BILL070(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 584

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 5, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tracy Tonaki	tstonaki@drhorton.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
D.R. Horton Hawaii	Support	Nov 4, 2025 @ 04:19 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stephanie Kendrick	skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Nov 4, 2025 @ 06:11 PM

November 4, 2025

Chairperson Tommy Waters
Vice Chairperson Andria Tupola
Floor Leader Esther Kiaʻāina
Members of the Honolulu City Council
City & County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **Bill 70 - Relating to parks and playgrounds. (Allowing dog parks to be credited toward satisfying the requirements for the provision or dedication of land for park and playground purposes.)**
Hearing Date: November 5, 2025

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of D.R. Horton Hawaii, in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 70 – Relating to parks and playgrounds. D.R. Horton Hawaii is one of Hawaii's largest homebuilders and has been providing affordable housing and first-time buyer homes for Hawaii's families throughout Oahu and across the state for more than fifty years. D.R. Horton Hawaii is a leader in building quality and sustainable home designs and has adopted an overall sustainability plan for its Hoʻopili master-planned community in East Kapolei.

As part of its master plan for Hoʻopili, D.R. Horton Hawaii is committed to providing parks and playgrounds for the community. Dogs are an integral part of Hawaii's families and dog parks provide recreational opportunities, physical activity and common areas that enrich families and engage the community. Unfortunately, currently dog parks do not qualify for park dedication requirements under Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Chapter 22.

Bill 70 is being introduced to allow dog parks to be credited toward satisfying the requirements for the provision or dedication of land for park and playground purposes. We would like to humbly offer a proposed amendment for your consideration, specifically to Section 2, subsection (d) of the proposed bill:

SECTION 2. Section 22-7.8, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

§22-7.8 Credit [~~for~~] toward land required for parks and playgrounds.

(d) Credit for dog parks. When land is provided in perpetuity or dedicated for use as a dog park:

(1) In a subdivision where the dog park is:

(A) To be owned arid maintained, and used by the owners (including private parties and public agencies), purchasers, or occupants of the subdivision; and

(B) Part of a larger contiguous park and Iavaround land area or privately owned park and

playground land area; or

(2) As part of a multiple-family development and the dog park is part of a larger contiguous privately owned park and playground land area; *Or*

(3) As part of a master planned community and the dog park(s) is noncontiguous from a larger park and playground land area or privately owned park and playground land area and the total cumulative acreage must not exceed 10 percent of the total park and playground lands required of the master planned community;

We strongly urge the Council to support this effort and pass Bill 70. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 782-4109 or TSTonaki@drhorton.com.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tracy Tonaki

Tracy Tonaki
President, D.R. Horton Hawaii

Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Nov. 4, 2025

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Andria Tupola
and Members of the City Council

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

RE: Support for Bill 70
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and members of the City Council. The Hawaiian Humane Society is in strong support Bill 70 Relating to Parks and Playgrounds.

Dog parks support the human-animal bond, integrate our pets into our daily lives, provide exercise for pets and their owners, and create a sense of community that benefits people and animals. Offering developers credit for the inclusion of dog parks when they seek to fulfill requirement for the dedication of land for park and playground purposes makes enormous sense.

A survey conducted by Ward Research last year on behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society found that 59 percent of Oʻahu households own pets and 41 percent own dogs. Yet of the 308 city parks across Oʻahu, only 36 allow leashed dogs to walk with their owners. Dog owners are starved for places to get their pets the exercise they need to be healthy and well behaved. Oʻahu also lags the national average for the number off-leash dog parks per capita.

Allowing developers to get credit for helping to fill these gaps is a step in toward helping pet owners lead healthier lives and provide needed enrichment for their canine family members.

We request an amendment to allow for this credit to apply in cases where the dog park is not contiguous with other recreational resources. Not every development is going to have an appropriate space for one large park and the best place for a dog park might not necessarily be the best place for everything else.

We recommend adding in Section 2 (d) following the second item the following language:

or;

(3) As part of a master planned community and the dog park(s) is noncontiguous from a larger park and playground land area or privately owned park and playground land area and the total cumulative acreage must not exceed 10 percent of the total park and playground lands required of the master planned community;

We urge you pass Bill 70 with this amendment to encourage developers to create resources that support the many local families who include dogs as members of their ʻohana. Mahalo for your consideration.