



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB301 SD1
RELATING TO DOGS

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB301 SD1** which establishes an additional penalty for a dog owner whose dog destroys property while on land zoned for agricultural use.

As ranchers consistently deal with dogs on pastures, we appreciate this additional penalty for owners whose dogs destroy property on agricultural land – this negatively impacts the business of rancher and also causes harm to the livestock themselves. Ranchers use low-stress animal handling for animal health and well-being, but the introduction of unmanaged dogs increases stress.

Establishing an additional penalty will motivate dog owners to take more initiative in securing their dogs and preventing damage. Enforcement of this is critical, and in the past it has been difficult to identify the owners of dogs that have trespassed and caused damage. In addition to establishing the additional penalty, more clarity is needed on the appropriate entities to contact when damage is done.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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February 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 301, SD1
RELATING TO DOGS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 301, SD1, which establishes an additional penalty for dog owners whose dogs destroy property while on land zoned for agricultural use. This measure is an important step toward protecting farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses from the financial and operational losses caused by uncontrolled dogs.

Loose and stray dogs have been a persistent problem for agricultural operations, particularly for livestock producers. Attacks on cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and other livestock can result in devastating losses for farmers and ranchers, with financial impacts that are often not recoverable. Beyond economic losses, these incidents also cause significant animal suffering and distress, disrupt farm operations, and pose safety risks to farm workers and residents.

SB 301, SD1, strengthens existing protections by increasing the penalties for dog owners who fail to properly contain their animals. By holding owners accountable for damage caused by their dogs on agricultural lands, this bill encourages responsible pet ownership while ensuring that farmers and ranchers have the legal support necessary to protect their operations.

Counties already have the authority to regulate dangerous dogs, but enforcement is often inconsistent, and penalties may not be sufficient to deter repeat offenses. By establishing a minimum fine of \$1,000 for violations occurring on agricultural lands, SB 301, SD1,

provides a stronger deterrent against irresponsible dog ownership and reinforces the importance of keeping pets properly contained.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of this issue and urge the committee to pass SB 301, SD1, to provide better protections for Hawai'i's agricultural industry and ensure that farmers and ranchers can operate without the constant threat of livestock losses due to uncontrolled dogs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 2:32:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith	Testifying for McCandless Land & Cattle Co. LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

McCandless Ranch supports this important legislation.

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:45:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this measure to increase penalties for dog owners who are careless with the containment of their dogs and allow them to harass livestock. We deal with loose dogs on our ranch multiple times per month. Over the past 5 years, we have lost about half of our elk herd to either dog injury or stress from dog pressure. This has created the need to replace existing fences with smaller square hog wire and build new boundary fences to try to keep neighbors dogs out of the pastures, costing the ranch over \$100,000 thus far.

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:29:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina (Kalei) Salcedo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

SB301 Relating To Dog's

Aloha

Honorable State Senator Mike Gabbard (AEN Chair), Honorable State Senator Tim Richards (Co-Chair), and Honorable State AEN Committee Senator's Karl Rhoads, Senator Lynn Decoite, Senator Branton Awa.

1. Strong Support of SB301 with Amendments: Humbly request of you, to please "consider, adopt, and incorporate suggested amendments" into SB301 and All Related Dog Bills. I Personally, have an abundance of "measured years of real-life facts" beyond a reasonable doubt of Dangerous Dogs and Irresponsible Dog Owner's caused permanent bodily damages, and killing family farm pets, and Murder of Cranston "Duke" Pia (Oahu westside rancher) that first started from Poacher's Hunting Dog's attacking Rancher Cattle on private land.
2. is imperative to "Pursuit Dog Owner Perpetrator's" and including Legal Guardian "equally accountable and penalties" of Juvenile's under 17 of age, to be held "equally" for violations of crime's committed on Agriculture, Country zone private properties And, made City Prosecutor's Officials to "Prosecute Perpetrator's" that commits Acts of these crimes. And finally, to "Punish Perpetrator's" at the Highest Level of Raised Fine's and Incarcerate Penalties, Unlike the current Lesser Misdemeanor State Laws which allows Perpetrators to continue habitual unlawful acts (just a slap on the hand).
1. intent of amendments is to have (Dog Owner) Perpetrators be held fully accountable for their "trained dog's" behavior, and fully accountable to financially compensate property owner's or property tenants for damage's made by Dog Owner's. Additionally, have the City Prosecutor and Victims Advocate Unit to continue tracking and pursue those Dog Owner's not in compliance of State Court Judgement for Victims Financial Restitution.

Page 1, line 8 and 9. Amend and Insert additional language: damages to the person injured for the value of the property and bodily injures that was injured or destroyed.

