

Dear Board Member:

Earlier today I submitted Testimony to you regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 4-29. During the course of preparing my testimony I inadvertently submitted testimony prior to my final revisions. I wish to resubmit this testimony as written below and ask that you ignore the previously submitted testimony. I am sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation. Respectfully submitted, Coralie Willett

### TESTIMONY

#### Pursuant to the Proposed Amendments to Chapter 4-29

I would like to first take this opportunity to thank the Board for all the work it has accomplished in changing the old quarantine system in place in Hawaii for so many years. I have been a Maui resident for 21 years and I am glad to say that I have been the beneficiary of the new policies instituted in July, 2003. I have travelled with my Bichon Frise on my trips back to the mainland and it has changed my life. To be able to take your pet with you makes all the difference in the world. For that I wish to thank you today. You have achieved a great deal thus far and I commend you for continuing to attempt to implement further amendments to the existing laws.

I have read the new "Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules for Rabies Quarantine Program", Chapter 4-29, and I am totally in concurrence with all the proposed amendments. These are important and very necessary changes. There are two items, however, that I would like to specifically address.

First is item (2): to "allow the possibility, in the future, of releasing dogs and cats directly from ports other than Honolulu International Airport". This, of course, is of utmost importance to me personally, as I live on Maui. Maui's population is the fastest growing of all the outer islands and having a facility here on Maui is unquestionably necessary. We also probably have the largest population (other than Oahu) of not only full time residents but part time residents that stay here for lengthy periods of time. It is not only an inconvenience issue going through Honolulu Airport but a significant added expense.

Recent newspaper articles have praised the effectiveness of the new quarantine laws and have indicated that a large majority of the pets entering the State qualify under the "immediate release" program. This has resulted in a significant savings to the State through a reduction in the quarantine station personnel. A portion of this savings could best serve the people by opening up a satellite facility here on Maui. It would also relieve some of the load on the personnel at the Honolulu Quarantine Holding Facility if it could be spread out to other ports of entry. As Maui has the most direct flights from the mainland, more than any of the other outer islands, it would be the most beneficial and the most cost effective not only for the State but the pet owner as well. I URGE you to select Maui (Kahului Airport) as your FIRST additional port of entry. And at the earliest, not "in the future" as the amendment reads. That wording does concern me. When can we reasonably expect a facility here? I would like some input from the Board as to what "in the future" means.

Second is item (4): "allow vaccinations and the OIE-FAVN rabies blood test used for 5-day or less qualification to be valid for three years". Hooray, hooray! I have testified in the past as to my concern for "over-vaccinating" a small dog/cat by requiring the three year vaccination to be administered every 18 months. This is an EXTREMELY important change and I applaud the Board for now recognizing that the three year vaccine administered on a three year basis (as recommended by the manufacturer) is sufficient

protection for rabies prevention. Of all the proposed amendments this one needs to be implemented at the earliest.

I would like to further address the vaccination protocol and blood test requirement for the Board to consider for future amendments. The Coalition for a Safer Quarantine has been lobbying for one vaccination (not two vaccinations as is currently required) and to do away with a blood test altogether. I am in total agreement with that but I also know the Board has been holding a hard line on these points. We will continue to try to work with the Board on these issues but meanwhile I would like to suggest an alternative proposal that would be at least a first step in the right direction.

I would like to propose that only one vaccination be required with a subsequent blood test. If the animal's titer level is at the acceptable level it would be allowed to enter the State without any waiting period. If the animal fails the blood test, then and only then, a second vaccination would be required along with a second blood test. After the animal passes the initial blood test then no further blood tests would be required. What would be required would be written proof by a veterinarian that the animal's three year "booster" was given in accordance with your requirements. I have just gone through the "second" go around with my dog as his three year vaccination expired in March and he had to not only be revaccinated (at 18 months) but had to go through another blood test. This, again, is totally unnecessary and costly. Not only is there the cost of the veterinarian and the Kansas State Lab but the current policy regarding the Department's entry and re-entry fees change each time a blood test is done. In summary, you are charging \$165.00 for initial entry into Hawaii, then it is reduced to \$78.00 for subsequent entries. **HOWEVER**, when the blood test is redone the fee goes back up to \$165.00. Why? I believe the fee issue could be addressed simply by a Board action as it is not a policy issue subject to Public Hearings. It would simply be a change in the fee structure. I would appreciate your consideration of this matter. But most importantly, is your consideration of my proposal regarding the vaccination and blood test protocol. These issues need further attention.

Again, I would like to thank the Board for its continuing efforts on behalf of our furry friends. I believe the proposed amendments are heading us in the right direction. There is still more work ahead but let us get these proposed amendments in place at the earliest. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Coralie Willett

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Addendum:

I would like to add my thanks to the Board for all the changes in quarantine regulations which have made it possible for us to live Maui. Now we are able to reside in paradise and still visit family and friends in California with our baby, Molly, a 5-pound Maltese.

Our Maui neighbors, Will and Coralie Willett, expressed our desires for the future of pets in Hawaii perfectly. So I am taking the liberty of adding our names to their well put testimony:

Thank-you so much for your continued efforts to improve the lives of all Hawaii residents.

Bella and Dan Whelan - 3980 Wailea Ekolu Place - Kihei, 96753