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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIABILITY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the residents of the  
2 State view animals, specifically companion animals, as more than  
3 simply personal property. Animals bring comfort and are viewed  
4 as extensions of the family. Animals provide support, guidance,  
5 companionship, and therapy. Animals can provide critical  
6 support to residents with disabilities.

7           The legislature further finds that the State has a history  
8 of promoting the protection of animals. For more than sixty  
9 years, persons who find and take possession of stray dogs have  
10 been required to report the stray dogs to animal control. For  
11 more than fifty years, cruelty to animals has been criminalized  
12 in the State. And most recently, Act 91, Session Laws of Hawaii  
13 2021, encouraged bystanders to assist animals in peril by  
14 limiting the liability of duly licensed veterinarians who render  
15 emergency care and treatment to an animal.



1           However, the legislature finds that more may be done to  
2 encourage and protect bystanders who are not duly licensed  
3 veterinarians that assist animals in an emergency.

4           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to limit the civil  
5 liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical  
6 care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an  
7 emergency.

8           SECTION 2. Chapter 663, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
10 designated and to read as follows:

11           "§663-           Exception to liability; emergency nonmedical  
12 care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals. (a) Any  
13 person who in good faith renders emergency nonmedical care or  
14 emergency nonmedical assistance, without remuneration or  
15 expectation of remuneration, at the scene of an emergency to an  
16 animal shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from  
17 the person's acts or omissions, except for such damages as may  
18 result from the person's gross negligence or wanton acts or  
19 omissions.




1        (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter  
2 existing protections from liability for licensed professionals  
3 under any other law."

4        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

**JAN 25 2023**



# H.B. NO. 1512

**Report Title:**

Civil Immunity; Emergency Nonmedical Care; Emergency Nonmedical Assistance; Animals

**Description:**

Limits the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an emergency.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

