BILL016(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 333

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 12, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 21

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Johnnie-Mae Perry	waianaenb569@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 8, 2026 @ 03:11 AM

Testimony:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support BILL016(26)

RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF DOGS.

GOOD LUCK IN HPD ENFORCEMENT AND PAYMENT OF FINES FROM THE UNSHELTERED POPULATION.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Catherine Goeggel	oAnghusa@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Animal Rights Hawaii	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 01:55 PM

Testimony:

ARH is pleased to support Bill 15-26. Too many residents fail to understand that pet ownership requires all the care, nourishment and sterilization necessary to be a good citizen. We support the intent to have the agency which holds the animal care and control contract become more proactive in educating the public and enforcing the leash law. Mahalo to Val Okimoto!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sunshine Eckstrom	silvercanyonequine@gmail.com	96712-9417
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 02:18 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

Please support stronger penalties against people who abandon or otherwise allow their dogs to become stray. People must be held more accountable for the animals in their care. We have serious problems due to the inadequate animal protection laws in Hawaii. This has led to unregulated breeding, poor welfare standards, and abandoned dogs. This bill is at least a step in the right direction.

Mahalo

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stephanie Kendrick	skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	96826-1806
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 04:35 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
joanna milo	milojoanna1@gmail.com	96792

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 07:44 PM

Testimony:

i support bill 16

Name:	Email:	Zip:
JOANNE PARKER	PARKERINPARADISE@MSN.COM	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 08:11 PM

Testimony:

Please support this bill.

One of my dogs was a victim of two stray dogs on our street and these dogs were constantly loose.

Even though this incident was reported to the police, our laws are so laxed that nothing was done to the owners or the dogs, that were part pitbulls. This was probably the worst experience, and NO ONE should go through this.

My dog did survive with scarring, mentally and physically.

PLEASE support this bill

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gayle Puou	operationppaws@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Aug 10, 2026 @ 08:16 PM

Testimony:

If the purpose of this bill is to make the owner of the stray dog accountable for not securing his/her dog will truly make more owners fight for a better sentence. Yes, the courts is put in a position to handle a high volume of cases. This bill will need some work. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Responsible owner education - require the family to complete a short course. Dog Trainers would be ideal for this role. Dogs run due to boredom, etc. Training course would be ideal.

2. Safety plan - aside from updated records, a written commitment to prevent this from happening.

3. Fees should not only be the easy out. Its not the dogs fault.

(For military owner, report them to the military and have them decide their own penalty.)

Create a panel of community supporters to impose these suggested enforcement. Remember its not only dogs.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kim Tomey	kimtomey@aol.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 08:54 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support this bill!!!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jennifer Chiwa	jennifer.chiwa@gmail.com	96814-2814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 03:23 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Honolulu City Council Members.

Please support Bill 16, CD 1, Relating to Regulation of Dogs. It's my understanding that this bill would help dog owners to take more seriously their responsibility to not allow their dog or dogs to stray.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Melanie Kim	Feisty9267@yahoo.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 11, 2026 @ 05:20 AM

Testimony:

Bill 16 closes a loophole to indviduals who allow their dogs to run around putting that animal , at risk for harm, as well as other persons and other animals at risk for harm as well (including livestock). There are so many tragic stories about people and other animals being attacked or killed by aggressive loose dogs. We need stronger penalties to mitigate this.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kathy Carroll	kathycarroll96763@gmail.com	96763
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 06:56 AM

Testimony:

By adding a civil penalty option alongside the existing criminal one, this gives enforcement a real tool to use instead of relying on an overburdened court system that dismisses most stray cases outright. Stray dogs are a safety risk to people and themselves. This bill helps both dogs and the community.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	serenaphillip@hawaii.rr.com	96717
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 08:34 AM

Testimony:

I am in support of Bill 16 CD1

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Suyin Freiberg	suyin@hawaii.edu	96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 11, 2026 @ 08:36 AM
Testimony: In support of Bill 16, CD1		

Name: carole richelieu	Email: crraloha@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 11, 2026 @ 09:12 AM
Testimony: I support Bill 16		

Name: Inga Gibson	Email: PonoAdvocacy@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Pono Advocacy	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 11, 2026 @ 10:02 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for enacting civil penalties for dangerous dog violations Criminal penalties, at both the county and state level are important, however, civil penalties provide an additional important tool to local animal control agencies (HHS) and HPD, and the victims of unprovoked dog bites

Civil penalties are commonplace in many cities and counties across the U.S. and are supported by national animal protection organizations given civil processes, including fines, rather than criminal penalties, are often used for repeat offenses/offenders, as a successful deterrent for escalating actions by irresponsible pet owners (financial impact), or when an incident does not reach the legal burden of criminal intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Inga Gibson

Pono Advocacy

Name: lynne matusow	Email: lynnehi@aol.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 11, 2026 @ 10:23 AM
Testimony:		

Why it matters: Courts have interpreted our stray-dog ordinance (ROH 12-4.2) so narrowly that owners are only liable if they’re present when their dog strays. That means people and pets can be mauled, chased, etc. by stray dogs and the courts won't do anything, An owner whose dog habitually escapes while they’re away faces no consequences. This bill closes that loophole.It also adds a civil penalty option alongside the existing criminal one, giving enforcement a real tool to use instead of relying on an overburdened court system that dismisses most stray cases outright. I have seen news coverage of stray dogs roaming in packs and attacking people and their pets.

Please vote yes to protect all of us.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Taurie Kinoshita	taurie@hawaii.edu	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 11:25 AM

Testimony:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Bill 016 (26)

Courts have interpreted our stray-dog ordinance (ROH 12-4.2) so narrowly that owners are only liable if they’re present when their dog strays.

Unfortunately, there are owners with dogs who habitually escape while they’re away, and then these owners face no consequences.

Bill 16 closes the loophole — and adds a civil penalty option alongside the existing criminal one, giving enforcement a crucial tool to use instead of relying on an overburdened court system that dismisses most stray cases outright. Stray dogs are a safety risk to people and a safety risk to themselves.

This bill would ensure protection of both people and animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

Name:	Email:	Zip:
peggy regentine	peggy@hawaii.edu	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 11:42 AM

Testimony:

I support Bill 16 as a dog owner should be responsible for his pet. Many innocent bystanders are bitten by loose dogs which can result in medical expenses. It is the human's fault for allowing the pet to roam without supervision.

Thank you Peggy Regentine

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dylan Armstrong	dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com	96822

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 12:03 PM

Testimony:

Support. I am concerned about potential legal traps for those who do not intentionally abandon a dog. However, currently there is too much proclivity for animal neglect on the island. The rights of dogs as vulnerable and dependent animals to safety, health, and care are being ignored.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Judith Aikawa	spikecat1@aol.com	96790
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 12:52 PM

Testimony:

Courts have interpreted our stray-dog ordinance (ROH 12-4.2) so narrowly that owners are only liable if they're present when their dog strays. An owner whose dog habitually escapes while they're away faces no consequences. Bill 16 closes that loophole — and adds a civil penalty option alongside the existing criminal one, giving enforcement a real tool to use instead of relying on an overburdened court system that dismisses most stray cases outright. Bottom line: stray dogs are a safety risk to people and a safety risk to themselves. This bill helps keep both safe.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Susan Smith	susanjtf@gmail.com	96791-9502
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 06:38 PM

Testimony:

I am in support of Bill 16 CD. Owners (individuals) who habitually allow their domestic dog to escape must be held accountable as it creates a safety risk to others and to the domestic dog. Without a financial consequence to the dog owner, odds are the situation and safety risk to others will not improve. The root issue is the dog owner, not the pet .

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Solomon Young	ysolomon813@gmail.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 12, 2026 @ 07:36 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Solomon Young, a 14-year-old resident of the Aiea area. I am writing to express my support for Bill 016(26).

These stray dogs pose a safety hazard to our keiki, kupuna, other pets, and also to themselves. They cause distractions and possible danger to traffic and are at high risk of causing an accident or being hit by a motor vehicle.

Whenever I pass by any stray animal, I feel for them. It hurts to see God's creatures starved, dehydrated, injured, and without a safe and loving family and place to call home.

The current system is not working effectively to protect our community and these dogs. As the Hawaiian Humane Society testified, most stray dog cases are dismissed in court with no consequences. There is no accountability for these owners who abandon their dogs on the street like they are trash.

This bill uses common sense to help fix this problem. It clarifies owner responsibility by requiring owners to take reasonable steps to prevent their dogs from becoming strays. The bill also directs the City to require animal control to enforce ROH Chapter 12. This gives animal control officers practical tools like citations instead of relying on the court system, which in reality often overlooks these types of cases.

This bill is not intended to punish responsible dog owners. It is intended to provide accountability for irresponsible owners and protect our community and these precious creatures.

I urge you, the Council, to pass Bill 016(26).

Mahalo nui loa for taking the time to listen to the voices of the people and for your service to the residents of the City and County of Honolulu.

Solomon Young
Aiea, HI 96701

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ginny Tiu	ginnytiu808@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 12, 2026 @ 09:22 AM

Testimony:
I am in support of Bill 016(26), for the safety of our community.

Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Aug. 10, 2026

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Andria Tupola
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 16, CD1, Relating to the Regulation of Dogs
Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

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

This measure is intended to address barriers to holding the owners of dogs who go stray accountable. 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 are not held accountable under the existing language. This bill amends that flawed language.

The bill's civil penalty framework provides a much-needed tool for animal law enforcement officers. Our overburdened criminal court system struggles to prioritize 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. More effective consequences for these offenses would protect people and animals from harm. Mahalo for your consideration.