacks from people or other animals.

It is not uncommon for chained dogs to strangle themselves if their tether gets tangled or caught on another object. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become rubbed raw and covered with sores, the result of poorly fitted collars and the dogs’ constant yanking and straining in desperate attempts to escape confinement. Dogs have been found with collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your passage of S.B. 30

Please contact me at (808)922-9910 or igibson@humanesociety.org if I may provide additional information.

From: Cindy Newburg [cnewburg@insurancefactors.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:58 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Subject: SB30; WTL; Friday, 1/30/09; 3PM; Rm 229

LATE

IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB 30.

Senator Hee,

Please pass this bill.

Dogs should not have to live on the end of ropes full time any more than you or I would.

The recent cases of people being bit are good examples of dogs that are not given the proper attention or exercise.

Dogs living on the end of chains tend to be frustrated and unsocialized and can create a danger to the community if and when they ever get loose.

Please pass this anti – tethering bill.

It is the right thing to do !

Cindy Newburg
5568 Haleola Street, Hon, HI 96821
808-373-1436

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:03 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: kailuaangel@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB30 on 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM SB30

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ginger westerman
Organization: Individual
Address: pob 44 kailua hawaii
Phone: 808 386-6544
E-mail: kailuaangel@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I have been trying to get a bill passed such as this one for the past year. I acknowledge the persistence and diligent work of everyone who has been involved. Mahalo to all the people who cared enough to be a voice for the animals who cannot speak for themselves.



**Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826**

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in support of SB30, with concerns.
SB 30 - Prohibits, with exceptions, the practice of tethering dogs.

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports SB 30 supports the intent of SB30, however we do have concerns on the enforcement of the bill.

We know that chaining or tethering a dog for long periods of time poses a threat to the welfare of the dog, his family and the community in which he lives. A chained dog will often become very territorial and can become highly aggressive when confronted with what they believe to be a threat to themselves or their territory.

Dogs are social animals who thrive on interaction with their humans. By keeping your dog chained 24/7, you are depriving this social being of the interaction and socialization he needs to become a well-adjusted member of his family and community. In addition to the psychological damage wrought by life on a chain, chained dogs become easy targets themselves from other animals as well as insensitive humans.

However, our concern is in the ability to enforce this bill in that the language states that a "reasonable period" in which you cannot exceed chaining a dog means a period of time not to exceed three hours in a twenty-four hour period. This type of time limitation makes it virtually unenforceable. In a few states and municipalities, there are specific hours that a dog must be off-leash, and in some states, they have banned chaining completely.

We do agree that choke and/or pinch collars should never be used to tether an unattended dog. The Hawaiian Humane Society would like to work together with the legislature to find alternative ways that we can specifically address this issue. Of course, ideally, we would like to see the chaining of dogs completely banned.

From: nomi image [nomie_34@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:22 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SUBJECT: SB30 (Anti-Dog Tethering)

LATE

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street , Room 229

Naomi Egami
Supports

Dear Senators:

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 30 which, if passed, will prohibit much of the current inhumane practice of tethering/chaining dogs on the islands of Hawaii .

I am in support of the passing of this bill because it furthers aggression in dogs that are already territorial. They are 2.8 times more likely to bite when chained or penned, especially if the dog is a unneutered male or a mother with puppies. Between October 2003 and April of 2008, there were at least 205 children in the U.S. killed/seriously injured by dogs living chained or penned. There is also the issue of embedded collars which occurs when the dog outgrows his/her collar. This can lead to serious infection and scarring. Many people seem to be unaware that their pet is still growing and when left outside they seem to forget about them altogether.

Three states have enacted some kind of protection for dogs living chained or penned-Connecticut, California, and Texas since 2003. Over 110 cities and counties nationwide have now banned or limited tethering, setting stricter laws for what is acceptable treatment for "man's best friend".

I am passionate about this bill because my next door neighbors dog died as a direct result of being tethered. Left unsupervised, he ran around in circles in the garage until he eventually hung himself.

I urge you to please support SB30.

Thank you,

Naomi Egami
2454 Myrtle Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 349-8334

From: Club Mutt [clubmutt@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 6:05 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Dog Chaining

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229

Danielle
Callahan
Supports

Dear Senators:

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 30 which, if passed, will prohibit much of the current inhumane practice of tethering/chaining dogs on the islands of Hawaii.

I am in support of the passing of this bill because: *[your reason(s)]*

Thank you,

Danielle Callahan
1258 Ulunahale St.
Kailua, HI 96734
808-351-3143



ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAII

ADVOCATING FOR ANIMAL LIBERATION SINCE 1977

P.O. Box 10845
HONOLULU, HI 96816
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FAX: (866) 508-2997

WWW.ANIMALRIGHTSHAWAII.COM

Anjie Pham
Supports

SB 30
(PROHIBITS DOG-TETHERING)

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Friday, January 30, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Rm. 229

Dear Senators:

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of the passing of **SB30** into law for the following reasons: *(Please also see attached pictures that we documented around the island)*

- Dogs are loyal, sociable creatures. It is **inhumane** to keep them permanently chained/tethered to a stationary object away from the main family as some kind of lawn ornament or cheap burglar system.
- It is especially **inexcusable** when the dogs, both large *and* small, are indiscriminately **tethered to one spot despite being inside a fenced yard** like I often see around the island.
- As they move around, their chains tend to get entwined around the pole they are tied to and become shorter and shorter until eventually, the dogs are **forced to eat, sleep, and defecate all in the same spot of just 1-2 feet**.
- When left permanently tethered outside, they are also usually **deemed as easily replaceable, dispensable objects** by their owners and are thus often **neglected and denied basic comfort, medical care, and socialization**.
- Nine out of ten, the dogs showed **clear signs of terrible wear & physical degradation from being exposed to the elements at all time** yet the owners are not fined/charged in any way for such obvious neglect and abuse.
- And finally, as a result of living much of the time alone, the dogs become bored and extremely territorial. National statistics gathered by Dogs Deserve Better show that they are **2.5 times more likely to bite**. From 2003 to 2007, at least **115 children in the US were killed or seriously injured** by chained dogs. **In Hawaii, the past 2 weeks alone has seen 4 incidents involving dog bites**.
- It becomes doubly tragic when the dogs are then fatally punished as they get turned in to the Humane Society and inevitably put down.

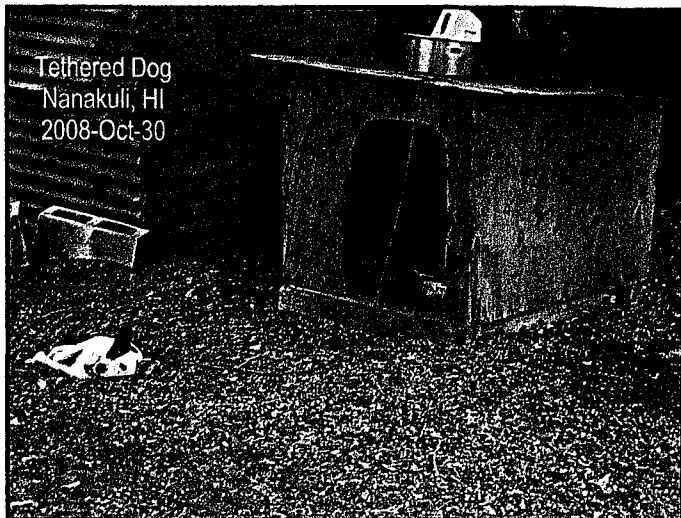
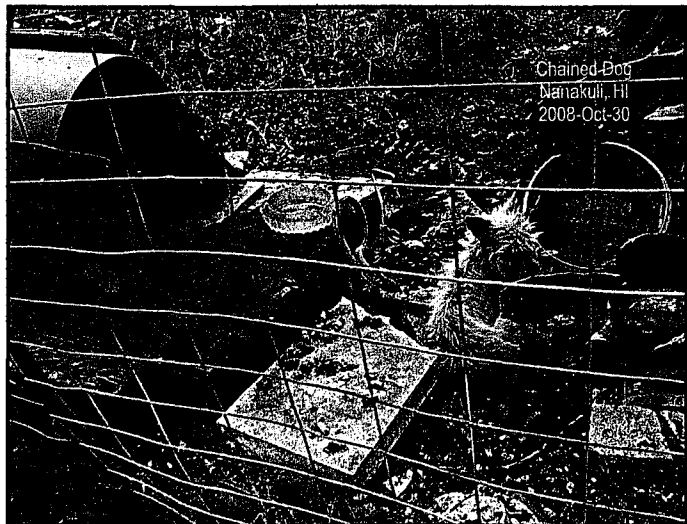
So for humane reasons and public-safety reasons, I ask that **SB30** be passed into law and properly enforced in Hawaii. Mahalo.

Anjie Pham
Activist/Board of Director
Animal Rights Hawaii

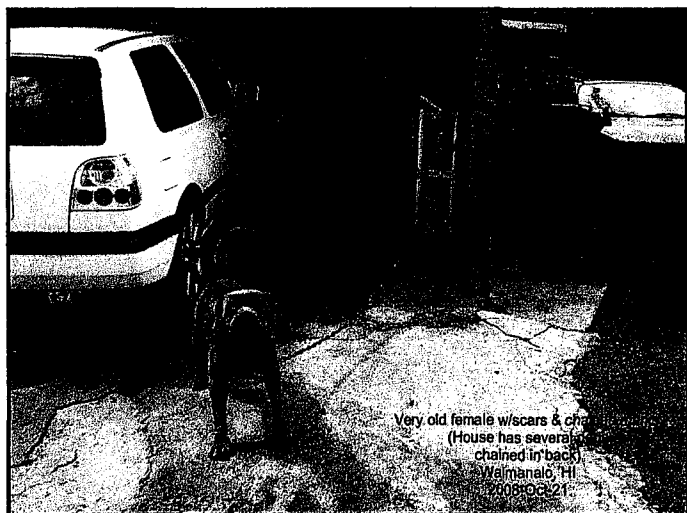
In Support of SB 30

THE FACES & FATES OF HAWAII'S TETHERED DOGS

Hundreds of dogs were seen tethered & chained all over Oahu, from Kaimuki, Waimanalo to Nanakuli.
These pictures were taken between Oct.-Dec. 2008 by Animal Rights Hawaii.



Even tiny dogs live permanently outside tethered 2 feet from their "house" in fenced yards.



This old female was used as a breeding tool. She has multiple chaining scars around her neck.



These dogs were chained to abandoned cars and machinery in muddy puddles.

From: lindamms@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:18 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Dog Chaining

LATE TESTIMONY
ESTIM

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

**DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229**

Dear Senators:

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 30 which, if passed, will prohibit much of the current inhumane practice of tethering/chaining dogs on the islands of Hawaii.

I am in support of the passing of this bill because **I think it's inhumane.**

Thank you,
Linda Flowerday
531 Keolu Dr.
#531G
Kailua, HI 96734
808-263-8309

individual

=

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

Friday, January 30, 2009

Socorro Baca
87-1457 Akowai Rd
Waianae, HI 96792
808-668-9710

Senator Clayton Hee
Senator Jill Tokuda
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital

Re: Anti-Tethering, Bill SB 30

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Tokuda,

With great concern I write you today to express the depressing reality of thousands of dogs on the Waianae coast. Residents endure painful daily sightings on the island of dogs living at the end of a chain. I live on the Waianae coast and I'm ill from seeing mans best friend so poorly treated so frequently. You will find many on your way in to Waianae on Farrington Hwy alone. I think you'd agree when I say that it's hard to believe that anyone would actually keep a dog permanently on a chain or leash. These sad canines having to live there whole miserable life abused, is an unjust.

This is no way for a wonderful animal companion to live, no way. Please with all my heart and soul, I ask you to pass Bill SB30. My heart breaks everyday and it is very depressing to have to see everywhere. It is much too common of a sight in many parts of this wonderful island and it is time to put a stop to it.

Please help our community with this harsh reality we live with. In this day and age this is just unacceptable. Abused, depressed and unhealthy is the best way to describe the unfortunate dogs. Please Senator Hee, Senator Tokuda, mend our hearts by passing Bill SB30 today. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Socorro Baca

Individual
NOT Present

LATE TESTIMONY



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LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing: Friday, January 30, 2009, 3:00 pm
Conference Room 229
Hawai'i State Capitol

re: SB30

position: support

Chair Hee and Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to be heard on this very important issue.

Hawai'i has a very large number of dogs who are tied/tethered/chained. These dogs are found in many neighborhoods; the dogs range from tiny to very large. They live in small lots and in large yards. They live in fenced yards and open properties. Some are considered pets; many are burglar deterrents; others are simply marooned to a short chain for their entire lives, eating, drinking, defecating and urinating within a small area.

The public safety aspect is very telling:

Several national studies have resulted in the following facts about chaining dogs:

Chaining Violates Dogs' Nature as Social Pack Animals

Dogs are highly social animals. In the wild, dogs ran around with each other as members of a "pack." Over a period of many years, dogs were gradually domesticated and came to rely on humans not only for their care but for companionship as well. Humans became—and still are—dogs' "pack members." Because domesticated, dogs no longer have packs of other dogs to live with, they need to be members of our families.

Chaining Makes Dogs Even More Territorial

Dogs are territorial animals. A chain or tether limits the animal's space and makes the boundary of those few square feet of territory much more distinct.

