

## TESTIMONY OF ALISON UEOKA

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

### HB 1715

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, my name is Alison Ueoka, President of the Hawaii Insurers Council. The Hawaii Insurers Council is a non-profit trade association of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Hawaii. Member companies underwrite approximately forty percent of all property and casualty insurance premiums in the state.

Hawaii Insurers Council **opposes** this bill. Although the intent of the bill is to protect unattended animals locked in motor vehicles, we believe this legislation will lead to property damage by average citizens based on subjective judgment of whether the animal is in “imminent physical danger of suffering harm.” Allowing persons to “use whatever means are reasonably necessary to protect the animal and remove the animal from the motor vehicle” may also cause a confrontation between the operator of the motor vehicle and the person attempting to get at the animal. This confrontation may lead to a physical altercation and could result in unnecessary violence and injury. Costs for example, from broken windows or physical harm will affect certain motor vehicle coverages and those costs will ultimately be borne by the insured public.

Instead, we believe the appropriate response to this situation is to call 911 and report it to the police. We ask that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Washington, DC 20037  
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February 8, 2022  
PO Box 772  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Hawaii supporters, I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 1715, which protects citizens from liability for necessary actions taken in good faith to rescue an animal from a hot car. States across the nation are taking steps to prevent animal deaths in hot or freezing cars by fortifying their laws to allow good Samaritans to enter vehicles under certain circumstances.

In only a few short minutes temperatures inside a car can mount to a lethal level. Animals are ill-equipped to handle the heat and humidity because they don't have sweat glands and cannot release the heat that builds up inside their bodies. According to the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, "animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves, and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels—very quickly." If someone witnesses a trapped pet in extreme distress, they should be able to act without fear of being sued or arrested. HB 1715 lays out reasonable steps that a citizen must take prior to entering a vehicle with the intent to save an animal from life-threatening weather conditions.

Unfortunately, not many individuals realize the danger that heat poses to their pets, and we continue to see casualties each year. First responders on the scene to rescue animals left in hot cars have given firsthand accounts of the suffering that a dog left in such conditions can endure. They have described terrible scenes and in response to these tragedies. Currently, 31 states have laws that either prohibit leaving an animal in confined vehicle under dangerous conditions or provide civil immunity for a person who rescues a distressed animal from a vehicle. HB 1715 includes thoughtful language that increases protection for animals but also prevents vigilantism. Intervention is carefully defined, only to be used when all other options have been exhausted and the animal is in visible distress. This bill also spells out steps for after an animal has been removed to ensure that emergency care is provided, and pets are returned to their owners appropriately.

Every year companion animals succumb to heatstroke in hot, unattended vehicles. Often concerned citizens and law enforcement can locate the car's owner in time to take the necessary steps to keep the animal safe. However, there are situations when the appropriate parties are unable to be located and the clock is running with an animal's life hanging in the balance.

We urge committee members to support HB 1715 as an important, bipartisan step toward creating a more humane Hawaii. Protecting animals from an agonizing death is a problem we can all agree to prevent. With greater awareness and greater latitude for Samaritan interventions, we can make this world a safer and better one for our animal companions.

Sincerely,  
Susan Rhee



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
**OF THE UNITED STATES**

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 6:44:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Harold Han Jr	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Date: Feb. 8th, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Vice Chair Rep. Amy A. Perruso

and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Submitted By: Harold Han Jr., Sr. Manager of Field Operations

Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2211

RE: Comments on HB 1715:

Relating to Unattended Animals in Motor Vehicles

Written  
Testimony



Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members.

The Hawaiian Humane Society appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill 1715, which limits civil and criminal liability for persons who remove unattended animals from motor vehicles that are in physical danger if the actions are reasonable, in good faith, and in accordance with other requirements.

I supervise a team of eight deputized Officers/Investigators that enforce animal laws for the City and County of Honolulu. We are also a member of the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) and our officers are certified by them. Neither Hawaiian Humane nor its colleagues around the state could find evidence of animals being harmed due to inadequate law enforcement response to calls about animals locked in cars. The police respond and Hawaiian Humane supports them. Our officers are trained to identify hyperthermia (over heating) and have the tools and training to handle this, whereas the general public is not.

