

**Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Thursday, April 1, 2021  
9:35 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 1086, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARIANS**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 471 to: (1) provide veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence; (2) provide veterinarians who render emergency treatment, when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence; (3) require veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe the event relates to dogfighting or animal abuse; and (4) give veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making these reports.

The Board supports this bill because it will effectuate the protection of animals, and the protections afforded for emergency care will benefit both veterinarians and the public. While the Board had some concerns that the reporting requirement will affect confidentiality between the veterinarian and the client, the overriding concern of protecting animals and the public will be served, based on correlations accepted in the profession between animal abuse and domestic abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: March 29, 2021

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1086, HD1, SD1: Relating to Veterinarians  
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:35 a.m., Via Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for House Bill 1086, HD1, SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal with immunity from civil liability; provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship with immunity from civil liability; and requires 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.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

This law would have benefited a small stray dog who came to our Mō'ili'ili campus a few weeks ago in rough shape. She had apparently been homeless, or neglected, for a long time. Her hair was badly matted and, among her more visible injuries, she had a prolapsed eye, meaning one of her eyes had popped out of its socket.

The pup had no identification, but Hawaiian Humane would not have legal custody of her until the 48-hour hold had expired. Since no owner could be reached, our chief veterinarian could not secure permission to sedate her and perform an enucleation surgery, which would remove the

damaged eye and set her on the road to recovery. Our staff took measures to ease her pain and waited out the hold period.

Named Ariel by our staff, she was unclaimed and finally got the care she needed. This measure would have allowed our team to operate two days earlier, which they badly wanted to do.

Some have argued that this measure is not needed because HRS471 already has protections for people who render emergency aid to animals, but that is a misinterpretation of the law. HRS471-2 allows the general public to render emergency aid to an animal without risking a charge of practicing veterinary medicine without a license. This bill would extend Veterinary Good Samaritan protections, which are common in other states, to our local veterinary community.



After recovering from multiple surgeries, Ariel found a new family the day she was made available for adoption.

Hawaiian Humane also strongly supports the bill's requirement of mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty. Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and giving local veterinarians protection from civil liability when reporting suspected abuse will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Research stretching back decades has established links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders.

- In one study of families under investigation for child abuse, co-incidence of animal abuse ranged from 60% to 88%. These families utilized veterinary services at rates similar to non-abusive households. (Deviney, Dickert, & Lockwood, 1983).
- An Australian study reported that in 23% of cases where veterinarians suspected animal abuse, other forms of family violence were either known or suspected. (Gullone & Clarke, 2005).
- The public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to humane societies or law enforcement agencies. (Enns, 2006)

Veterinarians should not have to fear retaliation for doing the right thing. The mandatory reporting provisions of this bill are similar to those requiring physicians, teachers and others to report suspected child abuse and they will help to protect our entire community.

HB 1086, HD1, SD1, has strong community support and no public opposition. We urge the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

## **Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association Fact Sheet: Veterinary Reporting of Animal Abuse in Hawaii**

### **Connection between animal abuse and human violence**

A strong link between animal abuse and violence against humans has been well established. When animals are abused, humans are at risk. When humans are abused, animals are at risk. The research indicates that animal abuse is often concurrent with other forms of violence in the home such as child abuse, spousal and domestic partner violence, and elder abuse. For example, multiple studies have shown that more than 70% of battered women report that abusers hurt, killed or threatened their pets to control them and their children.

### **Physicians have been required to report human abuse for nearly six decades**

Beginning in the 1960s, all states now require physicians who suspect domestic violence or abuse to file a report with the appropriate law enforcement authorities. In any court proceeding or administrative hearing, the physician-patient privileges do **not** apply to the information required to be reported and the practitioners are granted immunity from civil and criminal liability. Additionally, an increasing number of states are requiring veterinary professionals to cross-report child or elder abuse. It makes sense that veterinary professionals should similarly be required to report animal abuse.

