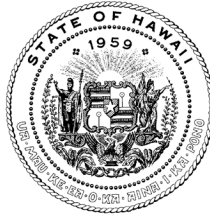


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 24, 2022
2:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference**

**IN CONSIDERATION OF
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 128/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 128
URGING THE COUNTIES TO MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY
COORDINATE THEIR POLICE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS
EFFORTS WITH THE STATE AND WITH HUMANE SOCIETIES AND OTHER
ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING THE DANGERS POSED BY
UNLEASHED DOGS TO HUMANS AND TO OTHER ANIMALS IN PUBLIC AREAS.**

House Concurrent Resolution 128/House Resolution 128 urge the Counties to more effectively and meaningfully coordinate their police enforcement and public awareness efforts with the State and with Humane Societies and other animal welfare organizations concerning the dangers posed by unleashed dogs to humans and to other animals in public areas. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in support of these measures.**

The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) has witnessed an increase in the proliferation of dogs within park units, particularly associated with the homeless population. Most recreational dog owners, other than violating park rules on the prohibition of dogs and not removing their waste, do not pose a safety threat. However, as an example, Sand Island State Recreation Area has illegal homeless residing with dogs who have been reportedly attacking the public. There is increased ambiguity as to which agency should be responding to the citing and confiscation of these animals. State Parks has asked the Humane Society for support, but they do not have the staff dedicated to the removal of these animals. The Humane Society has offered cages, with the caveat that if they are damaged the State Parks would be responsible for their replacement, at \$700 dollars apiece. State Park staff are not trained or equipped for this, and staff injury would trigger Workers' Compensation claims. However, Humane Society staff are trained and understand animal behavior, and are the most appropriate agency to reach out to the dog owners and inform them that they must remove their animals, and if not, trap and take them to suitable confinement. The citing of the individual is not an adequate deterrent on management and removal of these animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS