

From: Linda Vannatta [linda.vannatta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 1:09 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 730

Dear Chair and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Dog fighting is, unfortunately, alive and well on the island of Oahu.

A neighbor of mine in Niu Valley use to live in Waimanalo. She moved two years ago because of the weekend dog fights she could hear from her house.

She described to me what she heard: The sound of two dogs fighting followed by the sound of people cheering followed by the sound of two dogs fighting again. This went on every weekend.

Please know dog fighting is a real issue for residents of Hawaii and it needs to be stopped.

We need tough laws to stop dog fighters, not only for the welfare of the dogs, but for the welfare of citizens as well.

Violence begets violence.

After watching the violence of two dogs tearing each other apart, it is not unrealistic to think that perhaps those spectators might be more violent with each other, with their neighbors, or with their family members.

Respectfully,
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karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Liza Souza [kaneohespocho@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 4:07 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

Honorable Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito House Judiciary Committee Tuesday, February 24, 2:05pm, Room 325

Subject: H.B. 730 (Mizuno) Related to Dogfighting;

Aloha,

In a recent national ranking of dogfighting laws, Hawaii ranked 50th in part because it is one of only two states with no penalties for paying admission or wagering on an organized dogfight or for breeding, selling or possessing dogs with the intent to fight. This bill would also prohibit the use of stray or stolen pets as "bait" to train dogs to fight. As we learned in the Michael Vick case, no community is immune from this cruelty. Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals and may pose a threat to public safety. In addition, dogfighting is associated with other crimes such as illegal gambling, drug distribution and human violence.

Please support HB 730 to reduce cruelty, crime and protect pets and public safety.

Mahalo

Liza Souza