

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of

DEAN MINAKAMI

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 430

In consideration of

HOUSE BILL 1593

RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC has **comments** on House Bill 1593, which proposes to require affordable rental housing development projects funded by HHFDC to allow residents to own or maintain common household pets, subject to reasonable conditions that protect health, safety, and property.

HHFDC recognizes the importance of housing stability and strives to balance affordability, safety, and community harmony in all of its programs and policies. We appreciate the intent of this bill, which seeks to promote pet-inclusive affordable rental housing by requiring HHFDC-financed projects to allow residents to own or maintain common household pets under reasonable conditions.

While we support efforts to reduce barriers for families with pets, HHFDC offers the following comments for consideration:

1. **Policy Enforcement and Compliance.** Varying interpretations of 'reasonable conditions' may lead to inconsistent enforcement, tenant complaints, and potential claims of discrimination. Unauthorized pets could become a compliance issue, increasing oversight demands.
2. **Property Damage and Maintenance.** Pets can cause wear and tear on flooring, walls, and landscaping. Odor and sanitation issues may arise from improper waste disposal. Increased turnover costs for deep cleaning and repairs could strain operating budgets.

3. **Liability and Safety.** Risks include bites or attacks on tenants or staff, and noise complaints from barking or disruptive behavior. Insurance gaps exist, as some policies exclude pet-related incidents, potentially leaving project owners financially exposed.
4. **Administrative Burden.** Oversight of pet documentation (e.g., vaccination, licensing, and insurance) adds administrative complexity. Conflict resolution between pet and non-pet tenants may require additional staff resources.
5. **Financial Impacts.** Actual damage and cleaning costs often exceed pet deposits, affecting project budgets and long-term sustainability.

Should this measure advance, we respectfully request that the Legislature consider the challenges identified above and input from project owners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 11, 2026

To: Chair Rep. Luke Evslin
Vice Chair Rep. Tyson Miyake
and Members of the Committee on Housing

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

RE: Testimony in enthusiastic support of HB 1593:
Relating to Affordable Housing
Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Capitol Room 430

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for House Bill 1593 Relating to Affordable Housing, which requires, for any affordable rental housing development project that receives financing or any financial assistance from the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, that the Corporation require the housing development lease or occupancy agreement to allow residents to own or otherwise maintain one or more common household pets.

This measure is modeled after a California law passed in 2021. It was motivated by an awareness that low-income renters are disproportionately affected by pet restrictions and a lack of pet-friendly housing options. This is at least as true in our state.

According to data analyzed by the Pet Inclusive Housing Initiative, 76.3 percent of rental units nationwide allow pets. In Hawai'i, they calculate that 39.8 percent of rental units allow pets. It is the lowest rate in the country. Adding to the barriers, only 15.5 percent of local rental units in properties that allow pets do not impose breed or size restrictions. These rules are not based on any evidence of which pets make good neighbors, but they do prevent wonderful animals from finding homes.

The inability to find pet-friendly housing is among the most common reasons that pet owners surrender their beloved family members to the care of animal shelters. In a 2024 survey of O'ahu households conducted by Ward Research, housing access topped the list



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

of reasons residents had to surrender a pet to a shelter. Thirty percent of families who had surrendered a pet in the past five years said it was due to an inability to be housed with their pet.

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. In collaboration with Partners in Care, the umbrella group of social service providers on O‘ahu, we added a question regarding pet ownership to the annual Point in Time count in 2019. The results confirmed what our Outreach and Field Services teams see every day. Pet ownership is extremely important to houseless individuals and families. In the 2024 count, 29 percent of the unsheltered on O‘ahu reported owning at least one pet.

Hawai‘i residents should not have to choose between keeping their family intact or having a roof over their heads.

Please pass HB 1593 and ensure that taxpayer funds support housing that welcomes all the members of local families. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:18:00 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB1593 Relating to Affordable Housing, would, we are informed, create generational change in Hawai'i's housing landscape for companion animal guardians.

This is very important as it will ensure that projects supported by taxpayers welcome all of our family members. Arbitrary limits based on breed or size of the animal will not be permitted.

It is morally right that nobody has to choose between housing and living with a beloved companion animal and our members strongly endorse this excellent Bill.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

February 13, 2026

American Kennel Club Comments on HB 1593: RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Dear Chair Evslin and Members of the House Committee on Housing:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today on behalf of our 41 Hawai'i based kennel clubs and the many responsible dog owners in the state to respectfully ask you to support House Bill 1593. AKC is a strong defender of policies that promote responsible pet ownership and protecting the health and welfare of dogs.

Simply put, Hawai'i continues to find itself in a housing crisis. Access to publicly funded, affordable housing in Hawai'i is a critical safety net for those in precarious housing situations. Unfortunately, many vulnerable populations are effectively unable to access adequate housing simply because they have an animal companion. House Bill 1593 is written to address the problem of vulnerable populations with pets not being able to access public housing due to restrictions on accepting pets. This proposal will ensure vulnerable Hawaiians with pets will have access to housing that receives public financing.

The AKC supports the House Committee on Housing's attention to this issue. Thank you for reviewing and considering our position on this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further how we can work together to address your concerns and promote responsible pet ownership in Hawai'i.

Regards,

Bob Rilling-Smith
Legislative Analyst/Community Outreach Coordinator
American Kennel Club
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh NC 27617
(919) 816-3960 | bxr@akc.org

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:35:07 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am reaching out to ask for your support for HB1593, that will help to create more pet friendly housing in our state. Many individual rentals do not allow pets, leaving families with pets without places to rent. Pets are part of our families and many people end up having to give them up just to have housing. This can cause overcrowding in shelters, or cats left outside to fend for themselves, increasing the feral cat population.

Please help keep families and their pets together!

Thank you,

Jennifer Wood
Kalaheo, Kauai
808-221-7229

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:41:24 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill HB1593.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:48:44 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1593. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I reside at Sunset Beach, Oahu with two senior cats.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:19:26 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support measures allowing for pet friendly affordable housing. Families should not have to choose between an affordable home and their pet. Mahalo!

Testimony in support of HB1593: Relating to Affordable Housing and pet ownership,
a bill that would create generational change in Hawai'i's housing landscape for pet owners.

This measure requires, for any affordable rental housing development project that receives financing or any financial assistance from the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, that the Corporation require the housing development lease or occupancy agreement to allow residents to own or otherwise maintain one or more common household pets.

Nearly all affordable housing in the state is built with government assistance. This bill is modeled after legislation passed in California in 2021. It ensures that projects supported by taxpayers welcome all of our family members including pets. It allows for reasonable restrictions around behavior and the size of the unit, but not arbitrary limits based on breed or size of the animal.

I hope the committee realizes that this bill is a priority.

I strongly support this bill, signed
Judith Aikawa, MD
37 Apali Way
Kula, HI 96790

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:45:43 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1593.

For many residents of Hawai`i, the dream of having a pet is often met with insurmountable housing barriers.

According to a recent national survey, Hawai`i has the lowest percentage of pet- friendly rentals of all the states in the country: 39% compared to 75% nationwide.

Every Humane Society in the state is overwhelmed with relinquished, stray and abandoned animals. The lack of pet-friendly housing in the islands plays a major role.

Pets are considered “family” to many. According to scientific evidence, pets contribute to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of their owners.

HB1593 is an important step in acknowledging – and addressing – the importance of the human-animal bond.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:49:56 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Committee: HSB

Bill Number: HB 1593, RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Re: Testimony in Support

My name is Malia Wisch and I am a third-generation Kailua resident and a local professional. I am fortunate to own my home and enjoy having multiple pets.

I strongly support this bill. The benefits extend far beyond a family in a rental being allowed to have a pet. This helps cut down on the far-too-common pet abandonment in our state that has led to free-roaming cats and dogs threatening our native species and themselves suffering on the street.

This is not a nice-to-have. This has community-wide benefits. It is important for our environment and for the mental and emotional health of our local families.

Mahalo,

Malia Wisch

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:53:20 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Russell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pleae support this bill (HB1593 - hearing on Friday, Feb. 13, at 9:00 a.m.) to ensure no one has to choose between housing and a beloved pet.

Support the human-animal bond, keep pets out of over-crowded shelters.

Written Testimony – IN STRONG SUPPORT

House Committee on Housing
Friday, February 13, 9:00 a.m.
Re: HB1593, Relating to Affordable Housing
IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tanya Ramseth, and I am a resident of Koloa, Kaua`i, Hawai`i. I am testifying in **strong support** of HB1593.

Nearly all affordable housing in Hawai`i is built with public financing. Housing supported by taxpayer dollars should reflect the reality that pets are family members. Too often, residents are forced to choose between stable housing and keeping a beloved companion animal.

HB1593 ensures that affordable housing developments financed through HHFDC allow residents to have common household pets. The bill permits reasonable restrictions related to behavior and unit size, while preventing arbitrary breed or size bans.

This measure, modeled after California's 2021 law, represents a meaningful step toward a more humane and inclusive housing policy. With many housing bills under consideration this session, HB1593 must be prioritized to ensure affordable housing truly serves local families.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1593.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Tanya Ramseth

808-634-3954

tanyaramseth@hotmail.com

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:37:05 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To the Committee on Housing
Representative Luke A. Evslin, Chair
Representative Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair**

I am testifying in support of HB1593 RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

More Specifically, given the dearth of truly affordable housing alongside our high cost of living, I want to make it very clear how important I believe it is to allow residents of any affordable rental housing development project built through financial assistance by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, be allowed to own or maintain one or more common household pets.

Living with limited resources in this environment is difficult enough, but to be barred from experiencing the incontrovertible satisfaction and comfort that pets can provide is utterly unthinkable, and equal to enduring yet another form of hardship. Our residents deserve better than that.

**Thank you.
Alice Saul
Hawai'i Kai, Honolulu**

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 6:27:29 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madelynne Nehl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pets are wonderful for mental health. Finding pet friendly rentals is a serious issue on Maui. The lack of affordable housing that allows pets directly impacts pet homelessness and overburdens MHS and other nonprofit animal welfare organizations.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:07:28 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Tenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1593.

Living in housing should not prevent an individual from the enjoyment of pet ownership. Pets allow you to cuddle, play. A sense of relaxation to just sit with them and chill after a stressful event or a hard day. Sit chill and binge watch TV.

Since I was a child, our family has always had pets, dogs cats, rabbit, guinea pig, a parakeet and fish.

As an adult living on my own, I too have had a cat, fish and dogs. At over 65 years of age, I recently had to euthanize my dog, Sabiki, he was 10years old and had cancer. He was a rescue and followed me all over the house and yard. Easily trained too. He actually would run and pee in the shower each morning. He was fun and comforting.

Never thought that I would miss him greatly!

I have another rescue dog that is older and thought I would be OK with just her. NOPE! 2 weeks ago I saw (2) 10 week old pups on craigslist. They are now my newbies in the house and causing chaos, but well worth it to have them.

Today, 2/11/2026, I spent the day at the capitol, came home about 2pm and all 4 of us crashed into a hour nap.

I wish I could testify in person, I will be in another hearing at 9:30am on 2/13/2026.

Please pass HB1593, pets are the unexpected treasure life.

Thank you for allowing the submission of this testimony and am open to any questions from the committee.

Raelene Tenno - Condominium Owner since 1990

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:17:07 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

It should be required that the housing development lease or occupancy agreement allow residents to own or otherwise maintain one or more common household pets. Please support all our citizens and housing..

Hawaii Kai voter.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:14:39 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pets are part of our family, and so many pets are surrendered when people have to move house because many landlords do not accept pets. This bill gives clear guidelines regarding the allowance of pets in subsidized housing. It makes good sense with clear guidelines that the landlord can enact and still follow the intent of this bill.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:32:39 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have lived with pets for most of my looooong, looooooong life. For me, as for many others, they are members of my family. They provide you with unconditional love, support, are always there. They do not judge you.

For those and many other reasons, this bill must be passed. There are people who would rather go homeless than give up their pets. Years ago, when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, people died saving their pets and refused to go to shelters because shelters would not accept pets. That even changed laws and rules here.

I have attended neighborhood board meetings where participants ask developers what arrangements they are making for pets. This is a big issue.

This bill ensures no one has to choose between housing and a beloved pet(s). Please be humane and pass this bill now.

lynne matusow

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:08:59 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support of HB1593 as residents of affordable housing should be, within reasonably acceptable care and standards, able to own pets just as any other owner or tenant of non-affordable housing is allowed to do. Reasonable deposits from the tenant should be considered as evidence the tenant is responsible, caring and focused on maintaining the residence as well as their beloved pet. Don't discriminate against the tenant that meets reasonable standards and criteria to allow them this measure of enjoyment in their living environment.

Sincerely,

Sherri Foster

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:55:27 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie G Gollero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I reside in Palolo and oppose this bill. The public housing in Palolo is already overrun with abandoned cats and unleashed dogs that are not fixed or microchipped. These animals are sick and starving, and some of the male youths are cruel and harm the animals. There are also an infestation of chickens because of the tenants that cockfight according to the residents. The chickens have spread into the larger community. The dogs kill and eat the chickens and cats because they are starving. This has been ongoing for years and management is not involved enough to resolve these issues. Recently HHS had to capture 19 of the unleashed dogs. Many of the animals are euthanized. While some residents may be responsible pet owners, it is the ones that aren't that cause much suffering for these animals. Please vote no to stop adding to the misery of these animals.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 4:00:03 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Evslin, Vice Chair Representative Miyake and Members of the Committee on Housing.

Please support HB 1593 which would help affordable rental housing occupants and their pets. Housing projects supported by taxpayers should welcome all family members, including pets. Furthermore, this bill allows for reasonable restrictions based on behavior of the pets and size of the unit, not arbitrary restrictions based on breed or size of animal.

Again, please support this bill which I think would be so beneficial to affordable rental housing occupants and their pets.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:27:42 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Galloway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Life is hard enough without a pet to comfort us!

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:39:57 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1593. Most Maui residents are living in work force housing and are not allowed to have pets. No one should have to choose between housing and their pet. Our shelters are overcrowded and this would help so much. People would be more inclined to adopt an animal in need if they were able to have one. Please pass this law for the benefit of people and the animals. Thank you. Kelli Medeiros

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:03:46 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this common sense bill

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:51:38 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethany Guthman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony of Bethany R. Guthman, Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator of the Kaua'i Humane Society.

In SUPPORT of HB1593 Relating to Affordable Housing

Committee on Housing hearing on Friday, Feb. 13, at 9:00 a.m

Relating to true value affordable housing and the inclusion of all Ohana members and their beloved pets. I want to mahalo nui the opportunity to Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee regarding this important crisis.

I have been in animal welfare for almost 5 years serving, representing, helping my community of Kaua'i. This includes the people- our Lahui and the countless pets. I see first hand the overpopulation of stray, abandoned, neglected and surrendered animals each and everyday. A big reason for this is the lack of true value affordable housing and housing that allows beloved pets. I know firsthand that through data, science, mental health and the well-being of our people, pets not only are Ohana, but they're companions, help heal and many health benefits of having a pet.

Our shelter, for the better of over 2 years, has been in critical capacity. Landlords play a big role in those numbers. Our community needs more true value affordable housing that allows pets.

In closing, please consider my testimony as I work first hand with my community and in the animal welfare space for our beautiful community and island.

Bethany Guthman

Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator

Kauai Humane Society Volunteer Department

PO Box 3330 (Mailing Address)

3-825 Kaumualii Hwy, Lihue, HI 96766

Office Phone: 808.632.0610 EXT. 118

Fax: 808.442.1102

www.kauaihumane.org

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Youtube](#) [Instagram](#)

KHS is in the Combined Federal Campaign! Our ID is 41145.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:43:53 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Jane Arnold and I live in Kaimuki. I am testifying in favor of HB1593, which would require that Public Housing and state low-income housing allow pets.

Only 37% of rentals in Hawaii allow pets. This is the lowest percentage in the US. I am a renter and have 2 cats, so I know from personal experience how difficult it is to find a place to live that allows pets.

29% of homeless people have pets, and many of them choose to live on the street rather than surrender their pets. This bill would help many of them to find permanent housing.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI. 96816

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 2:13:23 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christine mohar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Many of the residents that qualify for this assistance are older and allowing pets will contribute in a positive way to their good mental health by providing companionship and minimizing a sense of loneliness and despair.

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 4:05:34 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hollie Bearden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this. As a therapist, I understand deeply how important the connection between humans and animals can be. In my spare time, I am involved in TNR efforts on Maui and believe that more people would own pets if they were allowed to. Please consider supporting this measure and giving more animals a chance to have a happy home, and more emotional support for humans!

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:32:54 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

For many families, the decision between keeping their home or staying with a beloved pet is a choice no one should be forced to make. Some individuals, facing unimaginable circumstances, choose to live on the streets rather than give up their animal companions. Those who do surrender their pets often find that shelters are already overflowing, filled with stories of abandoned animals or, worse, pets left to fend for themselves on the streets.

The impact of losing a pet extends far beyond companionship. For example, a veteran who relies on the comfort and peace provided by the unconditional love of their dog or cat can face significant setbacks if separated from their animal. Similarly, a child escaping a domestic abuse situation may only feel safe enough to sleep when cuddled up with their trusted guard dog. Houseless women are sometimes offered shelter but cannot bring their pets; many refuse these offers, unwilling to leave behind the only source of protection that kept them safe from harm while living unsheltered.

Bill 1593 aims to address these heartbreaking situations. By safeguarding the bond between families and their pets, this legislation would help keep families together, alleviate overcrowding in animal shelters, and reduce the number of abandoned pets left on the streets.

With sincere appreciation for your attention and consideration to this matter,

Roxanne K. Morita

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 7:48:18 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deby Tracy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill with my whole heart!!!

HB-1593

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 8:18:23 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Rosewood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is in desperate need of housing for those with pets. This is hugely contributing to the vast amount of homeless and abandoned pets in the islands. Government funded housing should not be allowed to disallow pets in its housing.