

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thirty-first State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2021**  
**State of Hawai`i**

February 2, 2021

**RE: S.B. 343; RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT OF AN ANIMAL.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in **support** of S.B. 343, with additional recommendations, but takes no position on the proposed class of offense (class B or C felony) or proposed penalties.

The purpose of S.B. 343 is to prohibit knowing sexual contact between a human and animal, with specific exceptions for veterinary medicine, animal husbandry, customary care by an owner, and other such routine purposes. The Department supports this intent, as various studies have shown a substantial—albeit not yet fully understood—correlation between perpetrators (in other states) sexually offending animals and sexually offending humans.<sup>1</sup> It is

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<sup>1</sup> In a study of 456 bestiality-related offenders nationwide, arrested between 1975-2015, 45.6% had “sexually exploited or offended against children and adults either in the current incident or as part of their criminal background.” See Edwards, Jenny M., “Arrest and Prosecution of Animal Sex Abuse (Bestiality) Offenders in the United States, 1975–2015”, *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, Volume 47, Number 3, May 2019; pg. 10. Available online at <http://jaapl.org/content/jaapl/early/2019/05/16/JAAPL.003836-19.full.pdf>; last accessed January 31, 2021.

particularly troubling that Hawaii is currently one of only four states where sexual conduct with animals is not yet prohibited.<sup>2</sup>

Should the Committee decide to pass this measure, the Department respectfully **recommends that the Committee carefully consider other instances where the term “bestiality” is currently used in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), to ensure clarity and consistency for stakeholders.**<sup>3</sup> In particular, we recommend considering both the terminology and potential interplay between the proposed offense and some existing related offenses, such as Promoting child abuse in the first, second and third degree (HRS §707-750, -751, and -752) and Prostitution (HRS §712-1200). Differences in definitions and degrees of offense could present issues, particularly where HRS §707-750, -751, and -752 range from class A to class C felonies, and S.B. 343, page 4, lines 1-4, would establish all bestiality offenses involving minors as class B felonies.

Also, other statutes, such as HRS §702-222 Liability for conduct of another; complicity, should be considered, to the extent they may already provide for some of the peripheral scenarios being considered in S.B. 343. As always, the Department would be glad to participate in further discussions with the Committee and various stakeholders, on the specific language of the bill.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of S.B. 343, with the additional considerations and potential amendments discussed above. Thank for you the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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<sup>2</sup> As of 2020, sexual conduct between humans and animals is not prohibited in four states (Hawaii, New Mexico, West Virginia & Wyoming) and the District of Columbia. See Michigan State University, Animal Legal & Historical Center, at <https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-animal-sexual-assault-laws>; and Animal Legal Defense Fund, at <https://aldf.org/project/sexual-assault-of-animals/>; last accessed January 31, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> See use of the term “bestiality” in the definition of “sexual conduct,” under HRS §707-752 and HRS §712-1210. See also use of the term “deviate sexual intercourse” as defined in HRS §707-700, as referenced by HRS §712-1200 Prostitution.

## **Testimony of the Humane Society of the United States to the Hawaii Senate Committee on Judiciary**

February 1, 2021

SENATE BILL 343 RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT OF AN ANIMAL

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of our members and supporters in Hawaii, the Humane Society of the United States appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of S.B. 343 to prohibit the sexual abuse of animals. This bill addresses a significant issue facing animals in Hawaii—the law’s current failure to adequately protect them from sexual abuse by humans.

Animal sexual abuse (also referred to as bestiality) is a serious crime with links to human sexual violence and child pornography. Forty-six states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands prohibit the sexual abuse of animals. West Virginia, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Hawaii are the only states without such a law.

Animal sexual abuse is not the isolated deviant behavior you might think it is, but it is a prevalent and violent offense. It can precede child sexual abuse, sexual homicide, and other violent acts. In a study of over 44,000 adult male sex offenders, bestiality was identified as the number one indicator and predictor of a person who will sexually molest a child.<sup>1</sup> A 2019 study found that 53% of animal sex offenders have a criminal history involving sexual abuse (animals & children), child pornography, and/or interpersonal & domestic violence, and 28% are repeat animal sex offenders.<sup>2</sup>

The FBI now tracks bestiality as a Crime Against Society, the same category as rape and murder. We believe tracking bestiality as a separate crime from animal cruelty is important because it allows law enforcement to identify potential sexual predators and intervene as soon as possible before future human or animal victims are harmed.

The internet facilitates this crime and, with no legal prohibition in Hawaii, allows it to flourish. Perpetrators use various websites to seek out one another where they often solicit and offer animals for sex. A popular bestiality website has thousands of users from all areas of the country and Hawaii is mentioned as a “legal” destination for visitors looking to have sex with animals.

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<sup>1</sup> Randour, Mary Lou. What every clinician should know about the link between pet abuse and family violence. Education Directorate of the American Psychological Association.  
<https://www.apa.org/education/ce/pet-abuse-family-violence.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Edwards MJ. Arrest and Prosecution of Animal Sex Abuse (Bestiality) Offenders in the U.S., 1975-2015. Amer Academy of Psychiatry and Law, In pre-print, Feb. 2019.

Animal sexual abuse may not always be covered under existing animal cruelty laws for several reasons. The act does not always result in physical injury to the animal. Especially when livestock animals are sexually abused it can be extremely difficult for prosecutors to prove that pain or suffering was caused. Many cases are not brought about from physical injury to the animal but from an eyewitness complaint or videos found well after the act occurs and the animal and/or requisite evidence needed to establish injury is no longer available to prosecutors.

Senate Bill 343 recognizes that animal sexual abuse is one of the earliest signs of a conduct disorder and the need for mental health intervention. By identifying animal sexual abuse as a dangerous, predatory behavior courts can order necessary psychological counseling and prohibit future contact with animals to break the cycle of abuse. This bill will help law enforcement identify and monitor dangers in the community to keep animals and children safer.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Vierheilig  
Hawaii State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States  
[lvierheilig@humanesociety.org](mailto:lvierheilig@humanesociety.org)

Subject: Please Support SB343

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

Kindly support this bill that will help protect animals from abuse. It will mean a lot to those creatures that have no voice to speak.

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

Please join me in supporting SB 343.

Sincerely,

Michele Hope Velasco  
1530 16th Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Dear Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Hamid Jahanmir  
915 Birch St Apt 106  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

The sickest animal is the human. As an animal advocate I have said many times, "it is not animals that are the problem, but it is humans". Thank you for allowing me to testify. Please join me in supporting SB 343. Aloha & Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Vivian Toellner  
PO Box 6894  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

Please join me in supporting SB 343.

Sincerely,

Taylor Prostor  
3031 Libert St  
Honolulu, HI 96816



Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip  
53-330 Kamehameha Hwy  
Hauula, HI 96717

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole,

please support Senate Bill 343

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Aloha Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

It's hard to believe that I have to urge our state to do this. Please put this bill through.

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lee Cuccia  
1479 Kiukee Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Selene Mersereau  
119 Kakahiaka St  
Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

Please join me in supporting SB 343.

Sincerely,

DJ Sakata  
95-422 Lauawa St  
Mililani, HI 96789

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

It's appalling that this is still allowed to happen in Hawaii. Please make bestiality illegal!  
Bless the beasts and the children especially..

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susie Walsh Eubank  
2801 Coconut Ave Apt 6D  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

Please join me in supporting SB 343.

Sincerely,

Dominique Desroches  
2100 Date St Apt 506  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Aloha Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

Windward Dog Park Hui in strong support of this bill to stop the abhorrent practice of bestiality in Hawaii.

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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



Dear Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Natalie Spencer  
819 Papalalo Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Aloha Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

Please join me in supporting SB 343.

Sincerely,

Amanda Ishida-Norton  
PO Box 10703  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I can't stress strongly enough the need to pass bill 343. It is beyond despicable and shameful that Hawai'i, the land of aloha, has the notoriety of being one of only four states that doesn't have a law prohibiting bestiality. Please change that, and protect our helpless animals and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 343.

Ginny Tiu

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ginny Tiu  
935 Ikena Cir  
Honolulu, HI 96821

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the committee,

As a citizen of humanity, I ask that you do the right thing by moving this issue to the light and bring an end to this cruel behavior. The biggest step is to educate and inform the public of this horrific crime. Please help bring the Aloha Spirit back to our precious islands and people who call this aina their home.

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kawasaki  
99-543 Huakanu St  
Aiea, HI 96701

Monday, February 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mali Lee  
1550 Rycroft St Apt 508  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Monday, February 1, 2021

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pavlicek  
3012 Hoaloha Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Aloha Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I support Senate Bill 343. It's difficult to imagine why anyone would oppose this measure.

When I learned there were members-only websites that had posts from every county in the state offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex I was horrified. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals. That is not the kind of tourism we want.

This bill takes care to exempt veterinary procedures and standard animal husbandry practices, so there is simply no reason not to pass this into law.

Please join me in supporting SB 343.

Sincerely,

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

February 1, 2021

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I strongly support Senate Bill 343, which would make bestiality illegal in Hawaii.

It may be tempting to put your head in the sand and wish this issue away, but there is too much evidence that animal sexual abuse is more widespread than any of us would like to believe.

As more jurisdictions have criminalized bestiality over the past 20 years, related arrests have risen by 800 percent. Hawaii is one of only four states that have yet to get a handle on this poisonous form of cruelty. Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. Many abusers also prey on human victims, mostly children under the age of 12. I urge you to pass this law so that we can protect animals and people in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Schoonmaker  
91-2117 Kaioli St Apt 2701  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



February 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 343 relating to the sexual assault of an animal.

It is nothing short of horrifying to think that this kind of cruelty is legally permitted in our state. Animals are powerless to defend themselves from people who would abuse them in this way, so we must defend them. Our laws must defend them.

I urge you to pass this measure and protect our community from this kind of depravity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

June Sugakawa  
1551 Ala Wai Blvd  
Honolulu, HI 96815





## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Jan. 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 SB 343:  
Relating to the Sexual Assault of an Animal  
Thursday, Feb. 2, 2021, 9:30 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 strong support for Senate Bill 343, which amends the Penal Code to establish the crime of sexual assault of an animal. It further provides that the sexual assault of an animal is a class C felony or a class B felony if the offense subjects a minor to sexual contact with an animal or is committed in the presence of a minor.

While animal sexual abuse is rarely reported to local law enforcement, that is likely because it is not against the law. Animal sexual assault is more common than most people realize and occurs equally often in urban and rural communities. Online bestiality forums have posts from members in every Hawaii county boasting of the lack of a law against animal sexual abuse and offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex.

Incidents of animal sexual abuse frequently go undetected or unreported for long periods of time, but as laws have changed over the past 20 years to recognize bestiality as a crime, related arrests have risen by 800 percent.

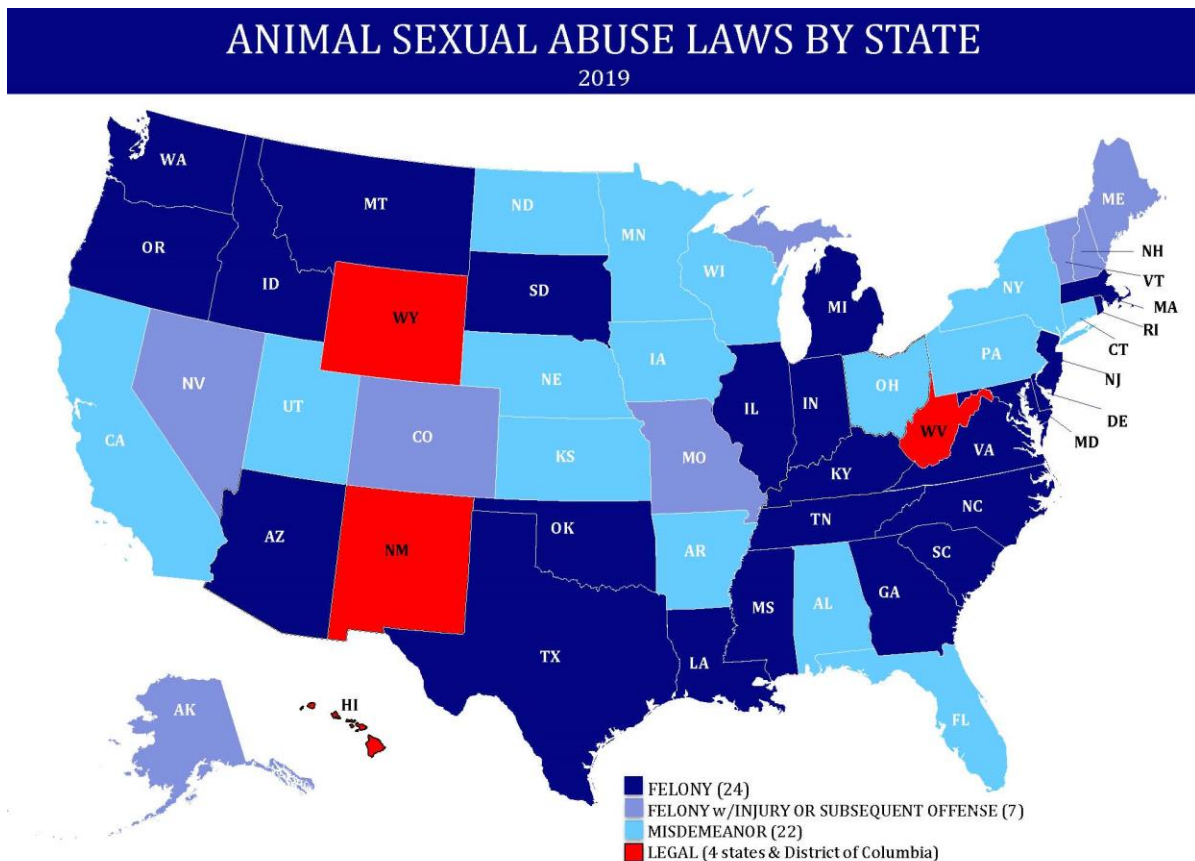
The Louisiana Legislature passed a law against animal sexual abuse in 2018, overcoming mockery of the topic and objections that it just didn't happen. Earlier this month James Millet of Metairie, LA, was shot by a local sheriff's deputy after pointing a gun at officers who were attempting to take him into custody on 36 counts of sexual abuse of an animal. Millet is also facing seven counts of possessing child pornography and a pair of counts of distributing such, as well as aggravated assault on a peace officer.

Research has found that animal sexual abuse is often linked to other criminal behavior. More than half of the animal sexual abusers in a 2019 study had a prior or subsequent criminal record involving human sexual abuse, animal abuse, child pornography or interpersonal violence. More than a third of those abusers had also sexually abused humans, mostly children under the age of 12. In recognition of these links, animal cruelty crimes are now tracked by the FBI as a Group A offense, the same category as rape and murder.

