BILL008(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 17

*GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (GCS)

***GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (GCS) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jan 15, 2026 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stephanie Kendrick	skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	96826-1806
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Jan 14, 2026 @ 11:00 AM

Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Jan. 14, 2026

To: Chair Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Vice Chair Matt Weyer
and Members of the Committee on Government Efficiency and Customer Services

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

RE: Support for Bill 8, Proposed CD1, Relating to Animal Nuisances
Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, 2;30 p.m., City Council Chamber

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, mahalo for considering our support of Bill 8, Proposed CD1, Relating to the Animal Nuisances. We are grateful to Councilmember Val Okimoto and Committee Chair Tyler Dos Santos-Tam for their collaboration on this measure.

Repealing the existing dangerous dog ordinance in favor of the new state statute is consistent with the chair's commitment to good government and it has our full support.

We also enthusiastically support creating civil penalties for animal nuisance offenses. Our overburdened criminal court system struggles to hold offenders accountable in these cases, most of which are dismissed without repercussions for those charged. The lack of consequences for these offenses is a source of frustration for the public. Having the opportunity to pursue civil penalties gives law enforcement a powerful new tool to urge better behavior on the part of pet owners.

In fact, we would appreciate the opportunity to work with the City Council to mirror these new penalties in Section 12, Article 4, Regulation of Dogs. Hawaiian Humane officers experience similar prosecution barriers in enforcing the strays prohibited ordinance. Dogs who are stray not only cause community concern and pose potential safety threats, they are also at risk of injury and death themselves. More effective consequences for these offences would protect people and animals from harm.

We urge the committee to pass the Proposed CD1 of Bill 8. Mahalo for your consideration.