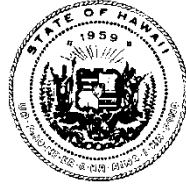


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 8, 2024
1:15 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2563
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

Honorable Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 2563, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent** of SB 2563 and **provides the following comments.** This measure requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep 1 or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions. Provides that the Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent. Allows the Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

The HPHA manages over 5,400 federal low-income public housing units statewide, and for these federal public housing projects, we currently allow tenants to have pets and the HPHA has an existing Pet Policy for tenants to follow. This policy was crafted in consultation with the public housing Resident Advisory Board, then through consultation and feedback from the public during a public hearing and then adopted by the HPHA's eleven Board of Directors after the public had another opportunity to submit comments.

The HPHA also manages 864 State low-income public housing units. Because approximately 86% of our 864-state low-income public housing inventory houses the elderly and disabled, we do not have a pet policy so that our Kupuna can have peaceful enjoyment of their homes. The following are some reasons (based on our experience in our federal low-income public housing properties) why we did not implement a pet policy in our state inventory:

- Units are much smaller than family federal low-income public housing units.
- Irresponsible pet owners allow their pets to leave the unit to roam the property and corridors.
- Damages to units leading to additional expenses for repairs and cleaning.
- Liability issues from pets frightening and attacking tenants and staff.
- Noise complaints from neighbors.

Please know that all residents in both federal and state low-income public housing units are allowed to have pets if needed for any health or disability reasons, and this is done through a Reasonable Accommodation Request.

As you may know, the HPHA is approximately 87% federally funded and all positions, except for one (1), are paid through federal sources. Administering and enforcing a state low-income public housing pet policy will require two (2) General (A) funded positions to enforce the policy and to maintain the state public housing properties statewide.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 4:22:28 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2563 *Relating to Public Housing* requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep one or more companion animals in the resident's unit, with some provisos.

This measure is vital to ensuring the most vulnerable families in our state can stay together. The HPHA presently allows companion animals in public housing under its own management, but not housing managed by private contractors. And even the public housing that allows them does so under size, breed and number limitations that have nothing to do with the size of the unit or an animal's ability to be well-behaved.

This bill would expand access to public housing managed by private contractors, as well as removing arbitrary restrictions around size or breed.

Companion animals are such an important part of a family and forbidding residents to keep them could put a question over their ability to take up a tenancy they need.

We beg to support this Bill.

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:46:02 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Ng	Testifying for Aloha Kitty TNR	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pets are and should be treated as members of the family. When people decide to get a pet, they have made a bond and lifelong commitment to them to care for and love them for the rest of their lives. Pets are not property, they are your kids. They should always be put first because they cannot do this on their own. This measure will support the psychological wellbeing of the individual and reduces the possibility and likelihood of animal abandonment. It also increases the Hawaiian Humane Society's intake capacity for animals who truly have nowhere else to go. We fully support this measure.



February 7, 2024
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Committee members,

My name is Susan Rhee, Hawaii State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. On behalf of my organization, I write in strong support of SB 2563.

The human-animal bond is sacred and in many ways pets in the U.S. are judiciously considered, yet when it comes to accessing essential resources and services regarding housing pet-ownership is often cited as a major obstacle—especially among our most vulnerable populations.

We believe housing issues should never cost pets their homes. Restrictions to pets being welcome on properties are not good for pets and their families, nor for landlords and housing providers. The state acknowledged that using physical breed standards to set laws and policies is ineffective, and research has shown that while singling out a particular type of dog may give an illusion of protection, it is entirely unreliable. Although “pet friendly” housing has become more common, the industry standard still contains strict limitations and restrictions on types, ages and sizes of pets that severely restrict the rental housing market.

According to Pets of the Homeless, an estimated five to ten percent of Americans experiencing or who are at-risk of homelessness have a companion, emotional support, or service animal. Unfortunately, most homeless shelters and transitional or assisted housing programs do not permit animals. For many a no-pet policy is a dealbreaker because often their pet has been a lifesaving companion for that individual and these restrictions push potential beneficiaries to instead live on the street, in their cars or RVs, and in tent camps. That means then that many will refuse housing or forego access to their own services because doing so may require them to abandon their pet.

Similar challenges exist for those trapped in domestic violence situations with companion animals. This legislation will help empower survivors to leave abusive relationships by giving them the tools they need to help keep their pets safe. Understanding the importance that pets play in our lives, abusers will often exploit that bond as a way to control and frighten domestic violence victims. Poses a significant barrier that results in many victims delaying their departure from dangerous situations or returning to their abuser out of fear for their pet(s).

To help address this problem, we propose legislation modeled after a California program to help reduce barriers for pet owners experiencing homelessness and further address the gap in available resources for unhoused pet owners by providing resources and security to accommodate pets.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 2563. We strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of this critical legislation.