### **Veterinarians are key to recognizing and reporting animal abuse**

Veterinarians are in a unique position to closely observe animals who may otherwise be hidden from public view. As experts in the health and well-being of animals, veterinarians—by early reporting of signs of suspected abuse—can help animals at the earlier stages of abuse, preventing more serious harm. Furthermore, reported animal abuse cases can be first points of intervention in human violence cases.

### **Animal abusers do seek veterinary care for animals they have neglected and/or abused**

It is a misconception that abusive pet owners don't take their abused pets to veterinarians. Research indicates that veterinary care for animals from abusive households is consistent with the level of veterinary care provided to the general population. A survey of veterinarians found: 87% of responding veterinarians had treated abused patients; 60% had treated an animal they suspected had been severely or intentionally abused; 50% had seen from one to three abuse cases a year; and 20% had clients they suspected were being abused themselves. A thorough physical examination of an animal patient should include cognizance of physical and behavioral signs of abuse, and non-accidental injury should be on every veterinarian's list of diagnostic differentials.

### **Veterinary responsibility to report animal abuse**

**Professional responsibility:** Many professional groups encourage veterinarians to report animal abuse. For example:

*"The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association urges all veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal cruelty, whether it be in the form of passive neglect or active, malicious abuse, to the proper officials charged with investigating and prosecuting such incidents."*

*"The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association holds that veterinary professionals... have a duty to protect the health and welfare of animals. This includes addressing any and all first-hand observations leading to suspicion of animal abuse and/or neglect. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting of suspected abuse to the appropriate law enforcement authorities."*

*"The American Animal Hospital Association supports reporting of suspicions of animal abuse to the appropriate authorities when education is inappropriate or has failed."*

**Ethical responsibility:** Animals deserve freedom from pain and violence in their own right. Veterinarians have an ethical responsibility to try to end animal suffering. The Veterinarian's Oath calls on veterinarians to work for "the prevention and relief of animal suffering."

**Community responsibility:** The link between animal abuse and violent human behavior has been well established. Veterinarians have a community responsibility to help protect animal health and welfare and to help end animal abuse--and by doing so, possibly human abuse, also--within their clients' families.

### **Veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality is not compromised by good-faith reporting of suspected abuse**

It is understood that veterinarian-client-patient confidentiality privileges do **not** apply to the information reported in animal abuse cases. Good-faith reporting requires only that a reasonable suspicion of abuse exists. Practitioners are generally granted immunity from civil and criminal liability for this reporting, and immunity is essential to maximize veterinary reporting. Although reporters of abuse are encouraged to identify themselves, anonymous reporting is, generally, an acceptable alternative for veterinarians.

### **Educating clients about animal cruelty vs. reporting them for it**

Animal abuse in the form of passive neglect (e.g., lack of food, water, shelter or proper veterinary care) may be unintentional and due to client ignorance. These cases of inadvertent neglect can often be resolved with appropriate client education. However, passive neglect can also be a deliberate form of animal abuse. Furthermore, seemingly accidental injuries may, in fact, be non-accidental and deliberate in origin.

When deciding whether to educate or report animal abuse, a veterinarian should consider factors such as client attitude (do they express concern or indifference?), medical history of injuries (in multiple animals or multiple injuries in the same animal?), estimated duration of the presenting medical problem (any evidence of old, healing or multiple fractures?), and the severity and total number of patient medical problems.

### **The pivotal role of the veterinarian in an animal cruelty investigation**

Veterinarians can play a pivotal role in animal cruelty investigations. They can assist in proving that animal abuse actually occurred; establish that animal injuries are a result of crime and are not accidental; substantiate illness due to willful neglect, rather than disease; and corroborate long-term abuse, rather than a simple one-time injury.

The most important function of a veterinarian in an animal cruelty investigation is to provide forensic support in the form of detailed record-keeping: physical examination, history-taking, photographs, imaging, diagnostics and the chain of custody, including timelines. Proper collection of evidence by the veterinarian is often key to successful prosecution of an animal abuse case. Veterinarians can also testify as medical expert witnesses in court for the prosecution.

