BILL008(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 183

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: May 13, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 2

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Pikachu Shelby Billionaire	presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ohana Unity Party	Support	May 9, 2026 @ 06:36 PM

Testimony:

Testimony in Strong Support of Bill 8 (2025)

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I rise in **strong support** of **Bill 8 (2025)**, which updates and strengthens Honolulu's animal nuisance ordinances.

Our communities have seen far too many complaints about aggressive, barking, and roaming dogs that create safety hazards, especially for children, the elderly, and other pets. Recent incidents of dog attacks have made it clear that current penalties are too weak and enforcement has been ineffective.

This bill takes important steps forward by:

- Significantly increasing fines for repeat offenders — from $50 to $250 for a first offense, $500 for a second, and up to $1,000 for third and subsequent offenses.
- Creating a more efficient civil enforcement system so violations can be addressed faster.
- Requiring better coordination with our animal control contractor.
- Improving dog bite reporting requirements so dangerous animals can be identified and dealt with promptly.

These changes are long overdue and align with recent updates in State law. Stronger penalties send a clear message that irresponsible pet ownership will no longer be tolerated.

I encourage the Council to pass Bill 8 (2025) and urge robust but fair enforcement once it becomes law. Public education on responsible pet ownership should also accompany these new rules.

Thank you for taking action to make our neighborhoods safer for both people and animals.

Mahalo for your service.

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM
Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.
Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

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Name:	Email:	Zip:
Leelynn Brady	systemsadvocacy@alohailhawaii.org	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Aloha Independent Living Hawaii	I wish to comment	May 11, 2026 @ 10:58 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stephanie Kendrick	skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	96826-1806
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	May 11, 2026 @ 02:26 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Thomas Chang	changthomas455@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 11, 2026 @ 08:43 PM

Testimony:

Hello my name is Thomas Chang,

There are some pros and cons about this topic that I'm going mention pretty strongly. I was never attack by a dog before. There should be a law saying that dangerous dogs should be regulated if not banned or put down. I think that first time offenders should get fined no more than between $250-$350 because dog bites are dangerous and can lead to dangerous diseases including rabies. Vaccines for rabies and tetanus are so expensive and are hard to find these days that the perpetrator should be held accountable and compensate. Some people can't even afford vaccines because some are uninsured. Second time offenders should get fined $1000 because at that point the dog owner should be held fully responsible for not controlling the dogs behavior. If anything the dog owner should be responsible fully because they are the ones taking care of it. Finally a third or subsequent offense in a two year period should be a $2000 fine and no more than 90 days in jail because we cannot and I mean cannot let this cycle of abuse continue. Repeat offenders who have like

up to 5 offenses should be jailed for no more than a year and have the dog put down. As much as it hurts me to say, this dogs are supposed to be “man’s best friend,” not our “worst enemy.” People need to understand that our actions have either good or bad consequences. If you knowingly allow a dog to attack someone then that’s the owner’s fault for not controlling the situation. Finally in closing of this testimony. Offenders should only have their dog put down unless the owner maliciously causes the victim to be critically injured if not dead. If the victim died due to a dog attack I think in my opinion not only should the dog be put down but there could be more serious charges of negligence. Thank you for considering this proposal.

www.AlohaILHawaii.org

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We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

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May 15, 2026

TO: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
Vice Chair Andria Tupola, Floor Leader Esther Kiaʻāina,
and Members of the Honolulu City Council

HEARING: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
City Council Chamber, Honolulu Hale

RE: Bill 8 (2025), CD2 — Relating to Animal Nuisances

POSITION: **Comments with Implementation Requests**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, Floor Leader Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Council,

Aloha Independent Living Hawaiʻi (AILH) is a federally recognized Center for Independent Living serving people with disabilities statewide, including rural Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi County, Maui County, and Kauaʻi County. Our work is grounded in the independent living philosophy of consumer control, self-determination, cross-disability inclusion, and the right to live in the community rather than in institutions — the right the United States Supreme Court affirmed in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999).

We submit these comments on Bill 8 (2025), CD2, with implementation requests we believe must be addressed before and during the rule-making the bill requires.

We acknowledge the legitimate public safety concern that motivates this measure. Aggressive dog attacks on Oʻahu communities are a real problem, and conforming Honolulu's animal nuisance regulations to Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024 is a reasonable goal. We do not minimize that.

Our concerns are about what the bill does not address. Bill 8 does not mention service animals, assistance animals, or emotional support animals. The committee record reflects testimony from the Department of

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Customer Services and from the Hawaiian Humane Society — both in support. The committee record does not reflect testimony from people with disabilities who depend on these animals to live and work in their communities. We submit this testimony to fill that gap.