In addition, page 3, lines 14-16 of the bill, read “The monies shall be paid to the county director of finance to defray expenses of collecting, keeping, and feeding the animal.” Hawaii County has the only in-house animal control department. In the other three counties, those charges would be more appropriately paid to the county animal contractor.

We appreciate the compassion of the advocates who put forward this measure. Locking an animal in a hot car can indeed do serious harm very quickly. That is why the county police departments and the animal service providers across our state take these calls seriously.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1715. I would be happy to answer any questions.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 8, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem  
Vice Chair Rep. Amy A. Perruso  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

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

RE: Comments on HB 1715:  
Relating to Unattended Animals in Motor Vehicles  
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, 10 a.m., Via Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members.

The Hawaiian Humane Society appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill 1715, which limits civil and criminal liability for persons who remove unattended animals from motor vehicles that are in physical danger if the actions are reasonable, in good faith, and in accordance with other requirements.

The Hawaiian Humane Society is deputized to enforce animal laws for the City and County of Honolulu. We are also a member of the Hawaii Animal Welfare Association. Neither Hawaiian Humane nor its colleagues around the state could find evidence of animals being harmed due to inadequate law enforcement response to calls about animals locked in cars.

In addition, page 3, lines 14-16 of the bill, read "The monies shall be paid to the county director of finance to defray expenses of collecting, keeping, and feeding the animal." Hawaii County has the only in-house animal control department. In the other three counties, those charges would be more appropriately paid to the county animal contractor.

We appreciate the compassion of the advocates who put forward this measure and we would be happy to work with them to address their concerns. Locking an animal in a hot car can indeed cause suffering very quickly. That is why we take these calls seriously.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1715. I would be happy to answer any questions.



AMERICAN  
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**Phil M. Guidry, J.D.**  
Director, Policy Analysis  
Government Relations

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem  
Chairman, Hawaii House Committee on Agriculture  
Conference Room 424  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: AKC Concerned with House Bill 1715, Requests Amendments

Chairman Hashem and members of the Hawaii House Committee on Agriculture:

The American Kennel Club (AKC), which was established in 1884 and promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs, represents over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 42 clubs in Hawaii. The AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, protects the rights of dog owners, and promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership. The AKC and our affiliated clubs are pleased and proud to serve communities and their leaders by sharing our animal care and responsible ownership principles. Today, we write to share our concerns with House Bill 1715 and respectfully request committee action in line with our recommendations.

**AKC strongly agrees that no dog should be left in a vehicle if its comfort, health, and safety is in question. "Good Samaritan" legislation must provide a balanced approach that protects both the health and safety of dogs and the interests of responsible dog owners.** For that reason, we are concerned that HB 1715, as currently written, fails to take into account unintended consequences that may result from providing unchecked civil and criminal immunity for those who break into vehicles to remove dogs they believe are in danger. While we appreciate that the bill attempts to provide some requirements for such an actor, we urge you to amend HB 1715 to allow recourse for the animal's owner if they did in fact take proper steps to ensure the animal's safety was protected, such as by proper ventilation, air conditioning, blankets, or other protocols appropriate for the breed or type of dog. We also urge you to assure that owners are immune from liability for their dog harming someone as a result of breaking into a vehicle, particularly if a dog flees a vehicle and becomes at large.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns. We and our federation of dog clubs in Hawaii, the Pacific Pet Alliance, would be pleased to assist you in crafting reasonable and effective laws that protect dogs while also respecting the interests of responsible dog owners and breeders. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3503 or [phil.guidry@akc.org](mailto:phil.guidry@akc.org) if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil M. Guidry', written over a horizontal line.

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.  
Director, Policy Analysis  
AKC Government Relations

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:15:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Domestic Violence Hurts Animals and People	Domestic Violence Hurts Animals and People	Support	No

Comments:

Not long ago, laws were passed to save children unattended in motor vehicles. It's time to expand that law to include animals.