### **Why a Hawaii law mandating reporting of animal cruelty by veterinarians is needed**

Requiring veterinary reporting of animal abuse is a way to highlight the urgency and importance of this issue and to assign it a high societal priority. Additionally, veterinarians must report abuse since they are often the first to see an abused animal and can help prevent further mistreatment of the animal as well as possible violence against humans in the home. Finally, veterinarians need to know this legal mandate is in place, along with immunity protections, so that there is no reason not to put a stop to a cycle of violence against an animal and potentially humans as well.

### **Precedent for state laws regarding veterinary reporting of animal abuse**

Twenty states already have laws that specifically require veterinary professionals to report suspected animal abuse. A companion immunity provision, shielding them from civil and/or criminal liability, is generally provided for veterinarians in these states. The remaining 30 states permit—either explicitly or implicitly—veterinarians to report. In addition to state law reporting requirements, there may be administrative regulations regarding the professional responsibility to report animal cruelty or suspected abuse.

### **Training for veterinary professionals in animal abuse reporting**

With growing awareness and concern about this issue, more resources designed to help veterinarians in recognizing, documenting and reporting suspected cases of animal abuse—including continuing education conferences, webinars, professional associations and both print and on-line reference materials—have become available. Go to [www.hsvma.org/resources](http://www.hsvma.org/resources) for more information.



**HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309**

March 29, 2021

Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1086, HD1, SD1, Relating to Veterinarians

Dear Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, I would like to express our support of HB 1086 and its amendments to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, HRS Chapter 471.

There are two components to this measure. The first establishes a Good Samaritan law for veterinarians who may without remuneration provide emergency medical care to an animal in need. The second establishes a process whereby animal abuse may be reported, in order to better protect that animal from future harm.

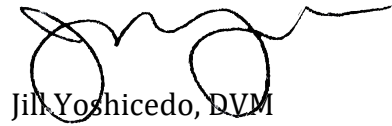
This measure encourages veterinarians to provide emergency care to critically sick or injured animals without fear of civil liability. Veterinarians are mandated to provide care under a valid and current veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR), so there can be confusion when dealing with an animal emergency when there is no owner present to establish a VCPR or if life-saving treatment needs to be provided before the establishment of a VCPR. This measure allows a veterinarian to be a "Good Samaritan" and provide emergency care outside of a valid VCPR, while also protecting the veterinarian when acting as a Good Samaritan in the time of an emergency to assist the animal in need.

We believe this measure also provides justified guidance to practicing veterinarians on reporting acts of animal abuse, cruelty, and staged fighting, similar to laws in 20 states including California, Oregon, Arizona, and Colorado. Reporting such events to law enforcement is beneficial to the community at large, as multiple studies have shown a link between perpetrators of animal abuse and human abuse such as child abuse, domestic violence, arson, and murder. When confronted with a clear case of animal abuse, veterinarians may feel conflicted between maintaining client confidentiality and wanting to protect the animal from further harm. In making animal abuse reporting a duty of the veterinarian, this measure relieves any responsibility of such judgment by the veterinarian

while protecting the veterinarian against any civil liability that may result from reporting such events.

Please SUPPORT HB 1086 to provide additional guidance and protections for veterinarians practicing in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please contact me if I can answer any questions or be of further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Yoshicedo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM  
Executive Vice-President  
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:58:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Pono Advocacy	Support	No

Comments:

April 1, 2021

**SUPPORT HB1086; Relating to Veterinarians**

**Dear Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members:**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1086. It is important that the law empower veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty when they encounter signs of abuse in their practice. Not only are veterinarians often the only witnesses to animal abuse, but they are uniquely qualified to identify the signs of cruelty.

As of 2020, 19 states require veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty, and most of those states also grant civil immunity to veterinarians who report. Thirty-one states, either explicitly or implicitly, permit veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty.

This bill also provides important protections to our veterinary professionals when they assist in an emergency involving animals, similar to good samaritan protections afforded medical doctors.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Inga Gibson, Policy Director  
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# HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

*Hawaii Island Humane Society / Hawaiian Humane Society / Kauai Humane Society / Maui Humane Society / Molokai Humane Society*

Date: March 29, 2021

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Submitted By: Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 1086, HD1, SD1:  
Relating to Veterinarians  
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:35 a.m., Via Videoconference

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The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies supports the passage of House Bill 1086, HD1, SD1, which provides veterinarians who render emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability; and requires veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to law enforcement and gives veterinarians immunity from civil liability when reporting.

