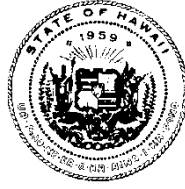


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

26:OED

Statement of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
House Committee on Housing

Friday, March 20, 2026
9:00 AM – Room 430, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 3011, SD1
Relating to Public Housing

Honorable Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Housing:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 3011, SD1 and offers comments. This measure requires the HPHA to 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. Provides that the HPHA may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent. Allows the HPHA to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

HPHA currently manages over 5,400 federal low-income public housing units statewide. In these projects, HPHA already allows pets and has an established Pet Policy that tenants must follow. This policy was developed in consultation with the public housing Resident Advisory Board, reviewed through a public hearing process, and adopted by the HPHA's eleven Board of Directors after multiple opportunities for public input.

HPHA also manages 912 State low-income public housing units. Approximately 86% of this State low-income public housing inventory serves elderly and disabled residents. For these properties, HPHA has not implemented a general pet policy in order to preserve the quiet and peaceful enjoyment, safety and health of kupuna and residents with disabilities. This decision is informed by HPHA's operational experience in federal low-income public housing and includes concerns such as smaller unit sizes, pets roaming common areas, injury to children and adult tenants,



damage to units and common areas, increased maintenance and cleaning costs, liability risks related to pet-related injuries, and noise complaints that disproportionately affect elderly residents.

It is important to note that residents in both federal and state low-income public housing are already permitted to have pets needed for health or disability reasons through a Reasonable Accommodation Request, consistent with fair housing requirements.

HPHA also respectfully notes that many of its developments are large, high-density communities, with some properties exceeding 500 units and supports the bill's SD1 provisions for staffing resources and funding to support appropriate infrastructure and services, including but not limited to designated pet or animal parks, waste disposal stations, enforcement and education resources, and other measures necessary to protect animal welfare, tenant and staff well-being and safety, and State property. Without these additional resources, this measure would present operational, safety, and infrastructure challenges.

HPHA looks forward to working collaboratively with the Legislature to ensure that any statutory changes preserve the Authority's ability to establish reasonable conditions, address nuisance or dangerous behavior, protect residents and staff, and maintain safe, well-managed communities—while supporting the overall well-being of residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your continued support of public housing residents statewide.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: March 18, 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 support of SB 3011, SD1: Relating to Public Housing
Friday, March 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Capitol Room 430

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 3011, SD1, 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 one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions; provides that the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent; and allows the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property; establishes positions; and appropriates funds.

We want to thank this committee for adopting out HB1593: Relating to Affordable Housing, which addresses the importance of ensuring that future housing built with taxpayer dollars welcomes pets. This measure pertains to existing public housing across the state.

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. Similarly to HB1593, it allows restrictions that pertain to the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal. SB3011 also would require the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors to allow pets. This would open up hundreds of additional units to pet owners as they become available. HPHA has pointed



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

out that many of these units house kūpuna and disabled residents, which is even more of a reason to welcome pets. Social isolation is a serious health risk and having a pet has been proven over decades of research to increase a sense of community and wellbeing among pet owners.

Access to housing that welcomes pets is in line with the values of our pet-loving community. Nearly 60 percent of O'ahu residents reported owning at least one pet in a 2024 Ward Research survey. The highest rates of pet ownership were in the more rural areas of the North Shore and West O'ahu, suggesting pet ownership rates on the neighbor islands are likely even higher. Ninety-four percent of respondents, pet owners and non-pet owners included, agreed that animal companionship is important to quality of life.

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. Housing access topped the list of reasons residents had to surrender a pet to a shelter in the 2024 community survey. 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. Housing paid for with tax dollars should welcome all of our local family members.

Please pass SB 3011, SD1, and open state and federally funded housing in Hawai'i to our most vulnerable families and their animal companions. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:33:37 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Maui Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Maui Humane Society, I am authorized on behalf of the organization to urge your support of SB3011, SD1.

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. The situation on Maui continues to be especially dire after the devastating wildfires.

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

Maui Humane Society, other animal shelters across the state, and foster-based rescue groups toil every day to find homes for animals in need. To be successful, we need more homes that allow pets. Passing this bill will bring joy to families and save lives.

SB3011, SD1 is an important step in acknowledging – and addressing – the importance of the human-animal bond.

Thank you for your consideration on this important measure,

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D.

758 Queens Street, PO Box 631522, Lāna`i City, HI. 96763

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:53:45 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Cooper	Hawaii Island Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

As president of the board of directors of Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS), the oldest and largest animal welfare organization on Moku O Keawe, I know that every year many, many families and individuals are forced to rehome their beloved animal companions due to a lack of pet-friendly housing on our island.

While HIHS endeavors to take as many as we can of these adoptable animals into our limited-admission ("no kill") shelters in Kea'au and Hōlualoa, we see how devastating it is to their humans. And despite our efforts, the limited capacity of our shelters, and that of other rescue groups, means many of the pets of people who cannot find pet-friendly housing end up in our county's Animal Control, where they are at risk of euthanasia.

In addition to saving pets from unnecessary euthanasia, this bill would allow responsible pet owners of lower income levels the chance to experience the joys and health benefits of animal companionship, I urge you to support it.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Cooper, board president, Hawaii Island Humane Society, www.hihs.org

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 3:56:36 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

The lease or occupancy agreement should allow residents to own or otherwise maintain one or more common companion animals.

It allows for reasonable restrictions around behaviour and the size of the unit, but not arbitrary limits based on breed or size of the animal.

We know that our friends at the Hawaiian Humane Society, animal shelters across the state and foster-based rescue groups toil every day to find homes for animals in need.

This will bring joy to families and save lives so we beg to support this important Bill.

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:02:50 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Kim	FUR-ANGEL FOUNDATION	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Representative Luke A. Evslin, Chair,
Committee on Housing

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB3011 – Relating to Public Housing

Aloha Chair Evslin and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tiffany Kim, and I am writing on behalf of Fur-Angel Foundation, a nonprofit dog rescue that has been serving our community for over 11 years. Our organization is dedicated to helping disenfranchised and homeless dogs across Hawai‘i by providing rescue, rehabilitation, and placement into loving homes. Through our work, we see firsthand the critical importance of preserving the human-animal bond.

We are in strong support of SB3011.

This measure is a compassionate and necessary step forward in ensuring that residents of public housing and state low-income housing are not forced to choose between stable housing and their beloved pets. While some Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) properties currently allow pets, existing restrictions on breed and size are often arbitrary and can unjustly exclude responsible pet owners. These limitations disproportionately impact families and individuals who rely on their animals for emotional support, companionship, and stability.

By removing breed and size restrictions and instead focusing on reasonable conditions—such as the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal—SB3011 reflects a more equitable and evidence-based approach. The bill aligns Hawai‘i with more progressive standards, similar to those adopted in California, which prioritize responsible pet ownership over generalized assumptions about specific breeds or sizes.

Additionally, requiring that HPHA inventory managed by private contractors also allow pets is a critical expansion. This provision has the potential to open up hundreds of additional housing opportunities for pet owners, reducing barriers to housing and helping to prevent unnecessary pet relinquishment.

From our experience, housing restrictions are one of the leading causes of pet surrender. When families are forced to give up their animals due to restrictive policies, it not only contributes to

the growing population of homeless pets but also places additional strain on local shelters and rescues. SB3011 helps address this issue at its root—keeping pets with the families who love them.

In closing, Fur-Angel Foundation strongly supports SB3011 as a humane, practical, and forward-thinking solution that will help keep families together, reduce the number of homeless animals, and promote responsible pet ownership across our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to housing equity and community well-being.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Kim
Fur-Angel Foundation

www.furangelfoundation.org

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:19:49 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this measure. Pets are a part of a family

Mahalo

Mike Moran Kihei Maui

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:06:09 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB3011 SD1. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live Sunset Beach, Oahu.

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:09:02 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

the Hawai'i 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. Best for people and best for animals.

Hawaii Kai voter

I am writing in support of SB3011 Relating to Public Housing.

SB3011 requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to 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. The measure 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 requires that the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors allows pets, which would open hundreds of additional units to pet owners as they become available.

Judith Aikawa, MD

37 Apali Way

Kula, HI 96790

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:02:36 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I adamantly OPPOSE this bill.

The public housing in Palolo is overrun with dogs, cats, and chickens that are either unfixed, starving, neglected, abandoned and abused. Residents are unable to afford vet care. The male youths are violent and torture the animals. The resident manager has not been able to manage the chaos.

Staff at the adjacent Anuenue School recently reported that HHS had to remove nineteen loose dogs from the housing that were killing chickens on the school campus during school hours, putting the staff and school children at risk.

The staff also reported that the violent male youths torture chickens on the school campus. There was a gang fight with 40 boys beating one of the boys, where police responded. In another incident, police responded to a class room break in, where one of the boys flung a hammer at the officer. When told by staff not to trespass on school grounds, they are defiant, belligerent, and verbally abusive. I, myself, have been threatened by a boy that "he will kill my husband". These are just a few examples of their violence, and cruelty toward animals

.DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. You will be placing these animals in harms way.

Bonnie Gollero

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:09:39 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia C	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3011 SD1.

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:10:31 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

No one should have to choose between finding affordable housing or keeping their appt family member. This island has too many unwanted pet animals and not allowing pets into affordable housing is one reason why unwanted pet populations are so high. Allow all family members the ability to stay together. Mahalo!

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:15:47 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support SB3011

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:27:12 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

It is important that people have the choice of pet ownership. It's not just because of the amount of houseless pets, which is crucial but because having a pet makes a family.

Mahalo

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:35:47 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 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

Committee: Senate Committee on Housing
Bill Number: SB 3011, RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING
Hearing Date & Time: Friday, March 20, 2026 at 9am
Re: Testimony of Malia Wisch **in Support of SB 3011**

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing,

My name is Malia Wisch, I am a partner and creative director of the local branding and design agency Wall to Wall Studios. I am a third-generation Kailua resident and graduate of Hawaii's public schools.

I am testifying in support of SB 3011 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 one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions.

I am deeply involved with various efforts to humanely control the free-roaming cat population. I am well aware not only of the detrimental effects these cats have on native wildlife, but also the suffering these cats are subjected to.

A root cause of cat overpopulation is the lack of pet-friendly housing. These are pets that the families did not want to abandon, but were forced to.

I strongly support this bill's intent to increase access to more pet friendly housing, with all the mental health benefits that pets provide.

A growing group of us are championing a multi-pronged strategy, including

1. Spay/neuter of owned pets,
2. Resources to help struggling families keep and feed their pets,
3. Better access to pet-friendly housing,
4. Trap-Neuter-Manage of unsocialized stray cats in urban and residential areas,
5. Ample shelter space for friendly homeless cats, and
6. A large-scale cat sanctuary for cats that cannot stay where they are due to immediate threats they either face or pose to existing wildlife.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony in support of this important legislation.

Sara Malia Wisch
629 Hanale Place, Kailua HI 96734
malia@wisch-design.com

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:21:04 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 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 SB 3011 SD 1 which, to my understanding, would help public housing residents and their pets. This bill would remove arbitrary pet restrictions with more progressive language which allows for fair, practical restrictions. I also understand that this bill would make hundreds of units open to pet owners as they become available.

Again, please support SB 3011 SD 1. This bill is so important to help public housing residents and their pets.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 12:15:59 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong and urgent support of SB3011.

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.

Families should not have to chose between housing and family members. Discriminatory housing practices against pet-owners leads to serious and profound problems: homelessness, pets suffering on the streets, abandoned suffering pets then wreak havoc on the environment and spread disease. Not to mention how many animals remain homeless because they can't be adopted.

Please, please pass this important bill which would have many positive impacts!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

lifelong voter and resident

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:26:27 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. Many people who need housing have pets as their beloved family members. Do not deny them accessing housing that would allow them to live with their pet.

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:43:20 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Jane Arnold and I live in Kaimuki. I am testifying in favor of SB3011 SD1, which would require that Public Housing and state low-income housing allow pets.

Only 37% of rentals in Hawai'i 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.

Thank you for supporting SB3011.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way

Honolulu, HI. 96816

SB-3011-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:44:51 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill to allow pets into subsidized housing. There can be guardrails for this.

Too many people have to give up their family pets when they are looking for housing, and these pets usually end up at the Humane Society. I see so many stray dogs and dogs given up by people who cannot keep them because of housing issues. At least with subsidized housing we have some control over this.