

BILL016(26)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 301

*INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS (ILA)

***INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS (ILA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jul 15, 2026 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Karen Luke	Email: nahele@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jul 10, 2026 @ 09:20 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair and Committee Members, The attention to regulating our behavior is admirable and dog owners should not be singled out. Bill 16 should include amending provisions related to the regulation of dogs and cats. Please amend SECTION 1. Purpose as follows: The purpose of this ordinance is to amend provisions related to the regulation of dogs and cats. By simply adding "and cats" to every reference to "dogs" would greatly enhance control of people, dogs, and cats. Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Karen Luke in Ewa Beach where chickens have also become a problem.		
Name: Stephanie Kendrick	Email: skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	Zip: 96826-1806
Representing: Hawaiian Humane Society	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 14, 2026 @ 04:04 PM



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: July 14, 2026

To: Chair Scott Nishimoto
Vice Chair Andria Tupola
and Members of the Committee on International & Legal Affairs

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

RE: Support for Bill 16, CD1 Proposed, Relating to the Regulation of Dogs
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 1 p.m., City Council Chamber

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, mahalo for considering our strong support of the proposed CD1 to Bill 16, Relating to the Regulation of Dogs.

We supported the original version of this bill, but the proposed CD1 strengthens the measure in a very important way. The courts have interpreted the existing language in ROH 12-4.2 — “It is unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit the dog to become a stray.” — as enforceable only if the owner is present and permits the dog to stray. Owners of dogs who habitually escape confinement when their owners are not present have not been held accountable under the existing language. Our hope is that this amended language will close that loophole.

The underlying bill's new civil penalty framework, paired with this change, provides a much-needed tool for animal law enforcement officers. Our overburdened criminal court system struggles to hold offenders accountable in strays-prohibited 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. Stray dogs not only cause community concern and pose potential safety threats, they are also at risk of injury and death themselves. 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 urge the committee to support Bill 16, CD1 proposed. More effective consequences for these offenses would protect people and animals from harm. Mahalo for your consideration.