HAAWA's members include the largest animal shelters in each of the four counties, as well as the leader in pet animal spay/neuter on Molokai. Our independent local nonprofits are united in support of this change in policy.

All of our members have compassionate veterinarians on their teams who support the veterinary Good Samaritan provisions of this measure, which would allow them to provide care to injured animals immediately, even if an owner cannot be found. Three of our members are responsible for enforcing animal cruelty laws in their respective counties. The mandatory reporting provisions of this bill would give our humane officers expert witnesses on the frontlines of animal care, better enabling us to rescue animals in need and bring abusers to justice.

We urge you to pass HB 1086, HD1, SD1. Mahalo for your consideration,

Hoala Davis, *Executive Director, Molokai Humane Society*

Elizabeth Jose, DVM, *Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Island Humane Society*

Steve MacKinnon, *Chief Executive Officer, Maui Humane Society*

Anna Neubauer, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawaiian Humane Society*

Nicole Schafer, *Executive Director, Kauai Humane Society*

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:26:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HB1086 is important legislation which will help protection of animals as well as the veterinarians who treat them.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 6:58:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wish to thank the Committee on Judiciary for the opportunity to share with you why I support HB1086 HD1 SD1 relating to the ability of veterinarians to provide needed emergency aid to animals even when, as described in the bill, the owners are not available to give consent.

After learning of circumstances where injured animals are otherwise left to suffer unnecessarily, it is only humane to afford protection from liability for veterinarians who act in good faith and not with gross negligence.

It is also essential to require veterinarians to report when they suspect animal cruelty and, likewise, for them to be protected from civil liability for making such reports.

Please support passage of this bill; it will go a long way to reducing cruelty and suffering, and raising the level of wellness for animals and people in our communities.

Aloha,

Alice Saul  
Honolulu (Hawaii Kai)

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:10:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ilene Cohen Harrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this Bill. VETERINARIANS should be able to report obvious abuse without fear of repercussions.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:17:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
IC Harrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This Bill should be passed. Can you imagine being a Veterinarian and seeing a dog who was beat with a stick or who suffered some other form abuse and then work tirelessly to save the dog only to have to send the poor pup back to the abuser? By not passing this into law, our politicians are giving permission for this action through their silence. By passing this Bill, you will also help those suffering from domestic violence.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:18:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Harrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this Bill.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:06:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a much needed measure. It protects veterinarians from civil liability for rendering emergency aid to an animal. It also requires them to report suspected animal cruelty and protects them from retaliation. At times veterinarians have not been able to provide aid until the owner is found, contacted, and gives permission, further endangering the life of the animal.

Please support this bill.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:31:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. I support HB1086,HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Susan Eubank

Diamond Head



**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:35:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When the vets are trying to help an animal, they shouldn't be liable.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 8:55:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raquel Hicks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians. As a former social worker working with children and adolescents, my kuleana to report suspected abuse was sacred and critical to child welfare. Veterinarians should be afforded the same protection as they fulfill their role in protecting animals who cannot protect themselves. The link between animal abuse and abuse of humans is well documented, and vererinarians' ability to report suspected abuse and render emergency care without fear for their livelihood is critical to serving our larger community.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:33:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill that will help animals in need of veterinarian care.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:35:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It is vital that we protect veterinarians from civil liability for rendering emergency aid to an animal, even if an owner is not available to consent to care, as long as their actions were taken in good faith and do not constitute gross negligence. Veterinarians should not have to risk their livelihoods to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. Requiring veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty and protecting them from civil liability for making such reports is also vital. Veterinarians should not have to fear retaliation for reporting suspected animal cruelty. Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care. This bill will help to protect our entire community. Ample research stretching back decades has established links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and seniors. I strongly support this bill, thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Taurie Kinoshita, Makiki resident

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 3:47:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair and Committee members,

Please pass HB1086.

