



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

SB301
RELATING TO DOGS

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:15 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB301** which establishes an additional penalty for a dog owner whose dog destroys property while on land zoned for agricultural use.

As ranchers consistently deal with dogs on pastures, we appreciate this additional penalty for owners whose dogs destroy property on agricultural land – this negatively impacts the business of rancher and also causes harm to the livestock themselves. Ranchers use low-stress animal handling for animal health and well-being, but the introduction of unmanaged dogs increases stress.

Establishing an additional penalty will motivate dog owners to take more initiative in securing their dogs and preventing damage. Enforcement of this is critical, and in the past it has been difficult to identify the owners of dogs that have trespassed and caused damage. In addition to establishing the additional penalty, more clarity is needed on the appropriate entities to contact when damage is done.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



SB-301

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:53:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miri Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **strong support** for SB301 and to share my personal experience with the issue of loose and aggressive dogs, which is a widespread problem in both private and public spaces.

Recently, my small dog and I were attacked by a very large and aggressive shepherd dog, which was owned by an estate and trust attorney at a well-known law firm. Shockingly, the owner claimed she did not see the attack. However, if she truly did not witness the attack, it only underscores that she was not properly monitoring her aggressive dog. To make matters worse, she had TWO shepherd dogs off leash, which posed an even greater threat.

This experience is not isolated. Even at my condo, I have seen loose aggressive dogs that are selectively allowed by the association and management, which cause property damage and pose risks to other pets. Dog attacks happen in the blink of an eye, which is precisely why dogs must be on leashes and monitored at all times for the safety of everyone.

Additionally, I am concerned about how the bill will address loose dogs belonging to homeless individuals. It is often extremely difficult, if not impossible, to serve citations or enforce fines against homeless individuals with loose dogs. In many state and city and county parks, I have witnessed packs of loose dogs owned by homeless individuals, which often pose a danger to other pets and park visitors. I have personally experienced attacks from these dogs as well as observed attacks on other park users.

I respectfully ask that the language of SB301 be expanded to address a wider range of scenarios, property types, and dog ownership situations, including the specific challenges posed by loose dogs in public areas frequented by homeless individuals.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and for the opportunity to **support** this important bill.

Mahalo,
Miri Yi

SB-301

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:22:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

SB-301

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:37:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB301.

SB-301

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:36:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Melone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support of SB301**, which would impose an additional penalty on dog owners whose pets damage property on agricultural land. As someone who is deeply invested in the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry, I've witnessed the challenges posed by dogs roaming freely in pastures.

When dogs enter agricultural land, they not only damage property but also cause significant stress to livestock. Ranchers work hard to maintain the health and well-being of their animals through low-stress handling practices, and the presence of uncontrolled dogs disrupts that. The additional penalty proposed in this bill would help hold dog owners accountable and motivate them to take greater care in preventing their pets from causing harm.

I also believe enforcement of this penalty is critical, as it has often been difficult to identify owners whose dogs cause damage. In addition to the penalty, clear guidelines on the proper authorities to contact when such damage occurs would be incredibly helpful.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and your commitment to supporting Hawaii's ranchers and farmers.

Me ke aloha,

Angelica Melone

SB-301

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:01:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We appreciate your support of this measure. Livestock producers consistently deal with stray dogs on pastures and farms. We appreciate this additional penalty for owners whose dogs destroy property on agricultural land – this negatively impacts the business of ranchers and also causes harm to the livestock themselves.

Establishing an additional penalty will motivate dog owners to take more initiative in securing their dogs and preventing damage. Enforcement of this is critical, and in the past it has been difficult to identify the owners of dogs that have trespassed and caused damage. In addition to establishing the additional penalty, more clarity is needed on the appropriate entities to contact when damage is done.

Mahalo in advance for your support.

SB-301

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:15:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 301 RELATING TO DOGS.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson