

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:46:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We would like to strongly endorse Hawaiian Humane Society's support of Bill [HB1512](#)  
**Relating to Liability:**

This measure limits the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency non-medical care and emergency non-medical assistance to animals during an emergency.

This is appropriate and compassionate.

If people are apprehensive they will be liable in some ways they may not risk giving emergency help to animals in need and as a consequence the animals will suffer even more.

We beg to support the Bill.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 9, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates  
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa,  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony with comments on HB 1512: Relating to Liability  
Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Room 325 & Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for the intent of House Bill 1512, which limits the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an emergency.

The Hawaiian Humane Society embraces the Socially Conscious Animal Community framework, which emphasizes shared responsibility and collaboration in support of people and their pets. Hawai'i residents play a vital role in responding to animal emergencies. Local good Samaritans regularly assist ill and injured animals by bringing them to veterinary clinics and/or animal welfare agencies for care.

We support the intent of this bill to encourage private citizens to come to the aid of animals in need. We are concerned, however, about possible unintended consequences. Well-intentioned observers can mistake elderly animals, or those being treated for medical conditions, for victims of abuse. We would not want to encourage people to remove animals from their homes rather than calling law enforcement to voice their concerns.

We would ask the committee to clarify that this measure would not protect citizens from criminal charges if they were to trespass onto, or damage, private property to access animals they believe to be in danger. In those cases, the appropriate response would be to contact law enforcement for assistance. Mahalo for your consideration.



525 East Cotati Avenue  
Cotati, California 94931

T 707.795.2533  
F 707.795.7280

info@aldf.org  
aldf.org

February 9, 2023

**Memorandum in Support – HB 1512**  
*Relating to liability*

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (“ALDF”), the nation’s preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals, supports the enactment of HB 1512, limiting the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an emergency. The organization’s mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. This bill is directly in line with this mission and would make Hawaii a leader in the protection of animals.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund applauds the sponsors of this bill for its recognition of animals as “more than simply personal property.” Indeed, companion animals are integral members of the family to many people in the state of Hawaii and across the world. Animals can experience pain and complex emotions and form strong bonds to their human owners. They deserve to be protected under the law as more than mere property. This bill is a step in the right direction in doing so by allowing citizens of the state to intervene when animals are in danger without the fear of civil liability for associated damage that may occur.

For example, with so many tragic stories of companion animals dying in the heat, the public is becoming more cognizant of the danger of leaving animals in hot cars. And Hawaii is a state that experiences hotter temperatures year round than most. Allowing good Samaritans to rescue dogs or other animals from hot cars, without the fear of being held liable for resulting damage, would save countless lives every year.

For these reasons, the Animal Legal Defense Fund strongly supports the enactment of HB 1512 and respectfully requests that it be passed by this committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig  
Legislative Affairs Program Fellow  
Animal Legal Defense Fund  
[lvierheilig@aldf.org](mailto:lvierheilig@aldf.org)

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:34:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Thank you.

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:17:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1512. This measure limits the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an emergency and is essential in preventing animals from suffering because kind and qualified people are worried about frivolous lawsuits. Please pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:43:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill which will help Hawaii's animals.

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:15:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support / Thank you - Selene

Kailua

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 3:47:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will enable more people to render aid to injured animals if they believe they will not be sued.



**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 4:53:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill limits the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an emergency. It goes without saying that such compassion should not be discouraged by fear of civil liability.

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:16:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1512.

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:12:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Asuega Gates and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support HB 1512 which limits civil liability for people who render non- medical care and assistance to animals in emergencies. I absolutely agree that people should be protected from liability when trying to help animals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration in supporting HB 1512.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**HB-1512**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:10:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1512, which would encourage more people to spay and neuter feral cats. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816