



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

April 1, 2011
Conference Rm. 329
9:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Livia Wang, Acting Chief Counsel
Bill Hoshijo, Executive Director

Re: H.C.R. No. 309 / H.R. No. 274

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) staff submits this memorandum to inform the Committee that the HCRC has not taken a position on H.C.R. No. 309 and H.R. No. 274, because the HCRC Commissioners have not had the opportunity to review and take a position on these resolutions. The first meeting of the Commission since the introduction of the resolutions is scheduled for April 6, 2011.

H.C.R. No. 309 and H.R. No. 274 urge the proclamation of the second week of August 2011 as “Hawaii State Assistance Animal Week.” While the HCRC does not have a position on H.C.R. No. 309 and H.R. No. 274, we can offer background information on the use of assistance animals by persons with disabilities under our state civil rights anti-discrimination laws, as context for discussion and consideration of the resolutions.

As used in the resolutions, “assistance animal” means an animal that assists, supports, or provides a service to a person with a disability, including service animals and comfort animals. Persons with disabilities may request the use of an assistance animal as a reasonable accommodation needed to perform their jobs, have equal enjoyment of their housing accommodations, and access public accommodations and government services, although there are different applicable legal standards under the various federal and state laws that protect against disability discrimination in these areas. Assistance animals should not be considered or treated as “pets.” The use of assistance animals makes it possible for persons with physical or mental impairments to have equal opportunity and full participation in society and community.

The HCRC takes its role and authority to testify and make recommendations to the legislature very seriously, and will do everything possible to assist you in your consideration of bills and resolutions that affect HCRC jurisdiction and civil rights. Please let us know if we can provide you any additional information. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: yamane1 - Jordon
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:42 PM
To: morikawa2 - Grant
Subject: FW: Testimony for HCR 309 / HR 274

E-mailing this testimony on behalf of Ginger Towle.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ginger Towle [mailto:towle@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:34 AM
Subject: Testimony for HCR 309 / HR 274

Testimony on Resolutions HCR/309 /
HR274

SUPPORT!!!!

Hearing date - Friday, April 1, 2011, time 9:00 AM Place - Conference Room 329 State Capitol

TO ----- COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

HCR 309 / HR 274 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM THE SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK".

Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Dee Mirikawa and Committee Members

We need to recognize the value and dedication of these wonderful animals. With the vast number of people in our communities that rely on this type of dog to not only help

them in day to day activities but also serve as dedicated and loyal companions. These dogs become an individuals best friend, not just a tool. These are very special animals

and the general public should be made aware of the important services they perform with love and devotion. They are indeed "Mans best friend".

When these resolutions are passed please advise all humane societies on all islands and the mayors of each island.. West Hawaii Humane Society and Hawaii Island Humane

Society, Big Island, Hawaiian Humane Society, Oahu, Maui Humane Society and Kauai Humane Society as well as Inga Gibson from the Humane Society of the United States in

Honolulu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Ginger Towle - President
West Hawaii Humane Society
Box 2695
Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96745
phone 808-329-2051

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: madrbar@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR309 on 4/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/1/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR309

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Madelyn Barrea
Organization: West Hawaii Humane Society
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: madrbar@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:
TO ----- COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
22Rep. Ryan I Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

HCR 309 / HR 274
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM THE SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL ASSISTANCE
DOG WEEK";.

Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Dee Mirikawa and Committee Members

I would like to go on record as being in support of making the second week of August
"National Assistance Dog Week". Assistant animals need to be recognized for the everyday
heros that they are. Their worth is priceless and their willingness to aid and even give
their lives for their humans goes beyond mere praise.

Thank you,
Madelyn Barrea
Executive Director
West Hawaii Humane Society
Box 2695
Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96745

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Donna Whitaker [exec.dir@hihs.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:00 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support HCR309/HR 274

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

HCR 309 / HR 274

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM THE SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK".

The State of Hawaii has 227,000 citizens with disabilities; and assistance dogs, which includes service dogs, guide dogs, hearing alert dogs and alert/seizure response dogs, transform the lives of their human partners with physical and mental disabilities; and assistance dogs serve as devoted companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members; and need to be recognized for the vitally important work that they do.

Thank you for allowing my testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Whitaker
Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane Society
808-329-8002
808-329-7375 Fax

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Susan Luehrs [hawaii.fido.dogs@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 6:47 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HCR 309

Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs, the first fully accredited service dog organization in Hawaii since 1999, is happy to support the state's resolution to

acknowledge the contributions of service dogs to Hawaii's citizens with disabilities by proclaiming the second week of August of every year as "Hawaii State Assistance Dogs Week" in the State of Hawaii.

We have worked long and hard to provide skilled dogs to the people of Hawaii in addition to educating the public in the roles and rights of this special dogs. There is still a need to identify who these trained dogs are in Hawaii and hope that can be accomplished this year also

aloha

--

Susan Luehrs
Executive Director
Hawaii Fi-Do

Phone: 808-638-0200

www.hawaiifido.org

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mike wuich [mwuich@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:28 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: service dogs

My name is Michael Wuich and I am the first wounded warrior to receive a service dog from Hawaii Fi Dos. My service dog is named Indy and he has been well trained to perform many tasks for me. I have black out spell brought on by seizures and Alzheimer's. I have a VNS and a pace maker and also will be losing my sight from an eye disease as well. So Indy needs to be where ever I am. Usually I see so many plain dogs in business that may or may not have a vest but are not really trained service dogs. Indy and other real service dogs are trained to behave properly. There should be a way to tell what dogs is really service with an ID or something. And people who need service dogs need them to be properly train for them to really be of aid to them. My Indy has made such a difference in my life; I don't know how I lived without him. Hawaii Fi Dos has done such an amazing job at training Indy, I never knew that dogs could be trained to do so many things, it is wonderful.