

**Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine**

**Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 1086, H.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARIANS**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 471 to: (1) provide veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence; (2) provide veterinarians who render emergency treatment, when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence; (3) require veterinarians to report to law enforcement events of animal injury, death, or abuse where there is reasonable cause to believe the event relates to dog fighting or animal abuse; and (4) give veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making these reports.

The Board supports this bill because it will effectuate the protection of animals, and the protections afforded for emergency care will benefit both veterinarians and the public. While the Board had some concerns that the reporting requirement will affect confidentiality between the veterinarian and the client, the overriding concern of protecting animals and the public will be served, based on correlations accepted in the profession between animal abuse and domestic abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: March 1, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima  
Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1086: Relating to Veterinarians  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 325

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Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for House Bill 1086, HD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal with immunity from civil liability; provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship with immunity from civil liability; and requires veterinarians to report to law enforcement events of animal injury, death, or abuse where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dog fighting or animal abuse.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

This law would have benefited a small stray dog who came to our Mō'ili'ili campus a few weeks ago in rough shape. She had apparently been homeless, or neglected, for a long time. Her hair was badly matted and, among her more visible injuries, she had a prolapsed eye, meaning one of her eyes had popped out of its socket.

The pup had no identification, but Hawaiian Humane would not have legal custody of her until the 48-hour hold had expired. Since no owner could be reached, our chief veterinarian could not secure permission to sedate her and perform an enucleation surgery, which would remove the

damaged eye and set her on the road to recovery. Our staff took measures to ease her pain and waited out the hold period.

Named Ariel by our staff, she was unclaimed and finally got the care she needed. This measure would have allowed our team to operate two days earlier, which they badly wanted to do.

Some have argued that this measure is not needed because HRS471 already has protections for people who render emergency aid to animals, but that is a misinterpretation of the law. HRS471-2 allows the general public to render emergency aid to an animal without risking a charge of practicing veterinary medicine without a license. This bill would extend Veterinary Good Samaritan protections, which are common in other states, to our local veterinary community.



After recovering from multiple surgeries, Ariel found a new family the day she was made available for adoption.

Hawaiian Humane also strongly supports the bill's requirement of mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty. Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and giving local veterinarians protection from civil liability when reporting suspected abuse will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Research stretching back decades has established links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders.

- In one study of families under investigation for child abuse, co-incidence of animal abuse ranged from 60% to 88%. These families utilized veterinary services at rates similar to non-abusive households. (Deviney, Dickert, & Lockwood, 1983).
- An Australian study reported that in 23% of cases where veterinarians suspected animal abuse, other forms of family violence were either known or suspected. (Gullone & Clarke, 2005).
- The public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to humane societies or law enforcement agencies. (Enns, 2006)

Veterinarians should not have to fear retaliation for doing the right thing. The mandatory reporting provisions of this bill are similar to those requiring physicians, teachers and others to report suspected child abuse and they will help to protect our entire community.

We urge the committee to pass HB 1086, HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.



# HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

*Hawaii Island Humane Society / Hawaiian Humane Society / Kauai Humane Society / Maui Humane Society / Molokai Humane Society*

Date: March 1, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima  
Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1086: Relating to Veterinarians  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 325

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The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAWA) supports the passage of House Bill 1086, HD1, which provides veterinarians who render emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability; and requires veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to law enforcement and gives veterinarians immunity from civil liability when reporting.

HAWA's members include the largest animal shelters in each of the four counties, as well as the leader in pet animal spay/neuter on Molokai. Our independent local nonprofits are united in support of this change in policy.

All of our members have compassionate veterinarians on their teams who support the veterinary Good Samaritan provisions of this measure, which would allow them to provide care to injured animals immediately, even if an owner cannot be found. Three of our members are responsible for enforcing animal cruelty laws in their respective counties. The mandatory reporting provisions of this bill would give our humane officers expert witnesses on the frontlines of animal care, better enabling us to rescue animals in need and bring abusers to justice.

We urge you to pass HB 1086, HD1. Mahalo for your consideration,

Hoala Davis, *Executive Director, Molokai Humane Society*

Elizabeth Jose, DVM, *Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Island Humane Society*

Steve MacKinnon, *Chief Executive Officer, Maui Humane Society*

Anna Neubauer, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawaiian Humane Society*

Nicole Schafer, *Executive Director, Kauai Humane Society*



## Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association Fact Sheet: *Veterinary Reporting of Animal Abuse in Hawaii*

### **Connection between animal abuse and human violence**

A strong link between animal abuse and violence against humans has been well established. When animals are abused, humans are at risk. When humans are abused, animals are at risk. The research indicates that animal abuse is often concurrent with other forms of violence in the home such as child abuse, spousal and domestic partner violence, and elder abuse. For example, multiple studies have shown that more than 70% of battered women report that abusers hurt, killed or threatened their pets to control them and their children.

### **Physicians have been required to report human abuse for nearly six decades**

Beginning in the 1960s, all states now require physicians who suspect domestic violence or abuse to file a report with the appropriate law enforcement authorities. In any court proceeding or administrative hearing, the physician-patient privileges do **not** apply to the information required to be reported and the practitioners are granted immunity from civil and criminal liability. Additionally, an increasing number of states are requiring veterinary professionals to cross-report child or elder abuse. It makes sense that veterinary professionals should similarly be required to report animal abuse.

### **Veterinarians are key to recognizing and reporting animal abuse**

Veterinarians are in a unique position to closely observe animals who may otherwise be hidden from public view. As experts in the health and well-being of animals, veterinarians—by early reporting of signs of suspected abuse—can help animals at the earlier stages of abuse, preventing more serious harm. Furthermore, reported animal abuse cases can be first points of intervention in human violence cases.

### **Animal abusers do seek veterinary care for animals they have neglected and/or abused**

It is a misconception that abusive pet owners don't take their abused pets to veterinarians. Research indicates that veterinary care for animals from abusive households is consistent with the level of veterinary care provided to the general population. A survey of veterinarians found: 87% of responding veterinarians had treated abused patients; 60% had treated an animal they suspected had been severely or intentionally abused; 50% had seen from one to three abuse cases a year; and 20% had clients they suspected were being abused themselves. A thorough physical examination of an animal patient should include cognizance of physical and behavioral signs of abuse, and non-accidental injury should be on every veterinarian's list of diagnostic differentials.

### **Veterinary responsibility to report animal abuse**

**Professional responsibility:** Many professional groups encourage veterinarians to report animal abuse. For example:

*"The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association urges all veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal cruelty, whether it be in the form of passive neglect or active, malicious abuse, to the proper officials charged with investigating and prosecuting such incidents."*

*"The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association holds that veterinary professionals... have a duty to protect the health and welfare of animals. This includes addressing any and all first-hand observations leading to suspicion of animal abuse and/or neglect. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting of suspected abuse to the appropriate law enforcement authorities."*

*"The American Animal Hospital Association supports reporting of suspicions of animal abuse to the appropriate authorities when education is inappropriate or has failed."*

**Ethical responsibility:** Animals deserve freedom from pain and violence in their own right. Veterinarians have an ethical responsibility to try to end animal suffering. The Veterinarian's Oath calls on veterinarians to work for "the prevention and relief of animal suffering."

**Community responsibility:** The link between animal abuse and violent human behavior has been well established. Veterinarians have a community responsibility to help protect animal health and welfare and to help end animal abuse--and by doing so, possibly human abuse, also--within their clients' families.

### **Veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality is not compromised by good-faith reporting of suspected abuse**

It is understood that veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality privileges do **not** apply to the information reported in animal abuse cases. Good-faith reporting requires only that a reasonable suspicion of abuse exists. Practitioners are generally granted immunity from civil and criminal liability for this reporting, and immunity is essential to maximize veterinary reporting. Although reporters of abuse are encouraged to identify themselves, anonymous reporting is, generally, an acceptable alternative for veterinarians.

### **Educating clients about animal cruelty vs. reporting them for it**

Animal abuse in the form of passive neglect (e.g., lack of food, water, shelter or proper veterinary care) may be unintentional and due to client ignorance. These cases of inadvertent neglect can often be resolved with appropriate client education. However, passive neglect can also be a deliberate form of animal abuse. Furthermore, seemingly accidental injuries may, in fact, be non-accidental and deliberate in origin.

When deciding whether to educate or report animal abuse, a veterinarian should consider factors such as client attitude (do they express concern or indifference?), medical history of injuries (in multiple animals or multiple injuries in the same animal?), estimated duration of the presenting medical problem (any evidence of old, healing or multiple fractures?), and the severity and total number of patient medical problems.

### **The pivotal role of the veterinarian in an animal cruelty investigation**

Veterinarians can play a pivotal role in animal cruelty investigations. They can assist in proving that animal abuse actually occurred; establish that animal injuries are a result of crime and are not accidental; substantiate illness due to willful neglect, rather than disease; and corroborate long-term abuse, rather than a simple one-time injury.

The most important function of a veterinarian in an animal cruelty investigation is to provide forensic support in the form of detailed record-keeping: physical examination, history-taking, photographs, imaging, diagnostics and the chain of custody, including timelines. Proper collection of evidence by the veterinarian is often key to successful prosecution of an animal abuse case. Veterinarians can also testify as medical expert witnesses in court for the prosecution.

### **Why a Hawaii law mandating reporting of animal cruelty by veterinarians is needed**

Requiring veterinary reporting of animal abuse is a way to highlight the urgency and importance of this issue and to assign it a high societal priority. Additionally, veterinarians must report abuse since they are often the first to see an abused animal and can help prevent further mistreatment of the animal as well as possible violence against humans in the home. Finally, veterinarians need to know this legal mandate is in place, along with immunity protections, so that there is no reason not to put a stop to a cycle of violence against an animal and potentially humans as well.

### **Precedent for state laws regarding veterinary reporting of animal abuse**

Twenty states already have laws that specifically require veterinary professionals to report suspected animal abuse. A companion immunity provision, shielding them from civil and/or criminal liability, is generally provided for veterinarians in these states. The remaining 30 states permit—either explicitly or implicitly—veterinarians to report. In addition to state law reporting requirements, there may be administrative regulations regarding the professional responsibility to report animal cruelty or suspected abuse.

### **Training for veterinary professionals in animal abuse reporting**

With growing awareness and concern about this issue, more resources designed to help veterinarians in recognizing, documenting and reporting suspected cases of animal abuse—including continuing education conferences, webinars, professional associations and both print and on-line reference materials—have become available. Go to [www.hsvma.org/resources](http://www.hsvma.org/resources) for more information.



**HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309**

March 1, 2021

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1086, HD1, Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, I would like to express our support of HB 1086 and its amendments to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, HRS Chapter 471.

There are two components to this measure. The first establishes a Good Samaritan law for veterinarians who may without remuneration provide emergency medical care to an animal in need. The second establishes a process whereby animal abuse may be reported, in order to better protect that animal from future harm.


This measure encourages veterinarians to provide emergency care to critically sick or injured animals without fear of civil liability. Veterinarians are mandated to provide care under a valid and current veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR), so there can be confusion when dealing with an animal emergency when there is no owner present to establish a VCPR or if life-saving treatment needs to be provided before the establishment of a VCPR. This measure allows a veterinarian to be a "Good Samaritan" and provide emergency care outside of a valid VCPR, while also protecting the veterinarian when acting as a Good Samaritan in the time of an emergency to assist the animal in need.

We believe this measure also provides justified guidance to practicing veterinarians on reporting acts of animal abuse, cruelty, and staged fighting, similar to laws in 20 states including California, Oregon, Arizona, and Colorado. Reporting such events to law enforcement is beneficial to the community at large, as multiple studies have shown a link between perpetrators of animal abuse and human abuse such as child abuse, domestic violence, arson, and murder. When confronted with a clear case of animal abuse, veterinarians may feel conflicted between maintaining client confidentiality and wanting to protect the animal from further harm. In making animal abuse reporting a duty of the veterinarian, this measure relieves any responsibility of such judgment by the veterinarian

while protecting the veterinarian against any civil liability as a result of reporting such events.

Please SUPPORT HB 1086 to provide additional guidance and protections for veterinarians practicing in Hawaii, and please amend this bill to be effective immediately. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please contact me if I can answer any questions or be of further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo", with a decorative flourish extending to the right.

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM  
Executive Vice-President  
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association



**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:03:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	No

Comments:

Veterinary Immunity/Mandatory Reporting HB1086

We would like to endorse this measure being championed by the *Hawai'i Veterinary Medical Association* which protects veterinarians from civil liability for rendering emergency aid to an animal, even if a guardian is not available to consent to this, as long as their actions were taken in good faith and do not constitute gross negligence.

It also requires veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty – including where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal sexual abuse - and protects them from civil liability for making such reports.

Veterinarians will be trusted to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability and they definitely should not have to fear retaliation for reporting suspected animal cruelty. They are in the best position to see the effects of such cruelty, to treat it and help to have possible perpetrators brought to the notice of the authorities.

This is surely a vital part of the role of the veterinarian.

Again, much research stretching back decades has established links between violence against animals and the abuse of vulnerable people.

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 8:54:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods or fear retaliation because they want to help animals in need, whether it's rendering emergency aid or reporting suspected animal cruelty.

Thank you,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip

Punalu'u, Oahu

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:19:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Inga Gibson	Pono Advocacy	Support	No

Comments:

March 3, 2021

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs committee.

**SUPPORT HB1086 HD1; Relating to Veterinarians**

It is crucial that the law empower veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty when they encounter signs of abuse in their practice. Not only are veterinarians often the only witnesses

to animal abuse, but they are uniquely qualified to identify the signs of cruelty.

As of 2020, 19 states require veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty, and most of those states also grant civil immunity to veterinarians who report. Thirty-one states, either explicitly or implicitly, permit veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty.

This bill also provides important protections to our veterinary professionals when they assist in an emergency involving animals, similar to good samaritan protections afforded medical doctors.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Inga Gibson, Policy Director  
Pono Advocacy LLC  
808.922.9910  
PonoAdvocacy@gmail.com  
www.PonoAdvocacy.com



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: March 2, 2021

To: Members of the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Submitted By: Kasey Carter, MS, DVM; Chief Veterinarian  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2210

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB1086 HD1: Relating to Veterinarians  
Wednesday March 3, 2021 2:00PM House Conference Room 325

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Dear Committee Members,

I am a Honolulu resident, residing in the Chinatown/Downtown area. I have worked for more than a decade in animal shelters, particularly in Shelter Medicine. I have been Chief Veterinarian for Hawaiian Humane Society for nearly three years. Before moving to Hawaii, I worked as a shelter veterinarian in Denver, Colorado.

Prior to me entering shelter medicine, Colorado had already enacted a law very similar to the proposed law being discussed here. I remember first hearing about the law in veterinary school; that law made reporting of both animal abuse and child abuse mandatory for veterinarians. By making reporting animal abuse/cruelty mandatory, it greatly minimizes the likelihood of retaliation by the person committing the abuse, while at the same time increasing the number of animal abuse/cruelty cases being reported. I was surprised when I moved to Hawaii that there was not a similar law, hence my motivation for encouraging you to consider my argument.

The second component of HB1086 that I feel passionate about is the portion that would allow veterinarians to legally perform emergency procedures that would alleviate animal suffering. When animals come into our care as strays, we are required to hold them for either 48 hours (no microchip) or 5 days (with microchip). According to current law, if animals come in injured we are only permitted to provide pain medications and antibiotics. However, I would estimate that 2-3 times a month, cases present that require surgical intervention; we are unable to perform surgeries in these circumstances. As an example, we recently saw a stray dog that had a zip tie placed around the base of his scrotum by somebody in the community, attempting a "backyard neuter". This was not a life-threatening condition so we were legally unable to do anything for the dog other than provide pain medications and antibiotics. By the time the dog had cleared his 48 hour hold, his scrotum was the size of a grapefruit and we were finally able to perform surgery to remove the damaged tissue and relieve his suffering.

By enacting this proposed law, we will greatly improve our ability to appropriately treat animals in need, increase reporting of animal abuse and cruelty, and protect veterinarians in the process.

I encourage you to pass HB1086. Thank you for your consideration.

Subject: SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

Hawai'i ranks near the bottom on quality of life states for animals. Bills such as HB1086 will help make life better for animals and the people who care about and for them. I urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,

Daniel Roselle  
1521 Pualele Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1086

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

Veterinarians sacrifice a lot for our animals, we owe them this much. Please consider!

Sincerely,

Kayla Nguyen  
94-518 Ohapali St  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty.

Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alice Saul  
147 Opihikao Way  
Honolulu, HI 96825



Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Support Testimony on HB1086

Aloha Representative Nakashima, Representative Matayoshi, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Please pass this important bill to protect our veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Jody Smith  
500 Lunalilo Home Rd  
Honolulu, HI 96825

## SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support House Bill 1086 to care for and protect animals, and protect Veterinarians from civil liability in reporting abuse and in helping animals in need in good faith without evidence of gross negligence.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Cynthia Tucker  
5-4280 Kuhio Hwy  
Princeville, HI 96722

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

I see animals abused too often and no one takes responsibility for fear of retaliation. This must stop when a professional is able to detect abuse.

Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Collins  
46-3991 Old Mamalahoa Hwy  
Honokaa, HI 96727

## SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Janine Tully, President  
Windward Dog Park Hui  
45-035 Ka Hanahou Pl  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lee Cuccia  
1479 Kiukee Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Aloha Representative Nakashima, Representative Matayoshi, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Please pass this important bill to protect our veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Natalie Spencer  
819 Papalalo Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Aloha Representative Nakashima, Representative Matayoshi, and committee members,

I strongly support HB 1086. I adopted Tulip from the Hawaiian Humane Society. I'm very grateful that the vet clinic who saw her suspicious injuries, reported it to the Hawaiian Humane Society. She had already suffered horrific abuse and would surely have eventually died after much suffering, which is what happened to other dogs that were in the care of the abuser.

Our laws must protect the innocent victims and hold accountable the perpetrators. We must attempt to stop these heinous acts on the helpless by sending the right message. Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. Please pass this important bill to protect our veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Thank you so much.

Aloha,

Ginny Tiu  
935 Ikena Cir  
Honolulu, HI 96821

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lois Crozer  
1081 Koohoo Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734



Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Debi Bukala  
59-788 Alapio Rd  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Aloha Representative Nakashima, Representative Matayoshi, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Please pass this important bill to protect our veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Harold Han  
2908 Poelua St  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1086

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

I SUPPORT VETERINARIANS AND ANIMALS OF HAWAII. Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Yoo-Kyung Kim  
1616 Liholiho St Apt 1202  
Honolulu, HI 96822

## SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians. I am a veterinarian and this bill will help us protect the welfare and safety of animals without unnecessary exposure to legal liability. As the bill clearly provides an exemption in the case of gross negligence, I can't think of a downside.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Naun  
970 N Kalaheo Ave  
Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip  
53-330 Kamehameha Hwy  
Hauula, HI 96717

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

In my years working in the animal welfare industry, I have seen the aftermath of many cases of animal abuse, neglect and cruelty. These animals are often fearful, malnourished, undersocialized and sometimes even on death's door. Allowing the veterinary community immunity from civil liability in reporting cases would help to open the doors to see more animals being taken out of dangerous situations and into loving homes. I highly support HB 1086.

Sincerely,

Susan Tam  
2542 Date St Apt 304  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Aloha Representative Nakashima, Representative Matayoshi, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians who provide emergency treatment to wounded abused animals in the absence of gross negligence and who report suspected animal injury, abuse or death to law-enforcement should not have to be subjected to civil liability for making these reports. Health providers are required to report suspected cases of child abuse. Veterinarians are often on the front lines of finding abused and wounded animals and should have the same protections.

Please pass this important bill to protect our veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Melanie Kim  
2895 Kalakaua Ave Apt 1502  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Earleen Marter  
45-281 Ka Hanahou Cir  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1086

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need or fear retaliation for doing the right thing. Please pass these veterinary Good Samaritan protections and mandatory reporting requirements so our veterinarians will be shielded from civil liability for helping injured animals and reporting animal cruelty. Mandatory reporting of these crimes will help to protect our entire community by alerting law enforcement to threats against vulnerable animals and people.

