



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2058, RELATING TO DANGEROUS DOGS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Thursday, February 1, 2024      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Kelcie K. Nagata or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

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Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) define what constitutes a dangerous dog; and (2) establish penalties for owners of dangerous dogs. The bill proposes to add a new part to chapter 142, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to authorize law enforcement officers to declare that a dog is dangerous and to authorize law enforcement officers to seize and impound dangerous dogs.

Presently the bill does not provide dog owners a method to contest or appeal a law enforcement officer's declaration that their dog is "dangerous," under the definition provided in the bill. The bill also does not allow owners of dangerous dogs to contest or appeal the law enforcement officer's decision to seize and impound a dangerous dog. Without those protections, the bill may be subject to challenge under the Due Process clauses of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution and article I, section 5, of the Hawaii Constitution. In general, due process requires notice and an opportunity to be heard before government deprives a person of property or liberty. *Brown v. Thompson*, 91 Hawai'i 1, 10, 979 P.2d 586, 595 (1999) (adequate notice must inform the affected parties of the action to be taken against them and procedures available for challenging that action).

As written, this bill provides notice to the dog owners of the intended actions but does not describe the procedures that would provide the dog owner with the opportunity to challenge any actions taken against the impacted dog owners.

With respect to section 142-\_\_\_, Designation as dangerous dog; basis, on page 5, line 7, there should be an avenue for the dog owner to challenge the designation of a dangerous dog. This may be resolved by adding a new subsection (c), as follows:

“(c) The owner of a dog declared to be a dangerous dog may initiate a contested case with the declarant officer’s department or agency within thirty days following the service date of the declaration.”

In regard to the potential due process issue for section 142-\_\_\_, Impoundment of a dangerous dog, at page 12, line 6, it may be effective to conform the bill to the wording in sections 711-1109.1 and 711-1109.2, HRS, which provide authority and processes for impoundment and forfeiture of animals in connection with the cruelty to animals offenses. We would be happy to assist in the drafting of appropriate due-process provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**STEPHEN L. FRYE**  
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**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2058**

RELATING TO DANGEROUS DOGS

COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Greg Takayama, Vice Chair

**LATE**

Thursday, February 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of the passage of House Bill No. 2058 with comments.

This bill was drafted in response to growing concerns surrounding dangerous dog attacks across our state and seeks to establish statewide requirements and penalties, including felony penalties, for dangerous dog owners where a dog attack results in injury or death to another animal and/or bodily injury, substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, and/or death of another person.

Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Section 142-75 provides the authority for each county to enact and enforce ordinances to regulate dangerous dog owners. HRS Section 46-1.5 further defines the general powers and limitations of the counties including restricting the counties power to establish ordinances and fix penalties for a violation of an ordinance as a violation (i.e. subject to a fine), petty misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offense.

Notwithstanding, in April 2022, the Hawai'i County Council passed Bill 125 into law as Hawai'i County Code ("HCC") 4-4-32 establishing felony level offenses for dog attacks that resulted in substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, and/or death of another person. See attached Exhibit "A". Unfortunately, review of Sections 142-75 and 46-1.5 indicate that existing state law preempts the enactment of felony offenses via county ordinance. As a result, the class B and C felony penalties contained within HCC 4-4-32 are not enforceable much to the frustration of Hawai'i County law enforcement, officials, victims and their families, and our community.

Our Office regularly meets with community groups, local government leaders, law enforcement officials, and members of the public about their concerns and interests regarding the criminal justice system. In hopes of addressing our community's concerns and prioritizing the safety and well-being of Hawai'i Island residents we have conducted several online surveys. In

our 2021 online survey which ran from December 9, 2021 through December 30, 2021, a total of 1,422 individuals participated. Of those 1,422 participants, 1,144 or 81.08% supported legislation for harsher penalties for the criminal liability of dog owners in dog attacks resulting in substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death. Please see attached Exhibit “B”.

House Bill No. 2058 is a positive step in the right direction. That being said, there are several concerns that may need to be addressed including the incorporation of a contested hearings process for dog owners which would likely differ among the counties and their appropriate deciding bodies, standardizing the definitions of different types of “injury” as defined under HRS Chapter 707, and consideration of enacting a class B felony offense for serious bodily injury or death of another person.

The County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney remains committed to the pursuit of justice with integrity and commitment. There is a substantial public interest to address serious incidents involving irresponsible owners of dangerous dogs. The imposition of appropriate penalties and sanctions for owners of dangerous dogs will promote respect for the law, ensure that offenders receive an appropriate sentence that reflects the seriousness of the offense, provide adequate deterrence for further criminal conduct, and protect the public.

For the foregoing reasons, the, County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of House Bill No. 2058 with comments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**Section 4-4-29. Leash required for public places.**

No person shall bring or permit any dog in any County park, public school ground, or airport unless it is held under control by a suitable leash, not more than six feet long; provided, however, that dogs even under control by a suitable leash shall not be allowed in any County beach park. These restrictions shall not apply to dogs utilized by police for patrol or other police purposes.

(1983 CC, c 4, art 4, sec 4-29; am 1986, ord 86-34, sec 5; am 2022, ord 22-36, sec 6.)

**Section 4-4-30. Penalty for permitting a dog to stray.**

In addition to other penalties listed in this chapter, the owner of any dog which strays upon any public lands or the private lands of another shall be fined as follows:

- (1) For a first offense, or any offense not preceded within a five-year period by a conviction under this section: \$25.
- (2) For any offense which occurs within a five-year period of a prior conviction under this section: \$50.
- (3) For any offense which occurs within five years of two prior convictions under this section: \$75.
- (4) For any offense which occurs within five years of three or more prior convictions under this section; any one or more of the following:
  - (A) A fine of up to \$500.
  - (B) Up to one hundred hours of community service.

(1983 CC, c 4, art 4, sec 4-30; am 1995, ord 95-32, sec 3; am 2022, ord 22-36, sec 6.)

**Division 3. Dangerous Dogs.****Section 4-4-31. Dangerous dogs may be slain.**

- (a) If any dangerous, fierce, or vicious dog shall be found running at large and cannot be taken up or tranquilized and impounded, such dog may be slain by any officer or agent authorized to perform any duty under this chapter.
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary which may be found elsewhere in this chapter, where livestock have been killed, maimed or injured by any dangerous, fierce or vicious stray dog, the owner of such livestock or the owner's agent, after being deputized as a special officer in accordance with the provisions of section 4-2-4, may take any action necessary to protect the owner's livestock from such dangerous, fierce, or vicious dog, including, without limitation, slaying or otherwise disposing of the same.

