BILL008(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 84

PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (PS)

PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (PS) Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 13, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stephanie Kendrick	skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiian Humane Society	I wish to comment	Feb 12, 2025 @ 11:12 AM

Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 12, 2025

To: Chair Val Okimoto
Vice Chair Esther Kiaʻāina
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Customer Services

Submitted By: Steph Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Comments on Bill 8 Relating to Animal Nuisances
Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, 1 p.m., City Council Chamber

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, mahalo for considering our comments regarding Bill 8 Relating to Animal Nuisances.

The Hawaiian Humane Society is contracted by the City and County of Honolulu to provide animal services. Our scope of work includes serving as the pet lost and found for Oʻahu, providing shelter and care to homeless pets, and enforcing animal laws. Hawaiian Humane appreciates this measure's interest in public safety, which we strive to protect every day. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the council to address the concerns that prompted this measure, but we are unclear about the impacts of the bill as written.

The preamble references dangerous dogs, Chapter 12, Article 7, but the amendments are to Chapter 12, Article 2, which pertains to animal nuisances. It introduces a civil penalty system, which we do not oppose, but does not strike the current penalties so we aren't sure what that would mean for enforcement. We would also appreciate clarity around the reason for the new posting requirements and the increased expense they would entail.

For FY25, the Hawaiian Humane Society is funded for eight field services officers and two managers who staff three shifts a day, seven days a week to provide assistance across the island of Oʻahu. They take their role protecting animal welfare and public safety seriously and constantly strive to improve. We welcome the opportunity to work with you. Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.