Recognizing that animal sexual abuse is often linked with child pornography, 46 states now outlaw bestiality. The Aloha State should not be the last.

We appreciate that this is a difficult topic of conversation, but we have to make sure we have all of the tools necessary to protect our community. This is a crime against a powerless population. We owe it to the most vulnerable in our midst to pass SB 343 and protect Hawaii's animals and its people.

Mahalo for your consideration.





# HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

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

Date: Jan. 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 SB 343:  
Relating to the Sexual Assault of an Animal  
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

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The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAAWA) supports the passage of Senate Bill 343, which amends the Penal Code to establish the crime of sexual assault of an animal. It further provides that the sexual assault of an animal is a class C felony or a class B felony if the offense subjects a minor to sexual contact with an animal or is committed in the presence of a minor.

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.

Animal sexual assault is more common than most people realize and occurs equally often in urban and rural communities. Online bestiality forums have posts from members in every Hawaii county boasting of the lack of a law against animal sexual abuse and offering, as well as seeking, animals for sex.

A post on a forum since shut down by law enforcement is representative of many: "I'm new to the island. Just learned bestiality is legal. There is no law. Best news ever," from a new resident of Hawaii Island. Posters also include tourists coming to the state looking to have sex with animals.

These crimes take place mostly out of sight and many of the witnesses are also victims of abuse, so reports can be rare. But as laws have changed nationwide over the past 20 years to recognize bestiality as a crime, related arrests have risen by 800 percent.

This is a crime against a powerless population. People who abuse animals in this way are extremely likely to target vulnerable human beings as well. In recognition of the strong link

between animal abuse and interpersonal violence, the FBI began tracking animal cruelty crimes, including bestiality, in 2016.

We urge you to pass SB 343 to keep the people and animals in our communities safe.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this important issue,

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*

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 343

It is shocking that our State has no law on the books that addresses sexual abuse of animal. There is overwhelming evidence of direct connections between these crimes and abuse of women, children and other vulnerable people. Even more disturbing is that Hawaii is out there on the internet as a vacation spot for perpetrators of animal sexual abuse!

There can be NO EXCUSE for not passing this legislation.

Yes it is an uncomfortable issue to address but that is all the more reason to address it.

All sexual abuse crimes are “uncomfortable subjects” but laws have been enacted to prosecute the perpetrators, and we all look down on countries that tacitly encourage pedophilia vacations for profit.

Please pass this bill if no other reason than it will draw attention to people who are dangerous to their families and their neighbors and help us prevent abuse of people as well as animals.

Martha E Randolph  
DPH Environmental Caucus Steering Committee

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 3:07:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 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:

Honorable Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I strongly support SB343, to explicitly prohibit animal sexual abuse. It is unfortunate that we must have to explicitly prohibit such an egregious offense, however, animal sexual abuse occurs much more frequently than most would know. Further, and similar to other forms of intentional animal cruelty, offenders often start by abusing animals before escalating to violence against humans, and children are often the victims.

Having worked in animal care and protection for more than 20 years, I have investigated a number of animal sex abuse cases, that, prior to enacting legislation to clearly prohibit, were challenging to enforce under existing cruelty laws.

Prohibiting animal sexual abuse not only protects voiceless and vulnerable animals but protects children and society as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:59:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 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:

Bestiality is a disgusting crime that is banned in all but 4 states and in the entire European Union. Ireland has banned it since 1634! It is beyond time for Hawai'i to do the same.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 11:00:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	No

Comments:

This bill amends the Penal Code to establish the crime of sexual assault of an animal. It further provides that the sexual assault of an animal is a class C felony, or a class B felony if the offence subjects a minor to sexual contact with an animal or is committed in the presence of a minor. Our members are particularly concerned about the upbringing of the young; they are our future, and to allow them to grow into adulthood thinking that it is acceptable and normal to perpetrate sexual violence against a helpless, uncomprehending animal, a breach of trust showing complete lack of respect for our fellow beings, bodes ill for a compassionate and ethical society. The fact that such violent abuse is legal legitimises such acts in the eyes of those who may be indifferent to the well being of other sentient creatures.

As in the case of non-sexual abuse, studies have found that people who are willing to commit such acts may also go on to treat vulnerable human beings in the same way.

We contend that there is absolutely no reason to keep the sexual abuse of animals legal. We understand that Hawaii is one of only four states that do not expressly prohibit bestiality and we fail to understand how this can ever be justified. It is a horrifying blot on the record of a state which has shown you to be compassionate and pioneering citizens in many aspects of animal welfare, which *Animal Interfaith Alliance* has previously supported.

Our members strongly support this bill.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:22:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sue C	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please accept my written testimony to vehemently oppose this bill! This is archaic and should not pass.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 7:12:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB343 which is against the sexual abuse of animals.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 7:35:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I would like to thank the members of the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to share my profound disbelief when I discovered that up to this time Hawaii had never enacted legislation such as what is proposed in SB343.**

**I was both shocked, and heartbroken, to learn that there are people who choose to visit Hawaii precisely because we have no statutory prohibitions against the sexual abuse of animals. How can that be allowed to persist? I can't believe this is what we want to be known for.**

**Please do what you can to remedy this very sorry state of affairs. I, for one, along with the innumerable others concerned about the health of our people, the welfare of our animals, and the reputation of the State of Hawaii, will be grateful.**

**With appreciation and Aloha,**

**Alice Saul  
Honolulu**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 8:17:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because people should be held accountable for abusing animals.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 8:22:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

PLEASE pass this bill!! There is NO reason not to.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 9:39:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I am Jennifer Ho, a resident in Nuuanu. I support Animal Sexual Abuse [HB1085/SB343](#) bill to make animal bestiality illegal. I found it absolutely appalling that we are one of the few states where this is still legal! It's downright shameful and needs to change. Animal cruelty and bestiality is shown as an indicator of other violence. You can and must make animal bestiality illegal.

Thank you,

Jennifer

ho.jennifer.c@gmail.com



**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 7:44:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Soyejima-Nordstrom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:13:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee. Please support SB 343 which would prohibit animal sexual abuse in Hawaii. It's my understanding that there are online sites which appeal to cruel behavior, such as bestiality, in which people boast about how animal sexual abuse is permitted in Hawaii. Furthermore, I understand that Hawaii is one of only four states that does not have a law expressly prohibiting sexual abuse of animals. Hawaii has been a leader in animal welfare but not when it comes to this subject. Please restore Hawaii's leadership in animal welfare by supporting SB 343.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:17:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is sickening and I fully support this action to protect all animals in Hawaii!

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:36:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Irie	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha! As a resident of Hawaii since 1978, I am shocked and absolutely disgusted that bestiality is legal in this beautiful state. PLEASE pass this bill ASAP!!!! In addition, I propose that along with the offenders, PLEASE punish the sick okoles who promote this. They are just as guilty. PLEASE!!! I wish the Felony was at least a minimum B and then moved up to an A if there are keiki involved or witness. Not kidding!!! WHY is this even up for debate???? I am going to do my best to promote the passing of this bill with animal advocates and rescue groups. Thank you for your time. Pamela Irie

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 12:43:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

I support SB 343 and think we should prohibit sexual abuse of animals. This is an outrage it is still legal in Hawaii. To see that Hawaii is 1 in 4 states that allow sexual abuse of animals, is appalling. Animals are like children. To allow such heinous acts to them without their consent should be punishable by law.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 1:24:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Emi Au	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate,

My name is Emi Au. I am testifying in support of the SB343, the prohibition of animal sex abuse in Hawaii.

First off, I feel that Hawaii is a very community oriented and minded state- which means we take of one another and hold each other accountable like a family would. This includes how we treat animals as well. Resarch has found that animal sex abuse is often linked to other criminal behaviors, and if we can prohibit this gateway, then it can allow us to stem violence from further worsening.

Also, the fact that we are one out of four states that does not have this being illegal is not a statistic I am proud of. The fact that we are so late to prohibiting this makes me dissappointed in the progress we've made. I am hoping that this will pass, and we can be a step closer to making the islands safe for humans and animals.

Thanks,

Emi Au

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 1:52:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure. I was shocked to learn that Hawaii is one of only four states that does not prohibit sexual abuse of animals. Animals are living beings, just as humans are. They deserve the same treatment and respect.

Often animal sexual abuse is linked to other criminal behavior, including human sexual abuse, child pornography or interpersonal violence. Animal cruelty crimes are tracked by the FBI as a Group A offense, the same category as rape and murder.

Please support this bill today, for all our sake.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 6:59:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kate Butts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kate Butts of Wahiawa and I am extremely in favor of SB 343.

Sexual assault of an animal should be against the law in this state.

Please pass this bill to make it a Felony to perform such heinous violations of helpless animals.



Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for HB1085/SB343, as a clinical and forensic psychologist having spent decades working with families with interpersonal violence, and child abuse and neglect, I strongly encourage your passage of this measure.

HB1085/SB343 would join Hawaii with 46 other states that now criminalize bestiality or, as we in a growing number of criminal justice, public safety, academic, and animal welfare communities prefer to describe it, animal sexual abuse. This issue has become so significant in recent years that around 23 states now consider bestiality a felony, and 27 states require offenders to be placed on sex offenders' registries.

While sex with animals is sometimes considered a humorous or titillating issue, or a common rite of passage among rural populations, the reality in contemporary society is far more serious. A growing body of academic literature, research by criminologists and law enforcement officials, and anecdotal reports confirm this:

- • Detective Jeremy Hoffman, of the Fairfax County, Va. Sheriff's Office, has called animal sexual assault "the single greatest predictor of people who will molest children." Hoffman has reported that the vast majority of child pornography cases also revealed bestiality porn as well. Hoffman found that proactively investigating animal sexual abuse led to a lot of early success in revealing child sexual abuse.
- • The FBI considers animal sexual abuse such a significant issue that when it modified the National Incident-Based Reporting System to include, for the first time, reported incidents of animal abuse that will enter the national crime data base, animal sexual abuse was one of the four specific crimes added to the system.
- • Forensic veterinarian Martha Smith-Blackmore has reported that the single most prevalent lesson she said she learned in her practice is that animal sexual abuse is always tied to other forms of abuse.
- • In Arizona, former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio was so appalled at a case in which a local elected official was acquitted after allegedly raping a lamb that he successfully pushed for a bestiality law in the state code. In the 10 subsequent years, Arpaio arrested 10 individuals on bestiality charges with a 100% conviction rate.
- • The passage of a similar bill in New Hampshire in 2016 was jeopardized by agricultural and veterinary interests who were concerned that standard operating practices with farm animals might inadvertently be misconstrued as bestiality and innocent people would be labeled as sex offenders. The Vermont bill exempts conduct that is generally accepted as otherwise lawful animal husbandry and veterinary practices, thereby easing those interests' concerns.

The National Link Coalition's case files include numerous cases where animal sexual abuse is linked to other crimes. Some examples include:

- • 2016: Police in Henrico, Va., serving a warrant on man wanted in Pennsylvania on charges of child rape and child pornography, wound up charging his roommate with bestiality and animal cruelty after they allegedly found multiple images of the roommate having sex with Rottweiler dogs.
- • 2016: A former Canadian TV star and his wife were charged with 26 counts of possessing pornography, sexual assault and bestiality following a months-long investigation in which thousands of images and videos were discovered on computers, hard drives and phones. Investigators believe the man and another woman engaged in sexual acts with children, between 2000 and 2006, which were posted online. They were said to have used such online screen names as "retrodeviant" and "dirty slave doll".

- • 2016: A Long Island, N.Y. man who served as a foster parent of 140 children over two decades was indicted for alleged bestiality and the sexual abuse of seven boys, endangering the welfare of children who were reported to have rummaged through garbage for food. Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu faces 16 charges of sexual misconduct and endangering the welfare of the boys and one charge of sexual misconduct with a dog.
- • 2015: A Geneva, Ala. man who reportedly wanted to get back at his wife because he felt she cared more about her dog than him was charged with animal cruelty for allegedly having sex with the dog. Law enforcement officers told WTVY-TV the case was one of the most disturbing that they have ever investigated. “We’ve dealt with hungry dogs, abandoned dogs, but never with a dog that was sexually abused. Speaking to her and him, he was upset because she paid more attention to the dog than him, and this was her baby,” said Geneva Police Lt. Ricky Morgan. “His way of causing her the pain was to mess with the dog.”

While bestiality is a topic that is difficult to address, it is a crime with far-reaching implications – not just for the animals but for the families who own animals that have been raped; the veterinarians who must treat the ones who are injured or die; for the detectives who must view tragic and obscene videos and seek clues to the identity of a perpetrator; for the prosecutor who must uphold the law; and for Hawaii citizens who desire a safe and civil society.

I strongly encourage you to support HB1085/SB343.

Thank you,

Barbara Higa Rogers

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 8:10:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Tomey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of HB1085/SB343

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 8:15:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ginger edmunds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are in support of bill SB343 and HB1085 that prohibit animal sexual Abuse in Hawaii. Every state in our country should be against using animals as sexual objects, Hawaii legislatures should pass this bill immediately to prohibit animal sexual Abuse in Hawaii.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:35:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of protecting animals. Please close this loophole to protect those who cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 10:42:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Forthy six states prohibit this crime. Why not Hawaii? It happens here too. Mahalo for your serious consideration of this bill. This law is way overdue.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 12:09:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Kart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Animal sexual abusers are also child sexual abusers.

Why is Hawaii one of 4 remaining states that allows sexual abuse of animals ?

Hawaii is consistently ranked on the bottom tier for animal welfare, why is that so ?

Most of the people in Hawaii are Unaware that is legal to sexually abuse animals in Hawaii and to eat dogs and cats, and horrified when told it is LEGAL.

Hawaii is listed as destination, on shady websites, for travel to hawaii for sex with animals.

Lets do right for those with Zero voices. Come on politicians.

“The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its **animals** are treated.”

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:04:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mia Fitzgerald	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for Animal Sexual Abuse [HB1085/SB343](#) bill. As a school counselor and teacher for the last 12 years, I have worked with families and children with child abuse and neglect, I strongly encourage and beg your passage of this measure.

It is well documented that animal sexual abuse is tied to other forms of human abuse. Hawaii must and should join 46 other states that criminalize bestiality. I am shocked that we don't already have this law in place.

I have had pets my entire life growing up here in Aina Haina. They bring so much joy and love to our lives. Please ensure that this bill is passed and that our animals are protected!



**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:04:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

While reading the first sentence of a recent Hawaiian Humane Society research document, I found that animal sexual abuse in Hawaii is NOT illegal at present.

The research document states that bestiality has actually has even been advertised.

