

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2985  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2985, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERINARIANS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Provide immunity from civil liability, in the absence of gross negligence, to veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal;
- (2) Provide immunity from civil liability, in the absence of gross negligence, to veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship; and
- (3) Require veterinarians to report to law enforcement events of animal injury, death, or abuse where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dog fighting or animal abuse and give veterinarians immunity from civil liability for making the required report.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine, Hawaiian Humane Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Interfaith Alliance, and ten individuals.



Your Committee finds that veterinarians should be permitted to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability, provided that the aid is rendered in good faith and absent gross negligence. Your Committee further finds that this measure provides appropriate civil immunity to veterinarians while ensuring the protection of animal health and welfare.

Your Committee further finds that a veterinarian should be required to report suspected animal abuse and that they should have civil immunity from making such a report.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2985, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes  
Committee on Judiciary  
JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2985 SDI</b>	Committee Referral: <b>CPH, JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/25/2020</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	/			
GABBARD, Mike				/
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes