



March 14, 2017

Representative Richard Creagan
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Creagan:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture in opposition to Senate Bill 593.

NABR, and its more than 360 member institutions and their thousands of employees who engage in biomedical research with animal models, writes to express concerns with S.B.593. NABR members include universities, medical and veterinary schools, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and other research-intensive programs, including medical research centers in the state of Hawaii, that are dedicated to the development of diagnostics, treatments and cures for animals and humans. Biomedical research projects involving animals are governed by numerous laws, regulations and guidelines, and continue to yield invaluable data in the development of new therapies to treat disease. Cancer therapies, vaccines, organ transplants, cardiovascular surgeries and medicines, and many other innovations have been developed through research conducted at our member institutions.

S.B.593 is a solution in search of a nonexistent problem. The adoption of research animals is not a new concept for biomedical research. The majority of research programs in the United States already conduct adoption programs with great success. These animals have been purposely bred for research and are not typical house pets. They require specialized care and attention, beyond those of the common household pet, and every effort must be made to ensure proper acclimatization and evaluation before placement in post-research homes. The existing efforts organized by research programs for adoption include careful and strict guidelines for evaluating potential adoptive homes, something that private shelters or adoption organizations may not be equipped or trained to do.

S.B.593, simply put, is misguided and unnecessary. According to FY15 census information obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), no dogs or cats were housed or involved in research protocols in the state of Hawaii. Supporters of S.B.593 incorrectly claim that a number of dogs are used in studies in Hawaii. These animals are used in veterinary technician training programs where students learn vital front-line skills like tooth cleaning, diagnostic testing, nail trimming, vaccinations, surgical preparation, anesthesiology, assisting in surgeries, and more. This fact seriously begs the question about whether this legislation amounts to nothing more than a

public relations victory for animal activist groups. Until Hawaii's shelters are empty and every adoption-worthy shelter animal is placed in its forever home, it would seem only logical to direct legislative efforts towards the large number of homeless animals at municipal and state shelters. The Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS) euthanized approximately 80% of its 6,588 cats in 2015¹ and dogs accounted for 26% of the 10,197 animals euthanized by HIHS in 2014². Further, animals bred for research require knowledge, patience and consistency to ensure they thrive in post-research homes and if hastily placed in an improper setting, they could potentially end up homeless or in the shelter system facing euthanasia.

Legislation like S.B.593 has been introduced in other states and is part of a campaign by animal rights activists opposed to all animal research. Due in part to concerns expressed by NABR and leading research universities and companies, similar bills have failed to pass in Maryland and Illinois last session. In fact, just this year similar bills in Maine and North Dakota failed to pass. Activists promoting this legislation have used animals adopted from research programs as public relations props to promote false claims that animal research is cruel and unnecessary. Shannon Keith, president and founder of the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP), wrote an op-ed to the *Seattle Times* where she called such studies "archaic" and that they are "...bad for people, too."³ That argument could not be further from the truth, as the preponderance of evidence throughout the history of medical research suggests otherwise. Animal research is highly regulated by federal laws, regulations and guidelines, and as you will see in the attached document, 22 of the top 25 most prescribed drugs in America were brought to fruition thanks to research with dogs⁴.

The activists behind these efforts don't plan to stop their campaign with passage of legislation requiring dog and cat adoption. As shown in the attached graphic posted to social media on March 9, 2016 by BFP, one of S.B.593's main proponents, the organization aims to "end animal testing." The scientific research community strictly adheres to the principles of refining procedures, reducing the number of animals required in studies and replacing animal models where feasible; decisions best made by science, not animal rights groups. Similarly, anti-research activists have also expressed an interest in requiring facilities to adopt out other research species, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, pigs, rats and goldfish.

If enacted, S.B.593 will likely provide fertile ground for future onerous amendments seeking to place additional burdens on lifesaving and life-improving research for humans and animals. After the bill in Illinois failed to pass, BFP introduced secondary legislation seeking arduous, overly burdensome, and duplicative state reporting requirements for any research study involving dogs or cats. The Illinois legislature also failed to pass that bill but similar mandates have now been included in Maryland's bill. Additional reporting requirements like those proposed in Illinois and Maryland are of great concern because according to a National Science Board study, researchers are only able to devote 58% of their time conducting actual research because of burdensome administrative duties set forth by regulation. They also undermine federal efforts like those in the landmark 21st Century Cures Act signed by President Barack Obama just months ago to ease unnecessary regulations and to accelerate the delivery of cures to patients.

The state of Hawaii should be justifiably proud of its venerable research institutions, including the University of Hawaii, and the dynamic and productive research discoveries they have made to

¹ <http://hawaiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/hihs-defends-early-euthanization-cat>

² <http://hawaiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/humane-society-euthanized-more-10k-animals-last-year>

³ <http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/uw-animal-lab-represents-archaic-abusive-practice/>

⁴ <http://www.nabr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Animal-Research-Behind-Top-25-Drugs.pdf>

improve the health of both humans and other animals. Private and public research are also substantial economic drivers in the state. In total, 4,578 jobs in Hawaii are supported by the biopharmaceutical sector and the total economic output of this research is \$880.3 million⁵. Legislative proposals like S.B.593 create an anti-research climate which may result in biomedical programs looking to other states as more supportive climates for lifesaving research endeavors.

NABR appreciates and understands the importance of re-homing animals no longer needed in lifesaving and life-enhancing biomedical research and supports the already existing and effective framework practiced nationwide by our research institutions; therefore, NABR opposes S.B.593.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Bailey", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew R. Bailey
President
NABR

⁵ http://www.researchamerica.org/sites/default/files/Innovation%26HI_2017.pdf



Beagle Freedom Project

March 9 at 8:56am · 🌐

#Truth bfp.org

Laboratories hate our
liberations & would
rather these  dogs
be kept hidden

behind bars with no
name and no future.
Fortunately BFP has
already saved over
30 lab  animals from
labs in 4 states and 3
 countries in 2016!

They are the best
ambassadors to help
end animal testing.



The Animal Research Behind The Top 25 Most Prescribed Drugs

Rank	Drug	Drug Usage	Species
1	Synthroid	Enlarged thyroid; hypothyroidism	Rats, Dogs, Mice
2	Crestor	High cholesterol	Rats, Beagle dogs, Mice, Cats, Cynomolgus monkeys, Rabbits
3	Nexium	Heartburn; Acid Reflux	Rats, Beagle dogs, Rabbits, Mice
4	Ventolin HFA	Bronchospasm	Rats, Beagle dogs, New Zealand white rabbits
5	Advair Diskus	Asthma; COPD Flare-ups	Rats, Dogs, Mice, Rabbits, Guinea pigs, Monkeys, Hamsters
6	Diovan	High Blood Pressure	Rats, Mice, Rabbits, Marmosets
7	Lantus Solostar	Diabetes mellitus	Rats, Beagle Dogs, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs
8	Cymbalta	Fibromyalgia; Major Depressive & General Anxiety Disorders	Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
9	Vyvanse	ADHD; Severe binge eating (adults)	Rats, Guinea Pigs, Beagle Dogs
10	Lyrica	Fibromyalgia; Epilepsy	Mice, Rats, Monkeys, Rabbits
11	Spiriva Handihaler	COPD (including Bronchitis & Emphysema)	Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
12	Lantus	Types 1 & 2 Diabetes	Mice, Dogs, Guinea Pigs, Rats
13	Celebrex	Arthritis; Ankylosing Spondylitis	Rats, Mice, Beagle Dogs, Monkeys
14	Abilify	Schizophrenia & Bipolar Disorder	Rats, Dogs, Monkeys, Rabbits
15	Januvia	Type 2 Diabetes	Rats, Rabbits, Dogs, Monkeys
16	Namenda	Moderate to Severe Dementia	Rats, Mice, Beagle Dogs
17	Viagra	Erectile Dysfunction	Rats, Dogs, Mice, Rabbits
18	Cialis	Erectile Dysfunction	Mice, Beagle Dogs, Wistar Rats
19	Zetia	High cholesterol	Rats, Dogs, Mice
20	Nasonex	Seasonal/Year Round Allergies	Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
21	Suboxone	Narcotic Addiction	Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Baboons, Dogs
22	Symbicort	Asthma	Mice, Rats, Dogs
23	Bystolic	Hypertension	Mice, Rats, Dogs
24	Flovent HFA	Prevent Asthma Attacks	Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
25	Oxycontin	Long lasting, Moderate to Severe Pain	Rats, Rabbits

References

Food and Drug Administration New Drug Application Database Accessed May, 2015.
(<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm>)

Brooks M. Top 100 Most Prescribed, Top-Selling Drugs. Medscape. Aug 1, 2014. Accessed May, 2015.
(<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/829246>)