Veterinarians working to save lives should be protected from civil liability. It does

occasionally happen that a patient in immediate need of help is brought to us in

the absence of the owner. I have been in such a situation where the owner cannot be contacted

and a decision is required. We should not be liable for trying our best.

Furthermore, we need to be protected when reporting abuse, which may save humans as well as pet lives.

Please pass HB1086

Respectfully yours, Eric Ako DVM

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 4:50:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which will protect veterinarians from civil liability for providing emergency aid to an animal and mandates reporting suspected animal cruelty and protects such reports.

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 3:43:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Rhoads, Vice Chairperson Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support HB 1086 HD 1 SD 1 which would protect veterinarians from civil liability in providing emergency aid to an animal when its owner is not immediately available to give consent and in being required to report suspected cruelty. Veterinarians should be free to do their work in helping animals without concern about possible civil liability in these two circumstances. This bill would enable them to provide emergency care without letting animals have to endure a waiting period. Furthermore, this bill would increase reporting of possible cruelty. It's my understanding that passing of this bill would result in a law that many other states already have, so again, please support this bill.

Mahalo!

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:07:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ginny Tiu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**aloha,**

**Please support HB 1086. I adopted Tulip from the Hawaiian Humane society after she was reported by the veterinary hospital who found her injuries to be suspicious. I'm very grateful they did that because it was discovered the three previous dogs had died in the care of the perpetrator. Our veterinarians, who are our frontline heroes, should not only be protected but required to report suspicious activity. They have the experience and only want to do the humane thing. They shouldn't have to worry about possible negative consequences. Our animals are helpless and depend on us to do the right thing for them, because unfortunately there are people who do the wrong thing to them.**

**thank you very much for your kind consideration.**

**Ginny Tiu**



**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:52:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Mahalo

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:54:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It would be awful is my pet was in need of immediate attention and a veterinarian wouldnt be able to attend to it's needs just because of the law!

Please, please support this bill.

Mahalo

Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

I feel this bill is necessary and animal cruelty and/or abuse is not uncommon in the State. This bill is for the ability of veterinarians to report cruelty and/or animal abuse and provide critical aid without fear of civil liability.

Animals cannot speak out, we (and veterinarians) are their voices.

Psychological research over the years has shown in its data base a correlation between abuse of animals, to abuse of children, family members, or people - by those who abuse animals.

I believe we all would like to stem violence in any way we can, and there is such a strong correlation to escalation of violence once someone crosses the line of abusing animals, to people and children. It's a terrible crime in itself and not one that should be either tolerated or learned by seeing others do it without consequences. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Tucker  
5-4280 Kuhio Hwy  
Princeville, HI 96722

Please Pass House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Please pass this important bill to protect the veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Ashley Wilcox  
45 Pualu Loop  
Lahaina, HI 96761

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021  
TIME: 9:35 a.m.  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Please pass this important bill to protect the veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Ishida-Norton  
PO Box 10703  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians. Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Laurie Foster

5002 Maunalani Cir

Honolulu, HI 96816

Please Protect Veterinarians HB1086 HD1 SD1

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Kindly allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to give emergency aid to animals without the fear of being sued as long as that aid is given in good faith and there is no gross negligence. Aloha for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Hope Velasco

1530 16th Ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Mahalo,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip

53-330 Kamehameha Hwy

Hauula, HI 96717



DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Please pass this important bill to protect the veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Hamid Jahanmir

915 Birch St Apt 106

Honolulu, HI 96814

Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021  
TIME: 9:35 a.m.  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,  
Susan Collins  
46-3991 Old Mamalahoa Hwy  
Honokaa, HI 96727

Protect Veterinarians HB1086 HD1 SD1

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Mahalo,

joanna milo

87-576 Manuu St

Waianae, HI 96792

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

This table lists the state laws and administrative regulations related to the reporting of animal cruelty by veterinarians. Some states have laws that require reporting by veterinary professionals, while other states make it a duty in their veterinary rules of professional responsibility. In other words, a veterinarian may face disciplinary action with the veterinary licensing board in a state or even license revocation if they fail to report suspected abuse. About 20 states place a mandatory duty upon state-licensed veterinarians (and sometimes vet techs) to report suspected animal cruelty to the proper authorities including California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and West Virginia. Usually, this consists of reporting the abuse to local law enforcement agencies. A couple states limit mandatory reporting to aggravated cruelty or suspected instances of dogfighting. Pennsylvania is unique in that it requires certain reporting of cruelty by other veterinarians.

Please protect Veterinarians and pass HB1086 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Beverly Toledo

2430 Auhuhu St

Pearl City, HI 96782

Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians. This should already be in place, it is shameful.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

DJ Sakata

95-422 Lauawa St

Mililani, HI 96789

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Mahalo,

Lee Cuccia

1479 Kiukee Pl

Kailua, HI 96734

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I'm Jennifer Ho, an animal advocate living in Nuuanu. I ask you to please support HB1086 HD1 SD1 to protect veterinarians from civil liability so they can do their job to protect animals. Like any doctor, veterinarians are protecting their clients from pain or further injury. We need to pave the way for them to help an injured animal quickly to put the animal out of pain and on the path to healing as quickly as possible. Injuries that are not addressed quickly can cause severe long-term effects or even death of the animal- completely unnecessarily if they have access to help. Vets should not be unsure whether or not to act if they could be sued. Give them the freedom to do their job and protect animals.

Mahalo,

Jen Ho  
2502 Henry St  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Please Protect Veterinarians HB1086 HD1 SD1

Sincerely,

Vivian Toellner

PO Box 6894

Hilo, HI 96720



Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Natalie Spencer

819 Papalalo Pl

Honolulu, HI 96825

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Janine Tully  
45-035 Ka Hanahou Pl  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita  
1524 Pensacola St Apt 119  
Honolulu, HI 96822

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021  
TIME: 9:35 a.m.  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,  
Lauire Kawasaki  
2700 Waiālae Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96826

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians. Please support this bill to protect veterinarians who often provide good Samaritan support to animals who may be victims of abuse.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Melanie Kim

2895 Kalakaua Ave Apt 1502

Honolulu, HI 96815

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

There can be NO reason NOT to pass this bill since all it does is allow Veterinarians to treat injured animals who might otherwise die and to report animal abuse. Hawaii needs stronger laws against such abuse anyway but at least with this bill there will be more records for such actions so police and animal agencies may act to stop the abuse and hopefully arrest and prosecute offenders.

Please pass this important bill to protect the veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Martha Randolph  
2571 Pacific Heights Rd  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:35 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1. Veterinarians need all the help and support they can get. There is way too much animal abuse in Hawaii.

Veterinary Good Samaritan protections are common in other states and mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty is growing more common because of research establishing links between violence against animals and the abuse of people - especially children, domestic partners and elders. Studies also have found that the public is more likely to report suspected animal abuse to their veterinarian than to a humane society or law enforcement agency.

Animal cruelty is an underreported crime and compelling veterinarians to report suspected abuse in return for protection from civil liability will give law enforcement expert eyes and ears on the frontlines of animal care.

Mahalo,

Linda Willaby

12-280 MAPUANA AVE

PAHOA, HI 96778

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

As President of AdvoCATS Hawaii (Kona side Big Island) I have seen many acts of courage in terms of emergency care offered on the part of our local veterinarians. Care offered even at risk of potential lawsuit by dog's/cat's owner(s). Veterinarians should NOT be put at risk of their livelihoods and careers &/or be afraid to offer emergency services for fear of unknown owner's response. Please pass House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Delmont  
74-5576 Pawai Pl Ste J PMB 697  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740



DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

Allow Vet's to help our abused animals by passing Bill 1086 HD1 SD1

Mahalo!

Marie McCarthy  
76-4312 Kinau St  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

The is important to our family because we voluntarily help abandoned. formerly abused and neglected cats and dogs. Please pass this important bill to protect the veterinarians and animals of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Torun Almer  
84-5142 Keala O Keawe Rd  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Please Pass House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1086 HD1 SD1, which affords veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence, provides veterinarians who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence and requires veterinarians to report events of animal injury, death, or abuse to law enforcement where there is reasonable cause to believe that it relates to dogfighting or animal abuse and gives veterinarians immunity for civil liability for making the reports.