Please pass HB1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauire Kawasaki  
2700 Waialae Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Please Support HB1086

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

2:00PM

Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita  
1524 Pensacola St Apt 119  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Torun Almer  
84-5142 Keala O Keawe Rd  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:21:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a much needed measure. It protects veterinarians from civil liability for rendering emergency aid to an animal. It also requires them to report suspected animal cruelty and protects them from retaliation. At times veterinarians have not been able to provide aid until the owner is found, contacted, and gives permission, further endangering the life of the animal.

However, you need to remove the defective effective date of January 1, 2050 and replace it with upon signature, or some date in 2021 or early 2020. The 2050 date could kill it.

Please support this bill.

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:07:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair and committee members

please vote yes for HB1086!

Veterinarians need protection for serving the community as Good Samaritans and to report abuse.

thank you

eric Ako DVM

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:19:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help veterinarians provide emergency care and protection from animal cruelty without fear of penalty.

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:30:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ALOHA..I SUPPORT THE BILL HB1086 AND SIDE WITH THE VETERINARY'S FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COMMON SENSE WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING AIDE TO ALL ANIMALS WHEN BROUGHT IN FOR TREATMENT AND I SUPPORT OUT LEADERS FOR TAKING SUCH ACTIONS AGAINST HUMANS WHO DO INCREDIBLE HARM TO OUR ANIMALS..THAT IS WHY WE HAVE FACILITY'S CALLED " JAIL"..LET'S PUT THE PEOPLE IN A CAGE..AND HELP OUR VET'S..

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:07:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves. This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well. I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety. Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony



**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:28:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB1086.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:42:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill protects vets who render emergency aid to animals and improves reporting of animal cruelty.

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:50:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this very important bill.

The voiceless, helpless & in need of care should be able receive immediated attention.

Mahalo

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:27:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the passing of HB1086,HD1.

Mahalo,

Susan Eubank

Diamond Head

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:47:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this very important bill because those animals that require veterinary care and can't get it only due to legislation is well, just terrible. Any living being should be able to get medical attention when needed and our voiceless should not suffer.

Please support HB1086.

Mahalo

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:19:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will expand veterinarians' abilities to care for animals in need. It will help the animals while protecting the veterinarians.

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 11:07:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the bill to protect our veterinarians from civil liability.

To change the effective date to January 1 , 2050 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION is horrendously WRONG.

A veterinarian is the guardian angel of animals and should be afforded the right to provide care AT ANY TIME an animal is injured and requires immediate action.

Reporting of animal cruelty, death and abuse is responsible behavior and any reporting should protect the veterinarian from civil liability!

Please don't wait until 2050, when you can do the RIGHT THING NOW!

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 7:00:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Nakashima and Committee Members.

Please support HB 1086 HD 1 which would protect veterinarians from civil liability both in rendering emergency treatment to an animal when an owner cannot be located immediately and in being required to report suspected abuse and cruelty. Veterinarians should be given this protection as rendering emergency care and reporting possible abuse and cruelty are of the utmost benefit to animals and to the community in that violence against animals is well known to be linked to violence against people. It's my understanding that many other states already have a law like the one HB 1086 HD 1 would put into effect, so please support this bill.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki



**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 8:52:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Forshey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Veterinarians are critical to our overall well-being and ultimate protectors of our family pets, wild animals, and our food chain. We must protect them and allow them to meet their professional responsibilities without fear of civil liability. I strongly support HB1086 HD1 to allow our veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to provide emergency aid to animals with solid legal protections. Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1086 HD1 today.

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:01:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Pleas pass this bill. It is important because it:

Allows veterinarians to do their work knowing they are protected from civil liability when aiding an emergency case, even if the owner is not there. This could definitely save animal lives.

It requires vets to report suspected animal cruelty and will protect them from retaliation. This state needs to ramp up laws regarding animal cruelty. Too many people turn away or don't care, and it is just heartbreaking. Having vets report suspected abuse aids the police and could certainly help educate them too.

People who have a history of violence are often found to have begun by harming animals first.

Mahalo!

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:58:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Jenny Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a criminologist and subject matter expert in bestiality and zoophilia writing **in support of HB1086-HD1**.

The overarching goal of any law is to deter the commission of future crimes, and the best way to make that happen is through early detection and intervention. I am therefore writing in support of HB 1086, HD1 to mandate reporting of animal cruelty by veterinarians in Hawai'i.

I have nearly 20 years' experience in animal sheltering, animal rehabilitation, and working with law enforcement and prosecutors on animal cruelty cases involving physical and sexual abuse. Based on my training and experience, animal cruelty is not only psychologically and physically harmful to the animal but may have significant adverse effects on children who witness it. Children learn by example and may model the behavior or become desensitized to what they see.

It has always amazed me how seldom veterinarians are the reporting party in animal cruelty cases, when most injured and maltreated animals – especially those who come to the attention of law enforcement – are examined at some point by a veterinarian. Veterinarians play a crucial role in detection of all forms of animal abuse, which can in turn lead to intervention against other forms of violent or criminal behavior.

In many instances, a veterinary forensic examination is the key evidence that allows prosecutors to charge offenders appropriately and judges to sentence them accordingly. Often, however, veterinarians are reluctant to report what they see or suspect or may even submit an "inconclusive" report for fear of legal or professional consequences. Barely 40% of the United States mandates or protects veterinarians who report, despite abundant research demonstrating the direct link between animal cruelty and other forms of criminal and antisocial behavior. Mandated reporting promotes better understanding

of criminal behavior, aids in earlier detection and deterrence of animal cruelty and other forms of criminal behavior.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Best regards,

M. Jenny Edwards

M. Jenny Edwards

mjennyedwards@chandleredwards.org

425.522.3335

[www.chandleredwards.org](http://www.chandleredwards.org)

#### Resources:

Bucchieri, R. L. (2015). Bridging the gap: the connection between violence against animals and violence against humans. *Journal of Animal and Natural Resource Law*, 11, 115-136.

Kunz, A. (2019). Skinning the Cat: How mandatory psychiatric evaluations for animal cruelty offenders can prevent future violence. *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice*, 21(1), 1-28.

Livingston, M. (2001). Desecrating the Ark: Animal Abuse and the Law's Role in Prevention, 87 *IOWA L. REV.* 1, 62-63

Monsalve, S., Ferreira, F., & Garcia, R. (2017). The connection between animal abuse and interpersonal violence: A review from the veterinary perspective. *Research in Veterinary Science*, 114, 18-26.

Munro, H. M. C. (2006). Animal sexual abuse: A veterinary taboo? *The Veterinary Journal*, 172, Issue 2, 195-197.

Vincent, A., McDonald, S., Poe, B., & Deisner, V. (2019). The link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse. *Society Register*, 3(3), 83-101.



**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 10:44:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill which will help animals in Hawaii. Thank you!

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 11:18:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen Canham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1086 HD1. It is ethical, fair, and absolutely the right thing to do. Animals cannot speak for themselves--please "speak" for them by protecting them from abuse. And by identifying animal abusers, who, as much research shows, frequently are or become human abusers as well. Thank you.

Stephen Canham, PhD

Kaneohe, HI

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 11:41:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This crucial bill affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence. These measures are common across the country and offer vital protections for animals, while also offering warning signs of possible domestic abuse. I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.



**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 2:27:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ginny Tiu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**I'm in strong support of HB1086. I adopted Tulip from the Hawaiian Humane society and am so grateful to the vet clinic who reported her suspicious repeated injuries to the humane society. Tulip's injuries included head injury, fractured pelvis, and broken ribs. Her bodily functions will never be normal and she'll be in and out of the vet clinic for the rest of her life. It's a shame that other dogs who were in this abuser's care suffered horrifically as well and died. We need laws to protect the innocent and helpless, and hold the perpetrators accountable. The right message needs to be sent out that there will be consequences to this kind of behavior , to try to minimize it from happening. We need to support our veterinarians so they don't hesitate reporting suspected abuse, and require them to do so.**

**thank you very much for your consideration.**

**Ginny Tiu**

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 4:59:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee member,

I strongly support this bill as an important piece of animal welfare legislation.

Mahalo!

**HB-1086-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:28:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angus Raff-Tierney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1086 Relating To Veterenarians. There are a lot of neglected and stray animals that need medical attention in a timely fashion. There isn't always the luxury of time to wait to find the owner when critical care is needed.