
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY
COORDINATE THEIR POLICE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS
EFFORTS WITH THE STATE AND WITH HUMANE SOCIETIES AND OTHER
ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING THE DANGERS POSED
BY UNLEASHED DOGS TO HUMANS AND TO OTHER ANIMALS IN PUBLIC
AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, in Act 30, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, the
2 Legislature found that dog bites are among the top reasons for
3 emergency room visits, ranking higher than injuries occurring on
4 motorcycles, to pedestrians, and from gunshots; and
5

6 WHEREAS, section 142-74, Hawaii Revised Statutes, creates a
7 civil action for an incident when a dog attacks another animal,
8 and also allows for counties to promulgate their own ordinances
9 for enforcement of county animal control policy, whether in park
10 areas or on other public lands; and
11

12 WHEREAS, section 142-75 Hawaii Revised Statutes, creates a
13 civil action for a dog attack on humans, and also allows for
14 counties to promulgate their own ordinances for enforcement of
15 county animal control policy, whether in park areas or on other
16 public lands; and
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18 WHEREAS, unleashed dogs potentially pose a serious danger
19 not only to humans but also to other pet animals; and
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21 WHEREAS, serious bodily injury to a person such as by
22 laceration would constitute felony assault if performed by a
23 person but only constitutes a misdemeanor for the dog owner if
24 the result of a dog bite; and
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26 WHEREAS, an attack by an unleashed dog on a leashed dog can
27 easily result in serious injury or death to the leashed animal,
28 as well as potentially serious injury and emotional distress to
29 any person attempting to prevent or disengage the attacking
30 animal from causing harm; and
31



1 WHEREAS, all counties require by ordinance or
2 administrative rule that, with the exception of a limited number
3 of enclosed public off-leash dog parks, all dogs must be on a
4 leash in public areas, including on all public sidewalks and
5 roadsides; and

6
7 WHEREAS, a substantial majority of all state parks and
8 recreation areas, as well as a majority of all county parks and
9 recreation areas, prohibit all pet animals generally, including
10 both leashed and unleashed dogs, and despite clearly posted
11 signs prohibiting animals, many persons bring dogs to such
12 areas, creating a potentially dangerous situation for park users
13 who have a reasonable expectation that lawful prohibitions on
14 animals will be enforced; and

15
16 WHEREAS, humane societies or other animal welfare
17 organizations in each county are authorized to provide animal
18 control, impoundment, and destruction services under certain
19 circumstances in coordination with county police departments for
20 incidents involving dog-on-animal and dog-on-human attacks; and

21
22 WHEREAS, for a person who has been bitten by a dog or whose
23 animal has been bitten by a dog, and who chooses to contact
24 authorities to seek criminal or civil remedies, the delineation
25 of roles and enforcement authority among county police
26 departments, state park enforcement authorities in the case of
27 state parks, and the humane societies or any other animal
28 welfare organization can be unclear and confusing, and often
29 results in the appearance of one enforcement authority assigning
30 responsibility or blame to a different authority without
31 providing meaningful assistance to the affected person; and

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33 WHEREAS, increased education of the public concerning leash
34 laws, sanctions for violations of prohibitions on animals in
35 certain parks and recreation areas, possible civil and criminal
36 penalties in the event of dog-on-animal or dog-on-human attacks,
37 and the actual roles of county or state law enforcement
38 authorities and humane society or other animal welfare
39 organization control officers would increase public confidence
40 in enforcement and make public areas safer; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2022, that the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui,
4 County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai are strongly urged to
5 strengthen their efforts to meaningfully enforce all laws,
6 ordinances, and administrative rules regarding off-leash animals
7 in public spaces so as to better protect the public and pet
8 animals; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of
11 Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai
12 are strongly urged, with respect to state parks within their
13 jurisdictions, to pro-actively coordinate their county police
14 department efforts with the enforcement officers of the Division
15 of State Parks of the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county police departments
19 of each of the counties are urged to strengthen their efforts to
20 coordinate animal control services with each of the authorized
21 humane societies or animal welfare organizations within their
22 jurisdiction and, in the case of a dog attack on a human or dog
23 attack on another animal, that all complainants requesting
24 assistance receive an immediate and clear explanation of the
25 delineation of roles among all enforcement authorities and
26 entities, including explanation of any lawful impoundment or
27 destruction procedures and potential civil or criminal remedies
28 under state or county law; and
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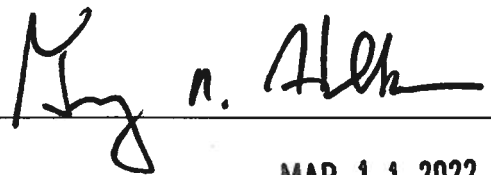
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of
31 Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai,
32 together with any humane societies or animal welfare
33 organizations authorized within their jurisdictions for purposes
34 of animal control, are strongly urged to undertake public
35 awareness activities bringing attention to the dangers posed by
36 unleashed dogs to humans and other animals; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
40 Land and Natural Resources, Director of the Department of Parks
41 and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of
42 the Department of Parks and Recreation of the County of Maui,



1 Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation of the County
2 of Kauai, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation of
3 the County of Hawaii, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department,
4 Chief of the Maui Police Department, Chief of the Hawaii Police
5 Department, Chief of the Kauai Police Department, President and
6 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Humane Society, Chief
7 Executive Officer of the Maui Humane Society, President of the
8 Hawaii Island Humane Society, and Executive Director of the
9 Kauai Humane Society.

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12 OFFERED BY:


MAR 11 2022