Mahalo nui loa,

Susan Rhee
Hawaii State Director, HSUS



February 6, 2024

Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Submitted online via: capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Human Animal Support Services Written Testimony in Support of S.B. 2563

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Human Animal Support Services project (HASS), please accept this written testimony in support of S.B. 2563, which would create a pathway for pet-inclusive housing in public and low-income housing in Hawai'i. HASS is a national collaborative of municipal shelters and nonprofit rescues whose mission is to keep people and their pets together, reduce euthanasia of healthy, adoptable pets, and facilitate critical engagement of animal welfare organizations, communities, and human services organizations to build a system to better address the modern needs of communities, both for people and the pets they love. At HASS, we believe that advocating for housing justice, including affordable housing and tenants rights, grounded in racial and economic equity, is deeply intertwined with advocating for companion animals, shelters, and the families that love them. And with approximately 70% of American households having at least one pet companion, this work spans all states, cities, and neighborhoods in our country.

HASS defines pet-inclusive housing as that which is free from breed, size, weight, or number restrictions and *which is also free of nonrefundable pet fees and pet rents*. Research dating back to the 1990s identifies housing issues as responsible for just under one-third of all owner surrender intake at animal shelters. This is born out in today's shelter data, as well, and in Pilot Shelters across the U.S. housing-related issues are at the root cause of an increasing number of relinquishments. *In our Pilot Shelters with the most notable housing insecurity and housing affordability issues, we're seeing housing-related intake make up upwards of one-third of all owner surrenders.*¹ Despite this long-understood relationship between housing insecurity and companion animal welfare, a recent study found that only 7% of rental housing is pet inclusive² and there is evidence of even less availability in subsidized housing.

¹ Data available upon request from Human Animal Support Services.

² Michaelson Found Animals. "2021 Pet-Inclusive Housing Report" (2021) Available at: <https://www.petsandhousing.org/2021-pet-inclusive-housing-report/>.



HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

In recent years, the outdated notion that if one “can’t afford a pet, they shouldn’t have one” has thankfully lost its grip on how our society identifies who “deserves” to experience the myriad psychological, social, and physical benefits of the human-animal bond; including the joy and companionship that many of us know, from personal experience, comes with having a companion pet. I recently co-authored research in collaboration with researchers both independent and affiliated with the University of Denver’s Institute for Human Animal Connection (IHAC), in which we interviewed tenants living in subsidized affordable housing in Houston, TX.³ We crafted policy recommendations in conjunction with that tenant input. Tenants in this study lived in public housing, Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties, and various other subsidized affordable housing units. These are some of the sentiments expressed by the participants about finding affordable housing that allowed their pet:

“Most of the time if you own a pet, you're automatically almost out of compliance. It was very hard to find housing with a pet, where you can actually own a pet.”

“I had to choose if I had to leave him [my dog] or I had to go out [of my housing]-- It's- it's like choosing between life and death.”

“A person could get a dog, but with the way that pet fees are now today and the deposits, that's just too high, it's just way too high. I would love to have a dog. I would love to have a dog, but only if the pet fees were not so high.”

The tenants who shared their stories with us expressed frustrations with the lack of clarity and consistency about pet policies in subsidized housing, particularly amongst those utilizing housing choice vouchers. They highlighted that the strict pet policies, particularly related to breed and size, only exacerbated the already immensely difficult process of finding a safe and affordable home in which they could live. To that end, HASS respectfully urges that the bill sponsor consider including those units where tenants are living in market-rate housing through the use of housing choice vouchers as also covered under this important legislation.

Recent research also suggests that racial discrimination in rental housing policies extends to pet policies. Two studies have assessed the disparate impact of stricter pet policies on BIPOC and low-income neighborhoods. One study, conducted in North Carolina, found that pet-friendly rental housing was more likely to be available to renters in predominantly White neighborhoods, compared to communities of color.⁴ Another study, focusing on the cost of keeping pets in rental

³ Hupe, T.M., et al., (2024) Barriers to finding and maintaining pet inclusive affordable housing in Houston, TX: a qualitative phenomenology study (In publication).

