

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

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Johanson 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 offers comments on 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 will review this bill at its next meeting on February 11, 2021. In the meantime, the Board offers comments based on its prior support of similar measures. 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: Feb. 5, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson  
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa  
and Members of the  
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1086: Relating to Veterinarians  
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 329

---

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for House Bill 1086, 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. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 1:35:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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 sexual abuse, we would hope - and protects them from civil liability for making such important 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.

Our members strongly support the bill and are grateful for the opportunity to help the animals and vets.



## 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.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 7, 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: Relating to Veterinarians  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 2:00PM House Conference Room 329

---

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.



**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 12:16:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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:

CPC Committee 2-9-21 2pm

SUPPORT FOR HB1086; Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Chair Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

We respectfully request your support of HB1086. More than 30 states provide the same protections for veterinarians from liability for reporting suspected animal cruelty. While most veterinarians report voluntarily, they should be given legal protection should they suffer retaliation. This is the same protection afforded to medical, social service and child care professionals for reporting suspected child or elder abuse.

This measure also allows veterinarians "Good Samaritan" protections, similar to those afforded licensed medical doctors, in providing care to those in need in emergency situations. Our veterinary professionals should be afforded this same protection and opportunity to intervene to protect animals and prevent unnecessary suffering or death.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 4:38:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HB1086 will, if passed, supports compassionate care and reporting by veterinarians when they are presented with animals who suffer from abuse /neglect. ARH strongly supports this legislation.



# HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

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

Date: Feb. 5, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson  
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa  
and Members of the  
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Submitted By: Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1086: Relating to Veterinarians  
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 329

---

The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAAWA) supports the passage of House Bill 1086, 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.

HAAWA'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. 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*

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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.

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

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee:

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.

Sincerely,

Vivian Toellner  
PO Box 6894  
Hilo, HI 96720

Subject: Support for HB1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Time: 2:00PM

Place: Conference Room 329

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which provides 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 dog fighting 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!

Hamid Jahanmir  
915 Birch St Apt 106  
Honolulu, HI 96814

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Please support HB1086

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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.

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

Subject: SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

February 9, 2021  
2:00PM

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representatives and Members of the House,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086.

I strongly urge you to support and pass this House Bill, as uncared for, mistreated and abused animals need your help. Veterinarians play a crucial role in saving animals in need of help, as the humane society Officers cannot get to each and every suffering animal in a time. Without the assistance of this Bill, Veterinarians are placed in a tough position when it comes to rendering aid for an animal in need, and many do not want to have legalities driving their decisions. Please consider the strong message you will be sending in the fight to end animal abuse and suffering by passing this Bill. You will be providing animals in need and humane investigators with a valuable resource to rely on, and you will give Veterinarians the means to save even more lives.

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 HB 1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Renee Harada  
1538 Onipaa St  
Honolulu, HI 96819



Sunday, February 7, 2021

Subject: Please Pass House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee:

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.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wada  
PO Box 152  
Papaaloa, HI 96780

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Time: 2:00PM

Place: Conference Room 329

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which provides 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 dog fighting 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

Subject: Please Pass House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear VP Operations Ho:

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee:

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.

Sincerely,

Ashley Wilcox  
45 Pualu Loop  
Lahaina, HI 96761

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Please support HB1086

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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

I've spent several years volunteering for the Hawaiian Humane Society and I applaud the Hawaii Legislatures efforts to support and protect our animals. HB1086 is necessary to recognize and extend assistance to an integral part of our animal protection community, our veterinarians. They deserve the opportunity to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of liability for aid rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

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 support this important bill.

Mahalo,

M A Forshey  
91-2220 Kaiwawalo St Unit 405  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Time: 2:00PM

Place: Conference Room 329

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which provides 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 dog fighting 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!

June Sugakawa  
1551 Ala Wai Blvd  
Honolulu, HI 96815

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Please support HB1086

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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

I believe the goodwill of humanity and we who call Hawaii our home should be leading the way to demonstrate what living the Aloha spirit by doing the right thing always. Our guiding morales should set an example and set us apart. Give our caregivers, our Vets the ability to do the right thing.

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.

Stephanie Kawasaki  
99-543 Huakanu St  
Aiea, HI 96701

Subject: SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

February 9, 2021

2:00PM

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Aaron Johanson, Representative Lisa Kitagawa and members of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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. Most other states already have this.

Please pass HB 1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Bukala  
59-788 Alapio Rd  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Monday, February 8, 2021

Subject: Support for HB1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Time: 2:00PM

Place: Conference Room 329

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce committee,

Kindly support this bill that will allow veterinarians to give emergency care to animals in need without facing lawsuits if there is no client-patient relationship. House Bill 1086 provides 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 dog fighting 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.

This will help save the lives of many animals. Thank you for your compassionate consideration.

Mahalo!