(1983 CC, c 4, art 4, sec 4-28; am 2022, ord 22-36, sec 6.)

**Section 4-4-32. Negligent failure to control a dangerous dog; penalties.**

- (a) A dog owner commits the offense of negligent failure to control a dangerous dog, if the person negligently fails to take reasonable measures to prevent the dog from attacking, without provocation, a person or animal and such attack results in:
- (1) The maiming or causing of serious injury to or the destruction of an animal;
  - (2) Bodily injury to a person;
  - (3) Substantial bodily injury to a person; or
  - (4) Serious bodily injury or death.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, “reasonable measures to prevent the dog from attacking” shall include but not be limited to:
- (1) Measures required to be taken under sections 4-3-1, 4-3-2, 4-3-5, 4-4-21, 4-4-24, 4-4-30 and 4-9-1 of this chapter to prevent the dog from becoming a stray; and
  - (2) Any conditions imposed by the court for the training of the dog or owner or for the supervision, confinement or restraint of the dog for a previous conviction under this section.
- (c) A person convicted under this section of a violation of subsections (a)(1) or (a)(2) shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and sentenced to one or more of the following:
- (1) A fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000;
  - (2) A period of imprisonment of up to thirty days or, in lieu of imprisonment, a period of probation of not more than six months in accordance with the procedures, terms and conditions provided in chapter 706, part II, Hawaii Revised Statutes; or
  - (3) Restitution to any individual who has suffered bodily injury or property damage as a result of an attack by the dog.
- (d) A person convicted under this section of a violation of subsection (a)(3) shall be guilty of a class C felony and sentenced to one or more of the following:
- (1) A fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000;
  - (2) A period of imprisonment of up to five years or, in lieu of imprisonment, a period of probation of four years with up to one year of imprisonment, in accordance with the procedures, terms and conditions provided in chapter 706, part II, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
  - (3) Restitution to any individual who has suffered bodily injury or property damage as a result of an attack by the dog; or
  - (4) The dog shall be humanely destroyed.
- (e) A person convicted under this section of a violation of subsection (a)(4) shall be guilty of a class B felony and sentenced to one or more of the following:
- (1) A fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$25,000;
  - (2) A period of imprisonment of up to ten years or, a period of probation of four years with up to eighteen months of imprisonment, in accordance with the procedures, terms and conditions provided in chapter 706, part II, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

- (3) Restitution to any individual who has suffered bodily injury or property damage as a result of an attack by the dog; or
- (4) The dog shall be humanely destroyed.

(2002, ord 02-138, sec 3; am 2022, ord 22-36, secs 6 and 7.)

**Section 4-4-33. Habitual negligent failure to control a dangerous dog; penalties.**

- (a) A dog owner commits the offense of habitual negligent failure to control a dangerous dog, if the person was convicted of a violation of section 4-4-32 within five years prior to the present incident, the prior violation involved the same dog, and the dog owner negligently failed to take reasonable measures to prevent the dog from attacking, without provocation, a person or animal and such attack results in:
  - (1) The maiming or causing of serious injury to or the destruction of an animal; or
  - (2) Bodily injury to a person.
- (b) A person convicted under this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and sentenced to one or both of the following procedures, terms and conditions provided in chapter 706, part II, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
  - (1) A fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,000;
  - (2) A period of imprisonment of up to one year, or in lieu of imprisonment, a period of probation of not more than one year in accordance with the procedures, terms and conditions provided in chapter 706, part II, Hawai'i Revised Statutes;
  - (3) Restitution to any individual who has suffered bodily injury or property damage as a result of an attack by the dog; or
  - (4) The dog shall be humanely destroyed.

(2022, ord 22-36, sec 10; am 2022, ord 22-36, sec 10.)

**Section 4-4-34. Citation and summons; seizure; relinquishment of ownership.**

- (a) Upon finding probable cause to believe that there has been a violation of sections 4-4-32 or 4-4-33, an enforcement officer may arrest or issue a summons and citation to the dog's owner, or both. In addition to arresting or issuing a summons and citation to the owner, an enforcement officer shall have the dog seized and impounded until: (1) the Court orders that the dog be humanely destroyed or returned to the owner, or; (2) a criminal case arising out of the violation of section 4-4-32 or 4-4-33 is dismissed, whichever comes first. Such impoundment may be at the premises of a licensed veterinarian, a County animal control facility, or at a commercial kennel. All expenses incurred by the County relating to the care and custody of the dog shall be borne by the owner regardless of whether the alleged offense results in a conviction pursuant to the provisions of chapter 4.
- (b) If a dog is seized and impounded pursuant to this section, the citation shall notify the owner that if the owner does not appear at the time and place stated in the summons, the dog shall be subject to relinquishment pursuant to subsection (d).

- (c) Any person who refuses to surrender a dog that is subject to relinquishment pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and fined not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,000, imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.
- (d) In the event that the owner of a dog seized and impounded pursuant to this section fails to appear in court as required, ownership of the dog shall be deemed relinquished and the court may order disposition of the dog as it deems appropriate.
- (e) Notwithstanding any relinquishment of ownership of the dog pursuant to subsection (d) or voluntary relinquishment of ownership of the dog, the owner shall still be responsible for all expenses of boarding the dog and any penalties which may be imposed by the court.

(2002, ord 02-138, sec 3; am 2022, ord 22-36, secs 6 and 9.)