Page 1, line 10. Amend, and Delete words "confine or".

Page 1, additional after line 16. Amend and insert additional line language: The Legal Guardian of the Dog Owner, under 17 years of age (Juvenile) that commits unlawful Acts covered under this SB301. The Legal Guardian for this “Juvenile” will be held “Fully” and “Equally Accountable” for the unlawful Acts.

Page 1, additional after line 16. Amend and insert additional line language: “The City Prosecutor and Prosecutor Victim Advocate Unit will pursue actions made by State Court Judgement, prosecute, and punish at the highest-level Dog Owner not acting in good faith of State Court Judgement to compensate those victims effected by damages of restitution and will be incarcerated by State Court Order. In addition of 1st Offence 30 days incarceration and 1 year probation, 2nd Offence 6 Months Incarceration and 2 years’ probation.

Page 1, additional after line 16. Amend and insert additional line language: To permit and allow the Hawai‘i State and City County Jurisdiction Landowners to Trap, Contain, Euthanize On-Site All and Any Dog’s Unleashed on State and City County Jurisdictional Properties.

Page 2, line 2. Amend and insert “be fined not less than \$2,000 for each property offence in addition to the penalties.

Page 2, line 4. Amend and insert language “zoned for country and agricultural use when the violation occurred”. (reference to newly adopted Honolulu City Bill 64 2023 “Relating To Use Regulation, table 21-5.1, Table of Permitted Uses.)

Respectfully yours,

Austin and Kalei Salcedo

(Oahu westside Agriculture/Country zone landowner’s)

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:33:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Salcedo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

SB301 Relating To Dog's

Aloha

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2. is imperative to "Pursuit Dog Owner Perpetrator's" and including Legal Guardian "equally accountable and penalties" of Juvenile's under 17 of age, to be held "equally" for violations of crime's committed on Agriculture, Country zone private properties And, made City Prosecutor's Officials to "Prosecute Perpetrator's" that commits Acts of these crimes. And finally, to "Punish Perpetrator's" at the Highest Level of Raised Fine's and Incarcerate Penalties, Unlike the current Lesser Misdemeanor State Laws which allows Perpetrators to continue habitual unlawful acts (just a slap on the hand).
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Respectfully yours,

Austin and Kalei Salcedo

(Oahu westside Agriculture/Country zone landowner’s)

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 1:23:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Lievan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support dog owner's being penalized if their dog(s) destroy agricultural land. I understand the significance of protecting and securing Hawai'i's livestock. However, the only question I have is how will the identification of the dog be proven if not digitally recorded or known? I have family members who are farmers and they work extremely hard to maintain their crops. This would allow the dog owners to regulate their companion and respect the property of others.

Mahalo,

Momi

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 7:12:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Owners of dogs should be held accountable.

ALSO: Please create statute to hold harmless persons who needs to defend themselves against dangerous dogs/animals. Current self defense law only refers to defense against another person or actor and doesn't mention animals (dogs, bulls, rams,etc.) Ref HRS 703-304.

Mahalo!

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 5:51:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Honda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you Chair Gabbard for hearing this bill and giving us the opportunity to testify in support.

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:06:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wow. It is about time . We in the livestock business get hit all the time by dogs . Some from hunters who's dogs see a calf jump up out of the grass and either kill it or mame it so bad that we have to . We get cows with ears ripped off, as well as utters preventing them from nursing their calf. I personally have had a pack of 12 dogs roam the ranch and kill 6 to 30 sheep in one spot. Last year we lost 185 sheep that we counted and 75 goats. A month ago I had 65 sheep in a holding paddock to work the next morning. When we got there 22 were dead or had to be put down. Looked like just from one dog as the neighbor across the gulch said he heard just one dog bark then stop then bark again. Dogs unlike wolves and cyotes will kill for sport . Its a game. Once the sheep they are piled up on dies they chase the next one until nothing is moving. The sad thing is finding the animal half dead with maggots that is suffering for 2 or 3 days. If I could attach photos ,which I can't ,you would see the carnage that they cause. And its not just the packs . I had a guy walking through the pasture with a pit bull and it took off after a calf. The mother went after the dog and it bit her in the tongue as she was bellowing and ripped all but a half inch causing the tongue to hang out of the mouth like a strap. The cow had to be put down as they need their tongue to pull the grass in their mouth . The guy never got charged or paid for any loss.

Brendan Balthazar

Diamond B Ranch

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:40:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB301.

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:37:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I would like to show my **support of SB301 SD1** which establishes an additional penalty for a dog owner whose dog destroys property while on land zoned for agricultural use.

Thank you,

Vanessa Stevens

SB-301-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:08:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/26/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support on testimony per HFB and HCC.