It can be deadly to leave your pet in a locked car. High temperatures can cause irreparable organ damage and death. Wouldn't we agree that protecting animals from an unnecessary death is something we'd like to prevent?

It doesn't have to be that warm outside for a car to become dangerously hot inside.

- When it's 72 degrees Fahrenheit outside, the temperature inside your car can heat up to 116 degrees Fahrenheit within an hour.
- When it's 80 degrees Fahrenheit outside, the temperature inside your car can heat up to 99 degrees Fahrenheit within 10 minutes.
- Rolling down the windows has been shown to have little effect on the temperature inside a car.

\*Source: The Humane Society of the United States

Our Hawaii State Legislators have done great work over the last couple of years in supporting important legislation to help our pet animals. Let's keep the ball rolling by allowing concerned citizens to save an animal locked in a hot car.



**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:21:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stephanie Milner	Big Island Pet Detectives	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:38:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

They should be charged with Stealing just like any other Crook.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 2:15:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:00:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Fernando L Alvarado	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Certain automobiles (Tesla specifically) have a "Dog Mode" setting that keeps the inside car temperature at very low levels using the car battery. On most Teslas it can sustain that temperature for several DAYS without recharging. There is a large display inside the car indicating the internal temperature of the vehicle. I applaud the objectives of the bill, but anyone breaking into a locked car that has an internal temperature of 70 degrees just because they feel the dog is in danger without checking should not be permitted. Frankly, in most cases like this the dog is far more comfortable inside the car than outside in these situations, and a well meaning citizen that causes damage to the car without checking first should not be exempt from liability.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:59:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brenda Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Do what is right and pass this bill. Animals should not be left in a car with windows up or hardly open. Nor should children.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:25:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cindi Weldon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill for the sake of our island dogs and their lives.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:19:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cindy Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Legislature wisely passed a bill that became law to save children who are "in trouble" from the heat when left alone in a locked car. It does not happen often but well intentioned individuals who leave a child or animal in the car while running an errand may be delayed due to unforeseen or uncontrollable events. This bill will protect the "good samaritan". And, more importantly, save a life.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:58:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lana Bradley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Animals don't have a voice, this we need to stand up for them when they can't.



**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:59:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Marchman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have had a law like this in California for many years and it has saved countless pets.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:06:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bobbie Keliikoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a citizen of protecting all animals thats observed unattended in a motor vehicle that show any signs of harm.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:51:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
jaimé T	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have encountered a handful of experiences of dogs or animals being left in vehicles with inadequate protection from the elements or surroundings. It is inhumane and it needs to be stopped. My heart breaks every time I see that and I cannot respond immediately myself to help save a precious animal's life. I strongly feel if the law would be much much swifter it will help immensely in deterring such heartless individuals. Please open your hearts and pass this bill.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:25:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
elson Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes there should be a limit, we are people who care if an innocent animal suffers. Why should we stand by and watch it slowly suffer then die! If it was a child then it would be fine but not for an animal? The suffering the same way!! With or without this bill, I am gonna do what I need to do to save a life being human or animal. Remember people consider animals as there children also..

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:32:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jana Levin-Strojny	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Pass HB 1715.

Some reasons why this bill needs to pass:

**1. Liability**

While hot car rescues are currently considered to be "covered" under existing animal cruelty, anyone with deep pockets, a good lawyer, and a bad attitude could file a lawsuit because the hot car rescue is not specifically addressed.

The rising cost of cars would seem to increase this possibility.

Even a frivolous lawsuit takes time and money to address.

**2. Clarity**

Clearly stating that hot car rescues are specifically covered makes the LEOs' jobs easier. Every LEOs say that more clear a law is, the easier it is to enforce in the field.

**3. Publicity**

Verbiage specifically stating that hot car rescues are covered lends itself well to quotes in public awareness campaigns, websites, flyers, etc.

**HB-1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 6:04:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Becky Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is important legislation that exists in many other jurisdictions. If we don't have compassion and empathy for helpless beings, how will we ever hope to be a community that reveres and respects all things. It is our kuleana to have a law like this on the books.