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HONOLULU, HAWAII

My name is Vicki Feeney. I thank the Council for this opportunity to speak. I do support Bills 12 and 30.

I am one of many horse owners, most of whom do not live on acreage with their horses. We as horse owners cannot legally or practically house our thousand-pound farm animals on our 18th floor condo's lanai, in our townhouse patios or even in our residential backyards.

My horse eats at least 700 pounds of food per month, which I must purchase from a livestock supply store, by the 50 pound bag and 100 pound bale. Storing this in my pantry might pose a bit of a problem.. He drinks his water from a 20 gallon tub that I would have trouble rinsing in the sink. His bedding (litter) is purchased by the 50 pound bag. His manure is removed by wheelbarrow and tractor, not scooped up in a baggie to be dropped in the rubbish can. It is hauled away by the truckload to be used as fertilizer for local farmers.

So, pardon the expression, but let's not beat a dead horse here. I think you get the idea.

As long as we are required, by circumstance and by law, to treat these large animals as livestock, why would the revenue generating industry which raises, shelters, cares for and feeds them not qualify for dedication the same as any other agricultural business?