

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1493
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 1493, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require sellers or providers of emotional support animals, as well as those issuing verifications of a disability related need for an emotional support animal, to provide written notice to the buyer or recipient containing certain information;
- (2) Require persons or businesses that sell or provide certificates, vests, or identification tags that identify an animal as an emotional support animal to provide written notice to the buyer or recipient containing certain information; and
- (3) Establish penalties.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, and three individuals.



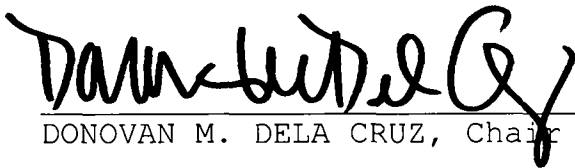
Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services, Department of the Attorney General, and Hawai'i REALTORS.

Your Committees find that it is a civil violation to knowingly misrepresent an unqualified animal as a service animal. However, much confusion exists regarding the statutory requirements for an animal to qualify as a service animal and how that status differs from an emotional support animal. This often leads to the misuse of identification vests and certificates, which may signal the legal status of an animal. The misrepresentation of unqualified animals as service animals threatens public safety and erodes the protections afforded to service animals. This measure will reduce the misrepresentation of emotional support animals as service animals by requiring certain disclosures and verifications upon the sale of emotional support animals and relevant equipment and establishing penalties.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1493, S.D. 1, and recommend that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair


KARL RHOADS, Chair



**Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC**

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB1493 SD1	Committee Referral: CPN, JDC/WAM	Date: 2-17-25										
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____												
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313												
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused								
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X											
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X											
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X											
DECOITE, Lynn	X											
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X											
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X											
INOUE, Lorraine R.	X											
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X											
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X											
KIM, Donna Mercado	X											
LEE, Chris	X											
WAKAI, Glenn	X											
FEVELLA, Kurt	X											
TOTAL	13	0	0	0								
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted												
Chair's or Designee's Signature:												
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