BILL008(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 172

*GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (GCS)

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

Meeting Date: Apr 30, 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	Apr 29, 2026 @ 02:54 PM

Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date:	April 29, 2026
To:	Chair Tyler Dos Santos-Tam Vice Chair Matt Weyer and Members of the Committee on Government Efficiency & 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, April 30, 2026, 2:30 p.m., City Council Chamber

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The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly supports Bill 8, Proposed CD1, Relating to Animal Nuisances, and urges the committee to adopt the amendments described below to ensure it can be effectively implemented.

Repealing the existing dangerous dog ordinance in favor of the new state statute has our full support, as does 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.

We do want to flag one implementation issue that, if unaddressed, could create confusion about enforcement responsibilities.

The proposed language in Section 7 lumps together enforcement of all of the provisions of ROH Article 2: Animal Nuisances. Enforcement of these provisions actually varies by the type of animal. The Department of Planning and Permitting handles issues with setbacks pertaining to farm animals and bees, and the Honolulu Police Department handles chicken nuisance complaints.

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The animal services contract pertains to pet animals. Enforcing setbacks for farm animals and bees is beyond its expertise, and chicken complaints are so numerous that response would require staffing far in excess of the 10 officers funded by the contract.

We request the following amendments, which would limit the animal control contractor's enforcement obligations to pet animals, consistent with the scope of the city contract and the contractor's expertise:

SECTION 7. Chapter 12, Article 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Animal Nuisances"), is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

§ 12-2. Enforcement.

(a) The director shall, through a provision in the city's contract with the animal control contractor, require the animal control contractor to enforce the provisions of this article that pertain to pet animals.

(b) In accordance with this section, the director shall conduct periodic reviews of the animal control contractor to determine compliance with the provisions of this article as they pertain to pet animals.

(c) The director shall establish rules for any person issued a notice of violation who desires to appeal the civil fines imposed by the violation. The hearing procedures must conform to the requirements of HRS Chapter 91, related to contested case hearings."

We urge the committee to adopt these changes and support this measure which aims to address public frustration over a perceived lack of consequences for people whose animal pose a nuisance to their neighbors. Mahalo for your consideration.