The disability community's stake in this bill is significant. Many people we serve depend on a service animal, an assistance animal, or an emotional support animal as essential to their independent living. For these residents, an enforcement action against the animal — civil or criminal — is not a property dispute. It is a threat to their housing, their employment, their mental health, and in some cases their physical safety. The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act recognize this, and the City already has obligations under those laws that this bill does not acknowledge.

We respectfully request that the Council direct the Department of Customer Services (CSD), in establishing the rules required by Section 7 of the bill and in negotiating the contract with the animal control contractor, to address the following implementation issues.

1. **Service and assistance animal protocol.** The animal control contractor's authorized officers must be trained to identify service and assistance animals and to apply Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act analysis before issuing notices of violation. Implementation rules should require contractor staff to document service animal status when known, and to escalate to disability-rights review before pursuing civil or criminal enforcement that could result in separation of a person with a disability from their service animal.

2. **Accessibility of notices, hearings, and the appeal process.** The HRS Chapter 91 contested case rules required by Section 7(c) must be designed with disability access from the beginning. We ask CSD to consult with the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) on rule design, and to require accessible-format notices (large print,

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screen-reader-compatible digital, language alternatives), extended response timelines for documented disability, in-person hearing accommodations, and a clear procedure by which an owner can identify accommodations they need.

3. **Hardship payment provisions for civil fines.** Section 6 prohibits suspension of the criminal fine. While that statutory rule is binding, the implementing rules for civil fines under Section 7 are not similarly constrained. We ask CSD to establish payment plan provisions, hardship reductions, and community service alternatives for low-income owners — a population that includes many disabled residents living on Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, or other fixed incomes. The average SSI payment in Hawai‘i is approximately $580 per month. A first-offense fine of $250, with no possibility of suspension, is roughly 43 percent of that monthly income.

4. **Dual enforcement clarification.** The bill creates both criminal and civil enforcement tracks for animal nuisance offenses without specifying their relationship. CSD should publish clear guidance on whether civil notices and criminal citations may be applied to the same incident, whether contractor-issued notices preclude criminal citations, and what the cumulative financial exposure of an owner can be. Without clarity, owners — including disabled owners attempting to comply in good faith — face unpredictable consequences.

5. **Coordination on dog bite reporting and dangerous dog determinations.** Section 11 creates a pathway by which medical providers may report dog bite serious bodily injury to the Honolulu Police Department, which forwards the report to the animal control contractor for a dangerous dog determination. Implementation rules and HPD procedure should require service animal status to be documented when the bite involves a service animal performing a recognized task, including defensive

response to a genuine threat to the handler. Service animals performing trained protective tasks should not be classified as dangerous dogs based on that task performance.

6. **Service animal recognition for noise-based nuisance.** The existing barking provisions in Chapter 12, Article 2 — 10 minutes continuous, 30 minutes intermittent — were not written with service animals in mind. Many service animals are trained to alert through barking: hearing alert dogs, seizure alert dogs, and psychiatric service dogs responding to handler triggers. Implementation rules should clarify that task-related alerting by a service or assistance animal is not animal nuisance for purposes of this article.

We acknowledge that these issues require coordination across CSD, the animal control contractor, the Honolulu Police Department, and the courts. AILH offers itself as a resource to that coordination. Disability-inclusive enforcement is achievable when disability is built into the design of the rules, not addressed reactively after harm has occurred.

We thank the Council for the opportunity to submit these comments. AILH is available at 808-339-7297 or through alohailhawaii.org.

Mahalo,

Roxanne U. Bolden

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director

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Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: May 11, 2026

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Esther Kiaʻāina
and Members of the Honolulu City Council

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

RE: Support for Bill 8 (2025), CD2, Relating to Animal Nuisances
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly supports Bill 8 (2025), CD2, Relating to Animal Nuisances.

As the animal services contractor for the City & County of Honolulu, Hawaiian Humane is tasked with investigating dog attacks, as well as animal nuisance complaints pertaining to pet animals. This measure makes important changes designed to improve enforcement and accountability.

Repealing the existing dangerous dog ordinance in favor of the new state statute has our full support. Hawaiian Humane, the Department of Customer Services and the Honolulu Police Department have been working together to implement Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaiʻi 2024, relating to dangerous dogs. By repealing Chapter 12, Article 7, of the existing ROH, this measure creates clarity about the applicable law in dangerous dog cases.

Creating civil penalties for animal nuisance offenses recognizes the reality that our overburdened criminal court system struggles to hold offenders accountable in animal nuisance 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 animal owners.

We urge the committee to support this measure which aims to improve public safety and address community concerns. Mahalo for your consideration.