After a clear law has been passed to clearly classify this as a felony class crime in Hawaii, the advertising of sexual abuse of animals should also become a felony.

Get the law first, enforce it second and give guilty parties the publicity they deserve.

Mahalo

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:51:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill as Hawaii CANNOT be one of only a few states that doesn't have a law against this awful, horrible and disgusting act.

Submitted in respect for all animals

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 6:41:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support banning sexual abuse of animals.

Dana Jenkins

Makiki

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 7:57:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rena Kayano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All sexual abuse is completely and morally unacceptable, including harm done to animals. Already there are too many precedents in this world that treat animals as far lesser than humans.

This should be a common sense law everywhere, and it is unfortunate and astounding that four states including Hawaii actually ALLOW sexual abuse of animals. It is even being promoted as an activity to tourists wanting to fulfill disturbing, perverted fantasies.

Furthermore, it's been known for years that humans that abuse animals with any type of violence often also harm humans.

Please do what is right and make this illegal, for the sake of the animals who have suffered already and what is pono!

Thank you.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 7:59:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiffany Gurr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this because bestiality is cruel, disgusting, and inhumane. Making an animal suffer abuse like that and not being able to defend themselves is heart-wrenching and I can't say this enough, absolutely disgusting. I've read horror stories from around the world of animals who suffered this abuse and in some cases even died. It needs to STOP. This should have been made illegal here in Hawai'i and around the entire world a long time ago. I wholeheartedly support making bestiality illegal.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:25:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an owner of a rescue animal , I am saddened and appalled by some of the conditions these animals have gone through. Sexual abuse of an animal should be viewed as physical abuse of an animal. It is no different and should be considered a felony. Research has shown that individuals who engage in these activities will escalate to More violent activities including violence against humans.

Lawmakers, please consider passing SB 343.

Melanie Kim

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:32:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jennifer ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street**

**Honolulu Hawaii 96813**

**Aloha Members of the Committee,**

**I am a community member from Honolulu and I'm proud to support SB343.**

**The State must establish the sexual assault of an animal as a separate crime, to allow state law enforcement officers to better identify potentially and violent sexual predators in their communities.**

**I firmly believe that the State of Hawaii should join the current 46 states who already prohibit the sexual assault of an animal, and bestiality. The state of Hawaii should not be a place where predators can come to enact such heinous crimes. We must protect the animals who cannot protect themselves. We must protect our community and children who may be exposed to these violent acts as well. Again, I am in favor of SB343.**

**Jennifer Ramos**

**[jramos8@hawaii.edu](mailto:jramos8@hawaii.edu)**





**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:42:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to protect animals.

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 10:23:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Krasniewski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB343.

It is appalling to think that Hawaii is one of only four states without a law against animal sexual contact/abuse. Please support this bill to stop this cruelty to animals. Thank you.

Aloha, Barbara Krasniewski

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:01:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marissa Deonte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Mililani and I am a dog owner.

I support SB343.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:41:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tenaiya Brookfield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB343 and would like to strengthen it further with the following amendments:

- bestiality should be a class C felony whether in the presence of a minor or not
- insemination shouldn't be exempt because it's also sexual assault on an animal and can easily be used as an excuse for other behaviors



M. Jenny Edwards  
CHANDLER EDWARDS  
Animal Sexual Abuse Information & Resources  
[www.chandleredwards.org](http://www.chandleredwards.org)  
425.522.3335

**LATE**

January 31, 2021

To: The Hon. Takayama Nakashima, Hawaii House of Representatives  
The Hon. Mike Gabbard, Hawaii State Senate  
The Hon. Karl Rhodes, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Hon. Jarrett Keohokaloe, Vice Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: HB1085/SB343 to create a statute prohibiting bestiality

I am a criminologist and subject matter expert in bestiality and zoophilia writing **in support of HB1085/SB343**.

Over the past 16 years, I have conducted original research, trained professionals across multiple disciplines, and published articles in academic, scientific, and general interest journals on the impact and extent of bestiality. Below is a summary of key findings from my most recently published research.

**There are several misconceptions about animal sexual abuse.** Chief among them are the notion that it is a minor crime that occurs only rarely; that animals are not harmed; and that it is a solitary event perpetrated by someone with a mental disorder. None of these notions are supported by the facts.

**Bestiality is not a minor crime.** 53% of animal sex offenders have a prior criminal history, and the recidivism rate it as least 28%. Nearly one-third of animal sex abusers also sexually abuse children directly. Another third collects and shares child pornography. And an alarming number of children and minors are forced to commit sex acts with their own pet while being filmed or photographed. Many incidents involve multiple victims, multiple crimes, and multiple jurisdictions.

**Virtually all statistics related to bestiality and zoophilia are understated.** That is primarily because it's a crime no one wants to deal with, but also because it's a crime much like child sexual abuse that can occur over a long period without detection or reporting. Although few bestiality incidents in Hawaii have ever even been investigated, it would be a mistake to assume that's because it doesn't happen on the island. When there is no law specifically prohibiting bestiality, prosecutors are forced to resort to other charges such as animal cruelty, trespass, or possession of obscene material, thus hiding the true nature of the crime.

Although Covid-19 has restricted our movements, **the Internet makes it easy for people with deviant sexual interests to connect** with one another and share graphic information and images. It is common for site users to "advertise" which states do not have or enforce laws prohibiting bestiality, and for locals in those states to invite others to visit using apps like Facebook, Reddit, and WhatsApp. Hawaii offers a stunning opportunity for access to animals without restriction.

Thank you for your sponsorship of HB1085/SB343. This is an important bill that ensures the rest of the country that Hawaii takes the issue of animal sexual abuse seriously and is committed to protecting its citizens and animals from predatory sexual practices. Please let me know if I may be of any help to you in any way.

Best regards,

*M. Jenny Edwards*

M. Jenny Edwards  
mjennyedwards@chandleredwards.org  
425.522.3335  
[www.chandleredwards.org](http://www.chandleredwards.org)

## Key findings from a study of nearly 500 bestiality-related convictions in the United States

Edwards, M. J. (2019) [Arrest and Prosecution of Animal Sex Abuse \(Bestiality\) Offenders](#) in the United States, 1975–2015. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law* Online May 2019, JAAPL.003836-19; DOI: 10.29158/JAAPL.003836-19

### Demographics:

- Studied: 456 arrests involving direct sexual contact with an animal (SWA), solicitation for SWA, coercion or facilitation of another to commit SWA, or production/collection/distribution/use of animal pornography
- Animal sex abuse occurs throughout US without regard to size of community
- Arrests have been rising sharply & steadily since 2004
- The number of women offenders increasing; most acting as part of a couple
- Males offender later in life than previously reported
- Wide range of offender ages (18-80); average age 37
- Whites still predominant, but number of Hispanics and Blacks is increasing
- 53% have prior criminal histories that include animal & human sex abuse, domestic & interpersonal violence, and property crimes (e.g., trespass/B&E)
  - 3% were registered sex offenders at the time of the bestiality arrest
- 28% repeat offenders

### No single offender profile:

- 64% of offenders had direct SWA animals; majority of animals abused lived with or were known to the offender
- 32% of offenders also sexually abused children mostly under age 12; 2% sexually abused other adults
  - 7% coerced a child or adult to have SWA (most of these acts were filmed and posted online)
- 34% collected animal porn
  - 17% of collectors used aniporn to groom kids for sex with the offender or with an animal
  - 5% of the animal porn collections were anime (cartoon porn involving childlike & animal-like characters)
- 10% facilitated SWA (e.g., filmed, provided animal), but did not have sex w/animal themselves
- 6% of offenders were diagnosed as sexually deviant (necrophilia, S&M, crushing)
- 4% solicited SWA (by advertising on craigslist and social media sites, as well as members-only sites)

### Range of sex acts:

- 93% of acts involved anal/vaginal penetration of animal
  - 12% involved violence resulting in significant injury or death
  - Animals were sometimes killed prior to the sex act (Necrobestiality) or died as a result of injuries inflicted during the act.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:32:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB343

It disturbs me to hear the argument that the acts are pleasuring the animals, and there is proven connection that animal abuse is commonly a predecessor to abuse of fellow human beings.

Please pass SB343

Respectfully yours,

Eric Ako DVM

Past Chair,Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

Past President and Executive Vice President,Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

Past President,Honolulu Zoological Society

Past Vice Chair,Hawaiian Humane Society

Chair,Institutionsl Biosafety Committee,University of Hawaii

Founder,Windward CC Veterinary Technology Program

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:50:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Leveen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.



**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:23:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Is it really necessary to explain why this bill should be passed? It is obvious that no civilized society should allow animals to be sexually abused. The fact that bestiality isn't currently a felony is shocking and an embarrassment to our community. Please pass this bill swiftly so that anyone who commits such heinous animal cruelty will be severely punished.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:36:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
josh robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Do we really need to discuss this?

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:11:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacy Takekawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB343 and think that Hawaii should join the other 46 states that have bestiality laws in place.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 5:30:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Juliana Benson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Sexual assault to animals is a vile and barbaric concept and should not be tolerated in any way. Additionally, it is important to recognize that behaviors such as this often times turn into more inappropriate and illegible behaviors towards people and the community. Therefore, it is vital to pass this bill to help prevent future crime and damage to our community.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:12:53 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Meeks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of making bestiality/sexual assault of an animal a felony in the state of Hawaii. I am appalled to learn this is not already considered a crime.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:12:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fatima Abed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Don't rape animals. This should definitely be a felony.

I obviously support this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-343**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:16:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shelly Esmeralda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

How can you not act to address this matter for animals who have no voice and will make other vulnerable groups such as children subject to these gross violations against humanity. There needs to be stronger laws to eliminate chicken and dog fighting and truly promote Hawaii as the Aloha State. Protect all animals from the heinous act of sexual abuse. Do it now. Mahalo.