In her book, Karen Delise writes, "Because dogs are territorial animals, chaining them only serves to exacerbate space issues, as space is limited and more clearly defined." Delise goes on to explain that



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chaining “increases the likelihood of a dangerous defensive response to a perceived encroachment on the dog’s territory or possessions (food or water bowls).”

‘Flight’ Is Not an Option

Dogs are “fight or flight” animals. When confronted with a threat, a dog’s psychology and physiology dictates that he or she will either flee from the danger (“flight”) or confront it (“fight”). Because tethered dogs have no ability to flee and escape from danger, they must resort to aggression and attacks.

Federal Health and Veterinary Experts Agree: Chaining Causes Attacks

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions, a dog’s socialization and behavioral health—both of which are severely compromised by chaining, according to animal behaviorists—are among the factors that determine a dog’s tendency to bite. The AVMA advises dog guardians, “Never tether or chain your dog, because this can contribute to aggressive behavior.”

The AVMA and CDC agree that reports of dog bites should include information on the animal’s degree and form of confinement or restraint—such as being tethered or chained—at the time of the incident so that, in the words of the AVMA, the “risk associated with these practices” can be assessed.

Children Are the Most Common Victims of Chained-Dog Attacks

The most common victims of dog attacks, including those in which the dog is or was tethered, are children. According to Karen Delise, author of *Fatal Dog Attacks*, 79 percent of the 431 people killed by dogs in the United States between 1965 and 2001 were children under the age of 12. The AVMA agrees: “Children are the most common victims of serious dog bites.” A glance at the details of the chained-dog attacks shows how frequently children are involved.

CDC officials found that of 50 children aged 1 or older who were killed by dogs in the United States from 1979 to 1988, 28 percent had “wandered too close to a chained dog.”

A similar 1996 study, partly authored by CDC officials, found that nearly 30 percent of 38 children aged 1 to 9 killed by dogs in the United States between 1989 and 1994 died after “wandering too close to a chained dog.”



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Both California and Connecticut have banned tethering dogs; many other communities have mandated either a ban or a limited time for tethering.

We hope that you will consider this issue as serious enough to pass SB30 - it is a very serious issue.

With aloha,

Cathy Goeggel

Director

SB30

LATE TESTIMONY

January 30, 2009

Testimony in favor of SB30

Dear Senator Hee and members of the committee:

I was born and raised in Niu Valley where I still reside. Growing up we always had wonderful neighbors until several years ago when new neighbors moved in next door. Mrs. T is from Hilo and Mr. T is from Japan.

Unfortunately, the first week they lived there, they were burglarized. At about the same time a newsletter was sent from the Niu Valley Neighborhood Security Watch that contained information telling of a reformed burglar who admitted choosing which houses to enter by whether or not they had a dog. The next weekend our new neighbors arrived home from the Hawaiian Humane Society with two large adult dogs in tow.

They first put the dogs in their spacious, fenced back yard, but the dogs escaped by climbing over the short 4 foot fence. As a solution, Mr. T. tied the dogs around a single tree in the back yard on two ropes about 5 feet long. The surrounding neighbors could hear the dogs yelp every time they got tangled and would call the family with their concerns.

I assumed that this was temporary until they could better secure their back yard. However, when days turned into weeks and weeks into months I realized that this was a permanent situation for the dogs.

The only change Mr. T made after being confronted by a Hawaiian Humane Society officer was to move the dogs to separate trees. This stopped the tangling, but now they had no interaction with each other and after a few days we noticed the dogs were sleeping all the time and stopped barking at us when we would check on them from our side of the fence.

The Hawaiian Humane Society made several visits to the home, but said that, according to Hawaii State Law, there were no violations.

This sad situation that involved not only the dogs but all four of Mr. T's surrounding neighbors lasted for about one year. One of the dogs was found dead where it lived tied to the tree, and the other dog, after the family had a second burglary, was taken back to the Hawaiian Humane Society and replaced with a burglar alarm.

I learned in my conversations with Mr. T that he did not understand the needs of dogs. To him, their only need was for food and water.

The year we witnessed those two sad dogs was a difficult one for me and family. We felt totally helpless to improve the situation for the dogs. At one point we even begged to take over their care.

Laws teach people what is right. For those citizens who do not know that the care of a dog goes beyond food and water this bill is absolutely necessary.

This bill will not only address the welfare of dogs, but also address a quality of life issue for the unfortunate neighbors who are forced to live next to dogs who are chained on short ropes 24/7.

Linda Vannatta
5568 Haleola Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
(808) 220-8140

TESTIMONY

SB 30

LATE

(END)