⁴ Rose, D., McMillian, C., & Carter, O. (2023). Pet-Friendly Rental Housing: Racial and Spatial Inequalities. *Space and Culture*, 26(1), 116-129. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1206331220956539>



HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

housing in Texas, found that low-income communities and communities of color were more likely than higher income and predominantly white communities to pay disproportionately higher fees to keep pets in their homes.⁵ Startlingly, in that study, researchers found that higher income census tracts were less likely to have pet fees, *at all*, suggesting that decisions to implement additional pet fees may be grounded in attempting to discourage lower-income residents from having pets or, at the very least, suggesting a belief by landlords that low-income, pet owning tenants are less responsible – a deeply unfair, unfounded stereotype. In 2022 Carol Mithers wrote an in-depth article for *Dame Magazine* about this issue, highlighting the myriad ways in which low-income tenants with pets are discriminated against.⁶ She quoted one researcher, Jenny Applebaum from University of Florida, saying, “[o]ur findings point to the hypothesis that pet fees are yet another discriminatory practice that inevitably leads to poorer housing security...among already disadvantaged and marginalized populations.”⁷

It’s clear that the policies in market-rate and subsidized housing addressing families with pets are serving to create housing *instability*, not security, and speaks to the need for stronger public policies aligned with a core value in our society, which is that pets are family and nobody should be forced to give up a pet they love because pet-inclusive, affordable housing is out of reach.

We would like to thank the bill sponsors and co-sponsors for their strong commitment to housing justice for all families, as they choose to define it, and for this Committee’s attention to an issue so vital for the health and wellbeing of Hawai’i families, in particular those families who have pet companions. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out.



Lauren Loney (she/her)
Staff Attorney & Policy Specialist
lauren.loney@americanpetsalive.org
[Human Animal Support Services](#)

⁵ Applebaum, J., Horeka, K., Loney, L., and Graham, T. (2021) Pet-Friendly for Whom? An Analysis of Pet Fees in Texas Rental Housing. *Frontiers*. Available at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2021.767149/full>.

⁶ Mithers, C. “Pet Rent is Newest Tool of Housing Discrimination” (June 6, 2022) *Dame*. Available at: <https://www.damemagazine.com/2022/07/06/pet-rent-is-the-newest-tool-of-housing-discrimination/>.

⁷ *Id.*



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 6, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Stanley Chang
Vice Chair Sen. Troy Hashimoto
and Members of the Committee on Housing

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2563: Relating to Public Housing
Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, 1:15 p.m., Capitol Room 225

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 2563, which requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep 1 or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions; provides that the Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent; and allows the Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

Lack of access to pet-friendly housing is among the most common reasons that pet owners surrender their beloved family members to the care of animal shelters. For some this is unthinkable and they will stay in abusive relationships or chose to become or remain houseless rather than give up their pets. Hawai'i residents should not have to choose between keeping their family intact or having a roof over their heads.

While public housing under the direct management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority allows pets, it does so under antiquated restrictions. This bill adopts the more progressive language of the California public housing statute, which prohibits restrictions based on breed or size; but allows those that account for the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal. It also would require the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors to allow pets. This would open hundreds of additional units to pet owners as they become available.

Please pass SB 2563 and open state and federally funded housing in Hawai'i to our most vulnerable families and their animal companions. Mahalo for your consideration.

PŌPOKI PLACE O'AHU CAT SANCTUARY



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Housing
Thursday, February 8, 2023, 1:15 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

SB2114, Relating to Pets in Public Housing - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Senator Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Committee on Housing members,

We **strongly SUPPORT SB2563**, which allows **residents in Public Housing to have one or more pets in their units, establishes a fair deposit, prohibits monthly fees, and establishes rules following all animal laws.**

Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of creating a safe, loving, healthy sanctuary for homeless cats on the island of Oahu. Popoki Place is the missing link in the efforts to manage the thousands of cats roaming the streets, beaches and mountains. In addition to rescue groups, shelters, adoption sites, and TNR efforts, **we serve a critical role in helping solve the crisis of cat overpopulation.**

Allowing Public Housing residents to adopt cats and other animals will help with the abundance of available animals needing homes and would help those people have a better quality of life by reinforcing the human-animal bond.

For 17 years, I was the director of Weinberg Village Waimanalo, which was a transitional housing program for homeless families to over 2000 people (65% children.) We had a large colony of over 50 feral cats on the 3-acre property. During that time, the children and adults learned responsibility on how to care for the animals. They observed TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage) in action and saw the positive effects of humane treatment. While we didn't allow pets in the units, the residents learned about the love between humans and animals. **One of our children was so inspired that she is now studying to be a veterinarian at a Washington university.**

The residents were formerly homeless as are most of the residents in Public Housing units. While homeless, they often kept dogs to protect them on the streets. Sometimes those dogs were the only beings to show them love and loyalty during the most horrible time of their lives. **Allowing the residents in Public Housing to keep their animals with them is a great asset to support their mental health and well-being.**

Creating rules on the care, welfare and protection of the animals and their neighbors is smart and will be good for both the pet owner and the others on the property. Setting a **reasonable** and **refundable** deposit is fair and just like tenants around the state have to pay, while not charging them a monthly fee or pet rent is appreciated and fair.

We strongly urge you to **SUPPORT** this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Holly Holowach
Founder and President

Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary
P.O. Box 732 Kailua, HI 96734
<https://popokiplace.org/>

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:44:01 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in extremely strong support of SB2563.

Please, please pass this bill. It is imperative that families be allowed to stay together with their pets. Housing is so expensive and hard to find already: often families who finally find some kind of affordable housing are forced to choose between their family-member-pets and homelessness.

This bill would also prevent rampant feral colonies from further multiplying. (When people are asked to give up their pets in order to have housing by demanding unfair rent prices or simply not allowing pets, these families abandon their pets. They do not take them to the Humane Society to be euthanized--they leave them on the streets, hoping their pets will survive.)

Please pass this important bill: it helps everyone--families, the environment, animals--and no one is hurt by this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:57:01 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Torun Almer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:09:45 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2563. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:00:37 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority should allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions. This measure is vital to ensuring the most vulnerable families in our state can stay together

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:03:00 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is vital to ensuring the most vulnerable families in our state can stay together. The HPHA presently allows pets in public housing under its own management, but not housing managed by private contractors. And even the public housing that allows pets does so under size, breed and number limitations that have nothing to do with the size of the unit or an animal's ability to be a well-behaved pet.

As a long time pet owner, who lives in a pet friendly building, I cannot imagine the harm that is done to persons who cannot keep pets. Pets are our family. Studies have shown that pet ownership is healthy for humans. I recall when New Orleans was hit by a massive hurricane several years ago and people died because they could not take their pets with them to the shelters. They would not leave their pets behind. It is time that pets are allowed in all housing.

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:11:17 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Severns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2563, which would improve the lives of Hawai‘i's public housing communities by allowing residents to keep their pet animals under reasonable conditions. This bill acknowledges the profound bond between individuals and their pets, especially for those facing economic challenges or the risk of homelessness.

Pets are more than just animals. They are companions, sources of emotional support, and often, a critical part of our families. The stability and comfort they provide cannot be understated, particularly in times of personal and financial uncertainty. SB2563 will protect this vital role by permitting residents to keep their pet animals without imposing the additional financial burden of monthly pet fees or pet rent. This is especially commendable, as it will ensure that residents are not forced to choose between affordable housing and their beloved pets.

The provision to charge a refundable deposit instead of recurring fees is a thoughtful approach that respects the financial constraints of public housing residents while still allowing for the responsible ownership of pets. It strikes a fair balance between the needs of the housing community and those of individual residents and their pets.

By supporting SB2563, you are not only advocating for the well-being of animals but also for the dignity, emotional well-being, and financial stability of our ohana. This bill can make a significant positive impact on the lives of many people by allowing them to maintain their cherished relationships with their pets while accessing affordable housing.

I urge you to pass SB2563, demonstrating your commitment to compassionate and inclusive housing policies that recognize the importance of pet companionship in the lives of many residents.

Mahalo,

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:33:16 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. It will benefit both humans and animal pets!

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:53:36 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Marie Saymon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is abundant proof that having animal companions increases wellbeing and the likelihood of better health outcomes. Please pass this bill in favor of allowing this basic human right to those who live in public housing. Thank you.

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:58:58 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia F Tucker PsyD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a psychologist, I strongly support SB2563 for housing with pets.

This is a wonderful way to keep families together. A recent study conducted by the American Psychiatric Association stated most people surveyed reported that dogs and cats help reduce stress and anxiety; provide unconditional love and support; offer companionship; provide a calming presence; and are true friends.

Dogs and cats can be reassuring and give love as companions, and help with people's wellbeing and coping abilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Cynthia F Tucker, PsyD

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:39:18 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and members,

I am writing in strong support for Sen. Lee's bill, SB2563, which allows pets in public and low-income housing in Hawaii. The bill has sufficient safeguards to make this a very workable plan.

This is a win-win for both our population and for pet animals. Pets help people thrive and remain connected. This is particularly true for the elderly. Likewise, beloved pets are often abandoned because their owners must move into housing that will not allow the pet owner to keep them. While this bill will not fix the entire problem of pet abandonment, it is a positive step that the Public Housing Authority can undertake.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2563

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:42:40 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Chang, Vice Chairperson Hashimoto and Members of the Committee on Housing.

Please support Senate Bill 2563 related to public housing. It's my understanding that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority allows pets under its own management but not when managed by private contractors. Even public housing that allows pets does so by size, breed and number limitations that have nothing to do with size of unit or how well behaved a pet is. Furthermore, I understand that this bill is admirably modeled after California's public housing statute that expands access to public housing managed by private contractors and removes arbitrary restrictions on size and breed.

Again, please support Senate Bill 2563 to help families remain with their beloved pets.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa