

ACT 290

H.B. NO. 488

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to allow long term health care facility and hospital patients to have animals visit them. Animals have been found to be therapeutically valuable for patients, especially for the elderly and mentally ill.

SECTION 2. Chapter 323, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§323- Animal therapy. Animals of the kind commonly kept as household pets may be brought into long term health care facilities for the purpose of visiting patients therein. The institution shall determine whether an

animal is suitable for visitation, the location where the visit may take place, and the policies governing the visit. At the discretion of the institution, the animal owner may be required to produce written documentation from a veterinarian attesting to the animal's good health, before visitation is permitted."

**SECTION 3.** New statutory material is underscored.<sup>1</sup>

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 8, 1985.)

**Note**

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.