

**HB254,HD1**



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB254, HD1, Proposed SD1  
Relating to Public Order

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

April 2, 2012  
10:00 am Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

The Office of the Governor strongly SUPPORTS the proposed Senate Draft 1 of House Bill 254, House Draft 1, Relating to Public Order. This bill authorizes restaurant owners and managers, at their discretion, to permit dogs inside a restaurant.

For many dog owners, their pet is a member of their family, and many would enjoy having at least the option of bringing their entire family out to a restaurant. And having options is the critical issue here – restaurants can choose not to allow dogs in their restaurants, and those that do must prominently display that they allow dogs. As such, restaurant patrons can choose to dine at a restaurant or not, and that decision may hinge upon whether a particular restaurant allows dogs or not. But this bill provides that option to choose.

This bill also addresses those concerns brought about by others about the dog's behavior, sanitation, liability, and safety of others in the restaurant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [Joel Fischer](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB254; JDL;4/2/12; 10AM; Rm 016  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:41:32 PM

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HB254, HD1  
JDL; Chair, Sen Hee

**PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.**

This bill is long overdue. Why shouldn't the people of Hawai`i nee have the OPTION to enjoy their dogs at the restaurant like the residents of so many countries do? Other countries, like France (where I have lived) realized long ago that companion animals make for a truly pleasant experience fore their customers without the hassles that the doomsday forecasters predict.

There are so many conditions in this bill that protect the restaurants and customers that almost all contingencies are included. And after all, this is a VOLUNTARY bill for the restaurants. To take away that privilege would be very mean-spirited.

Thank you for hearing and passing this bill.

Aloha, joel