Veterinarians are compassionate people who invest an enormous amount of time and financial resources to obtain and retain the credentials that allow them to help our animals. They should not have to risk their livelihood to help animals in need. This bill will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability as long as that aid is rendered in good faith and absent signs of gross negligence.

We need to support this bill and thank the veterinarians who want to help all animals.

Mahalo!

Nancy Hitzemann  
75-668 Koiula Pl  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Support for HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Senate Committee Members on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB1086 HD1 SD1 Relating to Veterinarians.

Veterinarians and their teams play a critical role in serving our community and animals. In many cases they are front-line witnesses in suspected animal cruelty cases. They are the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

This Veterinary Good Samaritan/Mandatory Reporting measure will allow veterinarians to use their skills and expertise to render emergency aid to animals without the fear of civil liability. It will also require them to report suspected animal cruelty. This underreported crime, which typically takes place behind closed doors, is often a sign that people are being abused as well.

I ask you to vote for this measure. Mandatory reporting will help to protect our entire community and fosters a culture of "see something-say something", which is crucial to public safety.

The animals in Hawaii need all the help they can get. Please show Aloha, Compassion and Common Sense.

Thank you,

Margie GillmanWolfe  
77-6502 Leialoha St  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740



**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

**LATE**

Date: March 31, 2021

To: Members of the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Submitted By: Kasey Carter, MS, DVM; Chief Veterinarian  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2210

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB1086 HD1 SD1: Relating to Veterinarians  
Thursday March 31, 2021 9:35AM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am a Honolulu resident, residing in the Chinatown/Downtown area. I have worked for more than a decade in animal shelters, particularly in Shelter Medicine. I have been Chief Veterinarian for Hawaiian Humane Society for nearly three years. Before moving to Hawaii, I worked as a shelter veterinarian in Denver, Colorado.

Prior to me entering shelter medicine, Colorado had already enacted a law very similar to the proposed law being discussed here. I remember first hearing about the law in veterinary school; that law made reporting of both animal abuse and child abuse mandatory for veterinarians. By making reporting animal abuse/cruelty mandatory, it greatly minimizes the likelihood of retaliation by the person committing the abuse, while at the same time increasing the number of animal abuse/cruelty cases being reported. I was surprised when I moved to Hawaii that there was not a similar law, hence my motivation for encouraging you to consider my argument.

The second component of HB1086 HD1 SD1 that I feel passionate about is the portion that would allow veterinarians to legally perform emergency procedures that would alleviate animal suffering. When animals come into our care as strays, we are required to hold them for either 48 hours (no microchip) or 5 days (with microchip). According to current law, if animals come in injured we are only permitted to provide pain medications and antibiotics. However, I would estimate that 2-3 times a month, cases present that require surgical intervention; we are unable to perform surgeries in these circumstances. As an example, we recently saw a stray dog that had a zip tie placed around the base of his scrotum by somebody in the community, attempting a "backyard neuter". This was not a life-threatening condition so we were legally unable to do anything for the dog other than provide pain medications and antibiotics. By the time the dog had cleared his 48 hour hold, his scrotum was the size of a grapefruit and we were finally able to perform surgery to remove the damaged tissue and relieve his suffering.

By enacting this proposed law, we will greatly improve our ability to appropriately treat animals in need, increase reporting of animal abuse and cruelty, and protect veterinarians in the process.

I encourage you to pass HB1086 HB1 SD1. Thank you for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:01:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB1086 and keep Veteranarians immune from civil suit when reporting or treating animal abuse cases.

Sylvia Dolena

Aloha Animal Advocates

**LATE**

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 11:06:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt Jisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Granting veterinarians the freedom and protection to help animals in need seems reasonable.



**LATE**

**HB-1086-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:58:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/1/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
AMANDA HENSON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this legislation requiring immediate report of suspected animal abuse, especially dog fighting. I support this bill in full.