Michele Hope Velasco  
1530 16th Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816



Subject: SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086  
February 9, 2021  
2:00PM

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Aaron Johanson, Representative Lisa Kitagawa and members of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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 HB 1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Janine Tully, President  
Windward Dog Park Hui

Subject: Support for HB1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Time: 2:00PM

Place: Conference Room 329

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086, which provides 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 dog fighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports. Please allow Veterinarians to be Good Samaritans without worrying about frivolous lawsuits.

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!

Lee Cuccia  
1479 Kiukee Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734

Monday, February 8, 2021

Subject: SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1086

February 9, 2021

2:00PM

Regarding House Bill 1086 Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Representative Aaron Johanson, Representative Lisa Kitagawa and members of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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 HB 1086. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Prostor  
3031 Libert St  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:05:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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:

Strongly support. Mahalo.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:55:26 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:54:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi,

I'm Jennifer Ho, a resident of Nuuanu and animal lover. I support bill HB1086 to protect veterinarians and allow them to help animals who are injured or in pain, without the threat of a lawsuit. This is the right thing to do for both the vets and the animals. It's unfathomable to leave an injured animal uncared for when they could get help, especially when their injuries could otherwise lead to death. Please help save these animal's lives, and protect the veterinarians who help them.

Thank you,  
Jennifer

808-221-7229

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:55:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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 pass HB1086 and allow us to help those in need.It is not unusual for veterinarians

to be presented with patients who have no known owner,and who may have need of immediate action.Life saving measures would be willingly given, without undue concern for compensation,

if allowed.

Furthermore,as licensed professionals with a healthy share of sense of community service,reporting of abuse would be judiciously applied.

please passHB1086

thank you

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 5:08:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Torun Almer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the passage of HB 1086. Stray injured animals deserve the same loving medical care as anyone's pampered pet. In, many cases, they actually are someone's beloved companion. Thank you for your consideration.



**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:26:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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 pass this important bill. Hawaii's animals need it for a better life.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 9:10:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Tomey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of HB1086

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 12:36:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 3:05:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wish to thank the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce for the opportunity to share with you why I support HB1086 relating to the ability of veterinarians to provide needed emergency aid to animals even when, as described in the bill, the owners are not available to give consent.

After learning of circumstances where injured animals are otherwise left to suffer unnecessarily, it is only humane to afford protection from liability for veterinarians who act in good faith and not with gross negligence.

It is also essential to require veterinarians to report when they suspect animal cruelty and, likewise, for them to be protected from civil liability for making such reports.

Please support passage of this bill; it will go a long way to reducing cruelty and suffering, and raising the level of wellness for animals and people in our communities.

Aloha,

Alice Saul  
Honolulu (Hawaii Kai)

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 9:55:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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:

Let's support our veterinarians to help animals in need.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 12:40:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Myers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this critical legislation. Hawaii needs desperately to update it's laws and enforcement of laws relating to animal welfare. Thank you.

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 2:51:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha Randolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There can be no legitimate reason NOT to support and pass this Bill. All it does is protect all animals whether ill or damaged by accident, or being abused, and protect the vets who care for them. I fully support this bill. It costs us nothing to be more Humane.

Sincerely

Martha E Randolph

Environmental Caucus SCC Rep

Kupuna Caucus Treasurer

President DPH Precinct 4

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 5:49:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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:

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 2 pm

Testimony in Support of HB 1086

Aloha Chairperson Johanson and Committee Members.

Please support HB 1086 which would provide immunity from civil liability for veterinarians when they give emergency treatment to animals even if the owner is not readily available to consent to this treatment, and when reporting suspected animal abuse. In both cases, veterinarians are doing what's best for the animals so at the very least, they deserve immunity from civil liability. Furthermore, this bill may increase reporting from veterinarians of suspected animal abuse which will be helpful to law enforcement and to the community as violence against animals is well documented as being related to violence against people. Again, please support HB 1086.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki



LATE

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 2:08:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I strongly support HB1086 which provides 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 dog fighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports. Veterinarians 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. Thank you for your consideration.**

LATE

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:03:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 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:

**Please support HB 1086. I have personally experienced the critical importance of this bill. I adopted Tulip, an 8 pound terrier from the Hawaiian Humane Society. She had been severely abused with a fractured pelvis and had to have a leg amputated. She will have medical issues for the rest of her life. Thank God the veterinary clinic who saw her and suspected abuse, alerted the Humane Society. Unfortunately it was discovered that several other dogs had suffered and died in the hands of the same perpetrator.**

**Our veterinarians are our front line heroes who need our support. They should be encouraged and required to report suspected animal abuse. Our animals are voiceless and helpless, and depend on us to do the right thing for them. Please don't let them down.**

**thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1086.**

**aloha**

**Ginny Tiu**

LATE

**HB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:03:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert M Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As most cruelty against animals is not directly observed, this law makes sense to bring Hawai'i out of the 'dark ages.' It seems this is the least we can do as a society in protecting our four-legged or feathered friends.