**Section 4-4-35. Additional penalties.**

- (a) Unless the dog has been or is ordered to be humanely destroyed, the dog owner shall also be sentenced to the following provisions, in addition to the provisions of sections 4-4-32 and 4-4-33:
  - (1) The owner shall provide the owner's name, address and telephone number to the County animal control service;
  - (2) The owner shall provide the location at which the dog is currently kept, if such location is not the owner's address;
  - (3) The owner shall promptly notify the appropriate animal control service of:
    - (A) Any changes in the ownership of the dog or the location of the dog along with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of new owners or the new address at which the dog is located;
    - (B) Any further instances of an attack by the dog upon a person or an animal;
    - (C) Any claims made or lawsuits brought as a result of further instances of an attack by the dog; or
    - (D) The death of the dog.
  - (4) The owner shall obtain a license for the dog pursuant to section 143-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, if the dog is not currently licensed; and
  - (5) Unless already identified by microchip, the dog shall be permanently identified, at the owner's expense, by injecting into the dog an identification microchip using standard veterinary procedures and practices. The microchip identification number of the dog shall be provided to the County animal control service.
- (b) Unless the dog has been or is ordered to be humanely destroyed, in addition to the provisions of subsection (a), the dog owner may also be sentenced to any of the following terms or conditions:
  - (1) When indoors, the dog be under the control of a person eighteen years of age or older;
  - (2) When outdoors and unattended, the dog be kept within a locked fenced or walled area from which it cannot escape;
  - (3) When outdoors and unattended, the dog be confined to an escape-proof kennel;



- (4) When outdoors, the dog be attended and kept within a fenced or walled area from which it cannot escape;
  - (5) When outdoors, the dog be attended and kept on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of a person eighteen years of age or older;
  - (6) When outdoors, the dog be attended and muzzled with a muzzle that prevents the dog from biting any person or animal but does not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration;
  - (7) A sign or signs be placed in a location or locations directed by the court advising the public of the presence and dangerousness of the dog;
  - (8) The owner and dog, at the owner's expense, attend training sessions conducted by an animal behaviorist, a licensed veterinarian, or other recognized expert in the field;
  - (9) The dog be neutered or spayed at the owner's expense, unless the neutering or spaying of the dog is medically contraindicated;
  - (10) The owner procure liability insurance or post bond of not less than \$50,000, or for a higher amount if the court finds a higher amount appropriate to cover the medical and/or veterinary costs resulting from potential future actions of the dog;
  - (11) The dog be humanely destroyed; or
  - (12) Any other condition the court deems necessary to restrain or control the dog.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, an "escape-proof kennel" means a kennel which allows the dog to stand normally and without restriction, which is at least two and one-half times the length of the dog, and which protects the dog from the elements. Fencing or wall materials required under this section shall not have openings with a diameter of more than two inches, and in the case of wooden fences, the gaps therein shall not be more than two inches. Any gates within such kennel or structure shall be lockable and of such design as to prevent the entry of children or the escape of the dog, and when the dog is confined to such kennel or area and unattended, such locks shall be kept locked. The kennel may be required to have double exterior walls to prevent the insertion of fingers, hands, or other objects.
- (d) Upon probable cause, an enforcement officer may either arrest or issue a summons and citation to the owner for violation of subsection (a).
- (2022, ord 22-36, sec 13.)

**Section 4-4-36. Civil action not precluded.**

Nothing contained in this article shall preclude any person injured by a dog from bringing a civil action against the owner of such dog pursuant to the applicable provisions of state law.

(2002, ord 02-138, sec 3; am 2022, ord 22-36, secs 6 and 12.)

**Section 4-4-37. Exemption.**

The provisions of this article shall not apply to dogs owned by any law enforcement agency and used in the performance of law enforcement work.

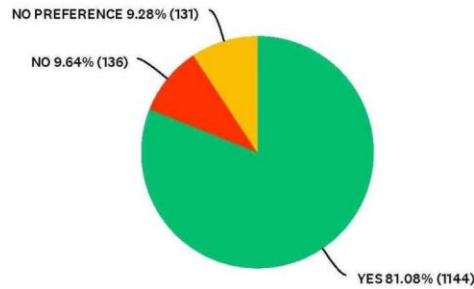
(2002, ord 02-138, sec 3; am 2022, ord 22-36, secs 6 and 8.)



OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES SURVEY

Q9 Do you support legislation for harsher penalties for the criminal liability of dog owners in dog attacks resulting in substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death?

Answered: 1,411 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	81.08%	1,144
NO	9.64%	136
NO PREFERENCE	9.28%	131
TOTAL		1,411

**BACKGROUND**

Currently, regardless of the seriousness of the injury, most dog attack cases on Hawai'i Island are investigated and prosecuted as a violation of Hawai'i County Code Section 4-31. If convicted a person shall be subject to a fine between \$200 and \$2,000, up to thirty (30) days in jail, and/or six (6) months probation. HRS provides the following relevant definitions:

"Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

"Substantial bodily injury" means bodily injury which causes a major avulsion, laceration, or penetration of the skin, a bone fracture, a serious concussion, or a tearing, rupture, or corrosive damage to the esophagus, viscera, or other internal organs.

**PROSECUTORS PROPOSAL**

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney proposes assessing felony level penalties where a dog attack results in substantial or serious bodily injury, or death.





**LATE**

Date: Jan. 31, 2024

To: Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas  
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick  
Hawai'i Animal Welfare Association, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony with support for HB 2058: Relating to Dangerous Dogs  
Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, 2 p.m., Room 325 and Via Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Animal Welfare Association, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 2058, which establishes requirements and penalties for owners of dangerous dogs, allows for impounding of dangerous dogs under certain conditions, and takes effect 1/1/2025.

HAWA represents the largest animal welfare nonprofits in each county and the animal law enforcement contractors on Kauai, O'ahu and Maui. Our members are in strong support of this measure.

Fatal attacks on Hawai'i Island have fueled anger in the community and created a sense of powerlessness among law enforcement agencies. Hawai'i County attempted to address the lack of an appropriate penalty for serious dog bites in 2022 but learned it could not codify a felony penalty in county ordinance.

Better tools are needed statewide to encourage dog owners to keep their animals contained and their neighborhoods safe, to prevent attacks, and to impose adequate punishment when they occur. This bill would help to provide those tools.

We request the following clarifying amendments of the committee:

**Under definitions:**

“Serious injury to ~~a domestic~~ any animal” means physical injury to the animal involving a broken bone, a laceration requiring multiple stitches, a concussion, or a tearing or rupture of an organ.

**Under Legal requirements of owner:**

(7) Ensure that when the dangerous dog is outside on the owner's premises and attended, the dangerous dog is kept on a fixed and secure leash no longer than four feet in length, under the control of a person at least eighteen years of age, and kept within a fenced or walled area from which it cannot escape;

(8) Ensure that when the dangerous dog is outdoors outside the owner's premises, the dangerous dog shall be kept on a fixed and secure leash no longer than four feet in length, under the control of a person who is at least eighteen years of age, and muzzled with a properly fitted, basket muzzle that prevents the dangerous dog from biting any person or animal but does not cause injury to the dangerous dog or interfere with its vision or respiration;

(9) Place a sign or signs provided by the animal control authority on the owner's premises informing the public of the presence and dangerousness of the dangerous dog; and

We urge the committee to pass HB 2058 to keep people and animals safe from harm. Mahalo for your consideration.



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

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

Date: Jan. 31, 2024

To: Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas  
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony with support for HB 2058: Relating to Dangerous Dogs  
Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, 2 p.m., Room 325 and Via Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 2058, which establishes requirements and penalties for owners of dangerous dogs, allows for impounding of dangerous dogs under certain conditions, and takes effect 1/1/2025.

The current response to dangerous dog issues in Hawai'i is dictated by county ordinance. While local control makes sense for a lot of issues, it has its limitations when it comes to these offences. This bill takes the issue to the state level in order to address those limitations.

HB 2058 would improve law enforcement's response to the threat dogs may pose in the community, as well as to bite incidents, in the following ways:

- It allows pre-court dangerous dog designations in cases – such as frequent strays that menace the community without causing a bite injury – that are designed to preserve a pet owner's property rights while keeping the community safe. These same rules could be imposed in the case of minor bites when a victim does not want to press charges, preventing a more serious incident and/or helping to establish proof of negligence if the owner is noncompliant. These are the most common dangerous dog issues seen by law enforcement and the current tools are inadequate to compel better behavior, leading to frustration in the community.

- The bill also creates a process for reversing a dangerous dog designation under certain conditions. This has precedent in other jurisdictions and is a step toward more progressive animal law enforcement.
- For cases serious enough to warrant prosecution, particularly those that cause the serious injury or death of a human being, this measure allows for a felony penalty, which is not possible under county ordinance. Our communities are angry that these cases, especially the truly egregious ones, are not taken more seriously.

This measure is intended to have the double benefit of reducing the number of cases that will need to go to court at all, while imposing more appropriate penalties for those that do.

While public safety is the primary goal of this measure, its provisions also take a strong stand for animal welfare.

- It has clear guidelines for what constitutes provocation.
- It does not discriminate based on arbitrary factors such as breed.
- It standardizes the rules across the state, allowing for more consistent training and enforcement at the county level.
- It requires pre-paid boarding or surrender of impounded dogs. Pre-paid boarding is common in other jurisdictions, and it reduces the number of animals who suffer the devastating mental and physical deterioration that occurs in dogs who spend a year or more in a shelter environment while cases resolve.

We have worked with our peers at the Hawai'i Animal Welfare Association on this measure and we support the changes requested in HAWA's testimony.

We urge you to pass HB 2058, which will allow law enforcement to better respond to community concerns, prevent dog bites from taking place, and increase penalties in the case of the worst attacks.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:31:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael J Konowicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely support HB2058.

It is a travesty that people have been killed, injured, or maimed by vicious dogs in our state with limited repercussions.

I am supporting this bill in honor of Bob Northrop who was killed on the streets of the Big Island by a pack of 4 dogs last August.

Please honor his life and protect our lives by supporting this bill too.

Signed, Michael Konowicz

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:49:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED:**

To many people on Hawaii Island are being killed, mauled, injured and traumatized to the point of being prisoners in their own homes because of loose and dangerous dogs. the Laws are so weak that either they cannot be enforced or the punishment pales in comparison to the violation. **VICTIMS FEEL HOPELESS AND ALSO FEAR RETALIATION FOR EVEN REPORTING THESE ISSUES.** BILL 125 in Hawaii County was supposed to address these issues but because the State Law is weaker, it diminishes what can be done in this county. In the meantime, people are dying a horrific death and those who are mauled and survived are traumatized for life!





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



Wednesday, January 31, 2024

The Honorable Representative David Tarnas, Chair  
Hawai'i House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
Room 442, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Due Process Concerns with House Bill 2058 (Dangerous Dogs)**

Chair Tarnas and members of the Hawai'i House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs, and represents over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 40 clubs in Hawai'i. 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.

AKC and our affiliated clubs are both happy and proud to serve lawmakers and communities by sharing with them our animal care and responsible ownership principles. **Today, we write to share some concerns with House Bill 2058. We respectfully request that the committee, including you as cosponsor and committee member Ilagan as primary sponsor, amend the bill prior to further consideration.**

AKC supports reasonable, enforceable, non-discriminatory (i.e., breed-neutral) laws to govern the ownership of dogs, including laws that: establish a fair process by which specific dogs are identified as "dangerous" based on stated, measurable actions; impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible owners; and establish a well-defined method for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous. To these ends, we support many of the provisions of Section 2 of HB 2058, including the following draft sections as described here:

- **Definitions**
- **Designation as dangerous dogs; basis**
- **Legal requirements of owner, in part**
- **Rescission of declaration**
- **Negligent failure to control a dangerous dog**
- **Inspection**
- **Exemption**
- **Civil action not precluded.**

However, AKC is concerned with parts of draft section **Impoundment of a dangerous dog**. In our view, the provisions of subsection (e)(2)(B) and of subsection (f) (page 14 of bill) will lead to a forfeiture of ownership by operation of law without affording a defendant an opportunity to appeal the impoundment, the assessment of fees, or the reasonableness of fees. We are of the same view of the mandatory spay/neuter requirement in subsection (a)(10) of **Legal requirements of owner** (page 8). Respectfully, a failure to provide an individual with those opportunities would result in a deprivation of procedural due process.

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

AKC believes that governments must protect constitutional rights and privileges of dog owners. Owners must be afforded substantive and procedural due process protections, and must not be permanently or unreasonably deprived of the property interests they have in their animals without first pleading guilty to, being found guilty of, or pleading “no contest” to, animal-related criminal charges.

In cases involving seized animals in which an owner does not voluntarily surrender ownership, laws that provide for the assessment of care costs upon a finding of probable cause of criminal activity must: limit such assessments to amounts that are reasonable, substantiated costs directly related to care of the seized animals; allow courts to waive such fees in cases involving an indigent defendant; provide for full refund of fees and interest in any case not resulting in a final adjudication of guilt or pleading no contest; and, absent the owner’s written consent, prohibit the spaying or neutering of, or performance of other elective non-therapeutic surgery on, any seized animal during pendency of a case.

We encourage the adoption of appropriate amendments to HB 2058 to ensure the due process rights of Hawai’i’s dog owners are protected.

Thank you for consideration of these concerns. Please feel free to contact me at (919) 816-3503 or [phil.guidry@akc.org](mailto:phil.guidry@akc.org), or Lynn Muramaru of our Hawaiian federation of dog clubs, the Pacific Pet Alliance, at [pacificpetalliance@gmail.com](mailto:pacificpetalliance@gmail.com), if we may be of additional assistance on this or any other dog-related matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Guidry", with a horizontal line underneath.

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

CC: HB 2058 sponsors: Committee Chair Tarnas, Committee member Ilagan, Representative Nishimoto  
Lynn Muramaru – Pacific Pet Alliance

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

February 1, 2023

**LATE**

Members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs::

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy.

The Pacific Pet Alliance (PPA) would like to submit concerns for your consideration regarding HB 2058.

PPA aligns with the American Kennel Club's views that while we support many of the provisions of this bill, the rights of dog owners under the due process of law are being infringed upon. Please refer to the testimony submitted by the American Club for suggested amendments and areas of concern.

On behalf of the 38 American Kennel Club clubs and their members in the state of Hawaii, the Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully asks this committee to consider these concerns when deciding on HB 2058.

Lynn Muramaru  
Board Member  
Pacific Pet Alliance



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

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

**LATE**

Date: Jan. 31, 2024

To: Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas  
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Submitted By: Harold Han Jr., Sr. Manager of Field Operations and Response  
HPD Special Police, badge #2706  
Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS), 808-356-2211

RE: Testimony with support for HB 2058: Relating to Dangerous Dogs

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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

On behalf of the HHS's Field Operations and Enforcement team, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 2058, which establishes requirements and penalties for owners of dangerous dogs, allows for impounding of dangerous dogs under certain conditions, and takes effect 1/1/2025.

The current response to dangerous dog issues in Hawai'i is dictated by county ordinance. While local control makes sense for a lot of issues, it has its limitations when it comes to these offences. This bill takes the issue to the state level in order to address those limitations.

HB 2058 would improve the law enforcement response to the threat dogs may pose in the community, as well as to bite incidents, in the following ways:

- It allows pre-court dangerous dog designations in cases – such as frequent strays that menace the community without causing a bite injury – that are designed to preserve a pet owner's property rights while keeping the community safe. These same rules could be imposed in the case of minor bites when a victim does not want to press charges, preventing a more serious incident or helping to establish proof of negligence if the owner is noncompliant. These are the most common dangerous dog issues seen by law enforcement and the current tools are inadequate to compel better behavior, leading to frustration in the community.

- The bill also creates a process for reversing a dangerous dog designation under certain conditions. This has precedent in other jurisdictions and is a step toward more progressive animal law enforcement.
- For cases serious enough to warrant prosecution, particularly those that cause the serious injury or death of a human being, this measure allows for a felony penalty, which is not possible under county ordinance. Our communities are angry that these cases, especially the truly egregious ones, are not taken more seriously.

This measure is intended to have the double benefit of reducing the number of cases that will need to go to court at all, while imposing more appropriate penalties for those that do.

**Of significant note and in past cases:**

- 1. Two (2) large dogs that had multiple dangerous dog designations were in our care for 12-1/2 months, in which time their muscle mass deteriorated and developed medical conditions from being housed in a kennel 24/7 with no enrichment. The judge ordered them separated and re-homed, with no follow-up orders, placing the public at risk. In addition there was no provision for restitution for housing these dogs which would amount to roughly \$31,620.00 total.**
- 2. One (1) very large 160lb. dog that had multiple severe bite cases was housed here pending trial for 17 months and experience the same deterioration, which is a form of suffering being kenneled 24/7. The cost here would amount to \$44,795.00.**

While public safety is the primary goal of this measure, its provisions also take a strong stand for animal welfare.

- It has clear guidelines for what constitutes provocation.
- It does not discriminate based on arbitrary factors such as breed.
- It standardizes the rules across the state, allowing for more consistent training and enforcement at the county level.
- It requires pre-paid boarding or surrender of impounded dogs. Pre-paid boarding is common in other jurisdictions, and it reduces the number of animals who suffer the devastating mental and physical deterioration that occurs in dogs who spend a year or more in a shelter environment while cases resolve.

We urge you to pass HB 2058, which will allow law enforcement to better respond to community concerns, prevent dog bites from taking place, and increase penalties in the case of the worst attacks.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**ADA**

**HAWAII**

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS	MAILING ADDRESS		
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	Jan Lubin	Stephen O'Harrow	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Shannon Matson	Maria Glodilet Rallojaj	Honolulu
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Robert Kinslow	Jenny Nomura	Bill South	

February 1, 2024

TO: Chair Tarnas and Members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

RE: Re: HB 2058 on Dangerous Dogs - strong support

**LATE**

Support for Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2024, 2:00 pm

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support progressive legislation in Hawaii and nationally. The late Patsy Mink was one of its leaders. Our ADA state board respectfully testifies on a personal basis in strong support of this bill. One of our board members is Shannon Matson, whose father, Robert "Bob" Northrop, was killed last August while walking on the street when four large uncontrolled dogs ran out from their owner's house and mauled him.

We were rather surprised to learn that Hawaii has no comprehensive law on controlling violent dogs. This failure must be remedied as soon as possible. We strongly support the present bill and agree with the clarifying amendments proposed by Hawai'i Animal Welfare Association. Thank you very much for your consideration of our testimony. (We apologize for submitting it late.)

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:54:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We refer to **Bill HB2058** to be heard by the *Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs* on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. This Bill establishes requirements and penalties for owners of so-called dangerous dogs and allows for the impounding of those dogs under certain conditions.

This measure recognizes the terrible damage that can be done when one or more dogs attack without provocation. Dangerous dog violations are currently enforced by the counties and the penalties are an insufficient response to the worst attacks.

The current ordinances also fail to provide law enforcement with adequate tools to keep dogs safe and prevent harm to the community, and they result in dogs being impounded for long periods.

This Bill addresses those shortcomings in a variety of ways:

It creates a state-wide dangerous dog law, enabling a felony penalty for bites that maim or kill a person.

It standardizes rules state-wide.

It improves law enforcement tools with the goal of preventing bites.

It requires pre-paid boarding to reduce the damaging long-term impoundment of dogs.

(Our organisation contends that, as companion dogs are under the control of humans, a likely factor in this serious matter is that some owners have dangerously made the dogs conform to this pattern, so we would support an education programme to mitigate this risk.)

We beg to support the Bill.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:38:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loke Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele- Keanaai	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

THIS proposal is a good start but is not enough. Please review Bill125 Hawai'i County that was passed in 2022. This law has the kind of teeth we need to clean up our streets. THIS is where to start. We cannot enforce this law unless the state has the same level of punishment for the crime of unprovoked vicious dog attacks. We have had three people die on our island in the last 3 years. The growth of dog bites, dog maulings of pets, humans and farm animals has grown exponentially and this has to stop! Old time days, one person died and every one would get into action to stop it. Now, people dying is not enough to get our legislatures to act and make laws that keep our streets clean.

WE need a well thought out law. WE need rehabilitation of the owners who commit the crime of neglecting to stop their dogs from getting out and attacking people, pets and farm animals. There has to be a real punishment of C Class C Felony like what COUNTY of Hawai'i law calls for.

We need public education on proper dog ownership and accountability.

THE dogs need to be seized immediately by Animal Control and euthanized as soon as possible. THE likelihood of a dangerous dog to rehabilitate after tasting blood is not possible in most cases and those that are willing, will the Animal Control follow up and assure it all being done when they can't even keep up with what they are doing.

Please reconsider this bill and understand the amount of damage done on our island, how unsafe our streets are for people to walk and jog with the numbers of dangerous dogs roaming the streets and getting out of their property. We need more. THIS subject can not be taken so lightly as to think owners of vicious dogs who have mauled someone to death or a pet to death can be rehabilitated by the person that allowed their dogs to be so dangerous and they need rehabilitation before they own another dog. THEY are not going to rehabilitate themselves!! Maybe you have not witnessed a dog mauling and the horrible outcome? Let me tell you it is terrifying. I was terrorized for four months by our neighbor's three pitbulls who ended up terrorizing the neighborhood. THEY ended up mauling our service dog for my Vietnam Veteran husband with sever ptsd. THEY crushed her skull and left her like that. THEY bit my other dog all over his



body. WE had to drive one hour and half to the vet to have her put down and tending to my remaining dog. He suffers with ptsd since then.

People have lost their mother, grandmother, father, etc to being mauled to death. THink hard about not taking the steps to fixing this problem please!!!

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:22:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this bill regarding dangerous dog owners. This is an incredibly personal bill to me and my family as we recently suffered the loss of my father due to the negligence of dog owners that allowed their 4 dogs to roam and kill my dad, Bob Northrop on August 1st., 2023. As an animal lover and someone who has frequently had scary interactions with loose dogs in my own rural neighborhood in the past I can tell you that this is a much bigger issue than just our personal loss. We need to do more to protect our other animals and people by holding dangerous dog owners accountable. Across our State, people are fearful to walk in their neighborhoods due to irresponsible dog owners. Not enough has been done to hold dog owners accountable and unfortunately our family and others who have suffered similar losses or severe injuries have faced disappointing responses from the Prosecutor's office or Courts as our County laws and State laws are not in agreement. This bill is a long overdue attempt to correct this problem. Please pass it this session. Do not allow another family to go through what we have been through, to experience a devastating loss and then be faced with the follow-up response that while everyone agrees that this terrible and preventable death shouldn't have happened there is nothing that can be legally done within our current laws to hold the dog owners accountable. This is within your power to fix, please fix it and help protect our animals and communities from future attacks.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Shannon Matson

Puna Resident

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:14:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexis	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexis Kerver. I am a resident of Ocean View and I live less than a block away from where the dog attack occurred in August 2023 that resulted in the death of Robert Northrop. I was not home at the time of the incident, however, once I heard about it I asked my neighbor if he heard anything. My neighbor explained that he heard every scream and that the sounds were traumatic and he felt helpless. There was nothing he could do without endangering himself in the process. Many neighbors that heard the screams have also stated this. Since this incident, my personal mental health has struggled in the form of anxiety and stress. I have 5 dogs of my own, 4 of which I rescued from the streets when they were found in an extremely malnourished condition. I also have livestock on my property and have to go to extreme measures now to ensure their safety. I no longer feel safe to take walks on the street in our beautiful community. These dangerous and loose dogs have threatened the safety and wellbeing of our entire Ocean View community.

Furthermore, my neighbors dogs are constantly barking at late night hours (2AM - 4AM) and I hear screams from the neighbors saying "Go Home!" as if they are screaming at dogs roaming the streets". As much as owners of "dangerous dogs" should be accountable, owners of "abandoned and neglected dogs" should be equally held accountable. This happens almost every night and has taken a toll on my health due to lack of and interrupted sleep.

Irresponsible dog owners that over-breed and abandon dogs do so because they know they can get away with it. They know that there is no penalty. Until penalties are put in place and the Hawaii State Legislature establishes measures to hold these irresponsible and negligent dog owners accountable, the State of Hawaii is therefore contributing to the unsafe conditions of our community. It is up to you to ensure the safety of the people and we ask that you do your part to do so.

Mahalo for your time,

Alexis Kerver

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:41:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Ward	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators,

This bill needs your support, and I have a personal reason for asking. In 2014 I was working on my farm, when two pitbulls owned by guests of my neighbor entered my farm unleashed and knocked me to the ground. One bit my legs, and created a gaping hole in my calf and thigh. The other went for my face, but I fended him off with my arm, and that dog broke open my arm, shook his head violently, and broke the bones in my hand and finger. Nine years later, I am still unable to use the fingers in that hand. Because there was the possibility that I would be suing, therefore putting payment in jeopardy, Queens hospital refused to take me, already prepped in the helpciopter. For the same concern, Hale Anuenue refused to allow me to receive occupational therapy there. So I had less than optimal repair surgery and expensive self-pay therapy, none of which was reimbursed by the neighbors or dog owners.

I request that you consider adding a measure of required monetary compensation to the victim or family for these "manslaughter" events, and remember that victims that are not killed still have painful, lifechanging and expensive outcomes.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Deborah Ward

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:07:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Ann Halpin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperately need help in Ocean View with dangerous dogs. Ocean view is overwhelmed with a banded and neglected animals..

Deborah Ane, Halpin

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**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:48:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Owning a dog is a serious responsibility. Too many dog owners do not do enough to keep either their animals or their neighbors safe, and partly because penalties for negligence are relatively low, owners of dogs that hurt other animals or people unprovoked are not being adequately held accountable. This perpetuates the less-than-serious attitude many dog owners take regarding this responsibility. A more appropriate penalty will hopefully prevent more tragedies from occurring.

As an animal lover, I am naturally wary of laws that might be used to unnecessarily harm or kill animals, including dogs, however. As someone who has not studied law, I am hoping that those with the expertise and knowledge will be able to ensure this bill doesn't cause unintended consequences to animals and their welfare. An appropriate balance must be met to protect people and animals from dangerous dogs, but also to ensure that dogs are being re-trained and rehabilitated whenever possible, and not destroyed unless it truly is unavoidable.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:55:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely need this dangerous dog bill! Dog owners need to be held responsible for the horrific trauma & financial costs they cause to others.

This is a no-brainer.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:06:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zahava Zaidoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of this measure. I live in a rural district in Hawaii Island. Dogs are a problem here. A huge problem. In the last few years we have had so many instances of injury by dogs who are not taken care of by their owners.

there are streets I won't drive down because dogs run out of houses and off of properties and chase cars. A man on a moped was pulled off his moped several years ago and hospitalized.

A friend's father, and member of my community was killed by a pack of dogs some months ago.

On Hawaii island, we have statutes to address this issue but we cannot because the state has no law on the books.

please pass this law so that I never have to go to another funeral that could have been prevented by dog owners who are so irresponsible that it is criminal.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Zahava Zaidoff

HD5



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:17:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill, as there are dangerous dogs, not dangerous breeds. We need to be able to get them off our streets.


**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:29:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charity Gjerset	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

 Seeking information of any bystanders & witnesses To myself / woman getting mauled, attacked & bit by a brindle pitbull or you have witnessed three dogs that match descriptions below PLEASE CONTACT Hawai'i Police Department Contact Phone: 1 808-935-3311 REPORT # 24-002243 After being attacked January 7, 2025 2:30 pm - 3 pm Location: Lehia Beach Park Hilo, Hawai'i by a loose brindle pit bull today, in pain w/ multiple punctures & bruising. Cacisian Guy(s) had two loose dogs one being a tan amputated dog and the other brindle pitbull, while the leashed 3rd largest bull dog was launching & dig into attempted to attack me too, while I was on ground getting attacked & bit by brindle pitbull. While a couple other of his so called friends stood and watched me get bit 3 times & 6 teeth puncture bites & lots of multiple other tooth scratches, before removing dog from my arm after I yelled to my ohana whom was only less than a minute ahead on trail. I was in a state of trauma & rested after & to make sure the dog didn't hit any arteries. I will never be or feel the same after this and I have dealt with aggressive dogs here in Hawai'i way to often. Makes me sick physically & mentally & I have a disgust about what happened. As for the dog & feel it needs to be put down & I can help with that also (I'm a experienced vet tech) cuz if this dog attacked anyone of the little keiki that was there today or ever it could be fatal to anyone. 🙏

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:23:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. It is long overdue.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:51:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Koohan Paik-Mander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is astonishing to think of how many people in Hawaii have been maimed or even KILLED due to the absence of any effective legislation to protect Hawaii's people from dangerous dogs. Such unnecessary suffering and death!!! Please support this urgently needed bill!

Thank you.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:35:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The prevalence of careless dog owners is a hazard to humans and to the dogs who are made to pay the price of bad (or no) training.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:52:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dogs of negligent owners circulate in my neighborhood as well - please pass this bill! Mahalo

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:53:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha / Please support HB2058 in honor of all the victims that were killed, injured and maimed by vicious dogs. one resident from Big Island, Bob Northrop, who was killed on the street by a pack of 4 dogs last August.

Mahalo

Elizabeth Hansen

Halalau HI 96710

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:01:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Len Gambla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I fully support this Bill and would like to thank you for drafting and considering it. The fact we have to pass legislation to help people become more responsible for their dangerous dogs is sad but needed.

Mahalo, Len Gambla



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:09:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I approve of this bill. However, there is another unlisted victim of dog attacks not mentioned in this bill. The victim of the dangerous dog attack certainly requires their medical care and counseling paid for by the dog owners. The family or community members who bear witness to an attack are also emotionally traumatized by someone being injured or killed. They, too, deserve reimbursement for their counseling. Excellent bill.

Thank you,

Mrs. Ruth Love

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:08:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2058 is long past due!

If the legislature is unable to protect the public / our children and our elderly - from vicious dogs and from any further DEATHS from viscous dogs attacks - then WHAT GOOD ARE YOU?

I am sickened by the last 3 high profile attacks. I an even MORE sickened by the plethora of EXCUSES - by the police, by local, county and state prosecutors, and by you, our elected "leaders."

If YOUR daughter had been permanently disfigured by a vicious dog - If your father had been brutally killed by a vicious dog, you would not be passively waiting for someone else to "do something about it."

NO MORE EXCUSES. Do your job. Earn the paycheck that WE pay you with our crippling taxes. Pass the law that will stop this senseless failure to protect our children and our elderly. Enable and REQUIRE law enforcement and prosecutors to arrest, charge, convict, punish, and hold accountable - demonstrably unsafe, viscous dogs.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:31:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Hawaii native, reside in Palolo, and support this bill.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:33:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nako'o Warrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2058**

**This legislation is way overdue! Please pass HB 2058 to ensure dog owners are FINALLY held accountable for their dangerous dogs.**

**Please, victims of dangerous dogs deserve justice!!!**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:35:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill recognizes the terrible damage that can be done when one or more dogs attack without provocation. Dangerous dog violations are currently enforced by the counties and the penalties are an insufficient response to the worst attacks.

The current ordinances also fail to provide law enforcement with adequate tools to keep dogs safe and prevent harm to the community, and they result in dogs being impounded for long periods.

This bill addresses those shortcomings in a variety of ways:

- It creates a statewide dangerous dog law, enabling a felony penalty for bites that maim or kill a person.
- It standardizes rules statewide.
- It improves law enforcement tools with the goal of preventing bites.
- It requires pre-paid boarding to reduce the damaging long-term impoundment of dogs.

I support this bill which is long overdue.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:39:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: I am a resident of Hawaiian Paradise Park on the Big Island of Hawaii. We have had several dog attacks in our subdivision in the past two years; one of which resulted in the death of an elderly woman. The problem with loose dogs has become so pervasive that I am afraid to walk in my neighborhood. I own a dog and would love to take him on a walk but I only consider doing so if I have the time to take the dog to some safe place where we can enjoy our walk without having to be threatened by loose dogs that may or may not be dangerous. I know from experience with owning multiple dogs that even dogs that normally are friendly and well-behaved can engage in pack behavior and become aggressive towards people and or other pets. This behavior can become magnified if the dogs have become lost from wandering away from home.

I moved to Hawaii from Austin, TX where there was similar legislation or regulations as proposed by this bill. It was my understanding from other dog owners in Austin that a provision requiring a dog owner who has a dog that has been classified as a dangerous dog to maintain a certain level of liability insurance was one of the most effective tools in motivating dog owners to train their dogs and keep them secured. HB 2058 has similar language that I believe should achieve similar results.

I consider myself an animal rights advocate and HB 2058 seems very thoughtfully crafted to protect dogs from unfair punishment when provocation is involved. I am impressed with the balanced approach that the bill takes.

Until we hold dog owner accountable for taking common sense measures to properly secure their dogs the public will never be protected. I believe that HB 2058 is balanced, fair and desperately needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:44:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in *urgent* support for HB2058.

Since I was a kid in Hawai'i, now middle-aged, we had kids, adults, and kupunas severely injured and traumatized by vicious dogs. In August 2023, a pack of four dogs killed a man named Bob Northrop. He was the father of a respected community member on Hawai'i Island.

What is most angering is that for generations our leaders let the dogs go back to the owner with no charges. This sends a message that the system does not care about the people and the community's safety. Many return home terrified to walk in their neighborhood after an incident like this, and they have to change their routes and routines to avoid the dog(s) that attacked them. Bob Northrop, wasn't even given that chance.

This bill creates responsibility and consequences we have been waiting for. Now is the time to pass this into law.

We need leaders that look out for our people, this is one way to do just that.

Mahalo  
Maki Morinoue  
Hōlualoa  
96725

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:14:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill recognizes the terrible damage that can be done when one or more dogs attack without provocation. Dangerous dog violations are currently enforced by the counties and the penalties are an insufficient response to the worst attacks.

Current ordinances also fail to provide law enforcement with adequate tools to keep dogs safe and prevent harm to the community, and they result in dogs being impounded for long periods.

This bill addresses those shortcomings in a variety of ways:

- It creates a statewide dangerous dog law, enabling a felony penalty for bites that maim or kill a person.
- It standardizes rules statewide.
- It improves law enforcement tools with the goal of preventing bites.

Please move this bill forward.



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:16:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey Mermel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators: I am a 45 year homeowner, tax payer and voter here on the Big Island.

It is far too often that I read in the newspaper about a person being maimed or even killed by uncontrolled and dangerous dogs.

I urge you to legislate some laws to make the owners of these vicious dogs more accountable.

Thus I SUPPORT HB 2058.

Mahalo for thoughtful consideration

Jeffrey Mermel

Laura Acasio  
Hilo, Hawaii  
January 30, 2024

Subject: **Testimony in Support of HB 2058 – Establishing Requirements and Penalties for Owners of Dangerous Dogs**

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Distinguished Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to express my **strong support for House Bill 2058**, which seeks to address the pressing issue of dangerous dogs in Hawaii and consequences for their owners. As a concerned citizen and a resident, I believe that enacting legislation to define and regulate dangerous dogs is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities. There have been far too many vicious, and even deadly, attacks which have brought little to no consequence or responsibility to the dog owners.

I urge you all to support House Bill 2058 aims to define what constitutes a dangerous dog and establishes penalties for owners of dangerous dogs. It begins to address that individuals who fail to control or train their dogs, resulting in harm to persons or other animals, will face consequences. These penalties serve as both a deterrent and a means of promoting responsible pet ownership.

I urge the committee to consider the broader implications of this bill on public safety, the humane treatment of animals, and the pain that vicious dogs have inflicted on individuals and families with loss of life and permanently debilitating injuries.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and mahalo for your dedication to public service and the well-being of Hawaii's residents. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:33:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Usinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and urge you to pass it in order to protect the citizens from dangerous dogs and hold owners responsible. It's obviously a huge problem here as people and been killed and maimed! As a result I worry for my grandchildren who live in Ocean View and play outdoors. Mahalo.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:45:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. It will promote responsible pet ownership.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:57:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

👉!! I support HB2058 in honor of all the victims that were killed, injured and maimed by vicious dogs including Bob Northrop, who was killed on the street by a pack of 4 dogs last August. THIS NEEDS TO STOP AND PEOPLE NEED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE!

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:00:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passing this legislation that will be a good first step in protecting potential victims of dog attacks. More must be done. I am testifying in honor of my Father in Law Bob Northrop, who was killed by 4 dogs August 1st 2023 in OceanView, Hi, while on a walk. Mahalo for your time.

John Matson

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:03:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Northrop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My ex-husband and the father of my 2 daughters was killed while walking down the street August 1st of last year. Please pass laws that hold people accountable for the behavior of their animals. Please pass a law that is enforceable. Make it safe to go for a walk in Hawaii again.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:02:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Corby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of the "dangerous dog" bills to create stronger penalties (and hopefully enforcement) of people who own dangerous dogs and allow them to injure and kill others. This is a major problem here on the Big Island. I've been a Puna Resident for 8 years now and in most neighborhoods here, we cannot enjoy a simple walk around our neighborhood due to loose dangerous, killer dogs. Just in the past few years here on Big Island, we've had 2 Kupuna murdered by packs of aggressive dogs, a young school girl maimed permanently and another woman maimed in critical condition. In addition, I've had many close calls myself fending off loose dangerous dogs that have attacked my dog while I walked my dog on a leash. In 2 cases my dogs needed vet care after the dog attacks. In all of these cases there has been ZERO consequences for the owners of these killer attack dogs who roam our streets, even in the horrific cases where actually people got killed, Ms. Oskins and Mr. Northrup. Still no accountability for the owners? this is a shame and very disrespectful to the victims and their families. WE CANNOT continue to allow people to harbour and release killer dogs on our streets that continue to kill and maim people and other pets. No one else should have to DIE to do something about this problem. We should be able to safely walk our neighborhoods. PLEASE Hold these irresponsible dog owners accountable. They need big \$\$\$ fines and/or serious jail time when their dogs injure and kill to learn a lesson and set a precedent. Thank you, Rebecca Corby



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:26:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill!

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:43:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Dalton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of rural south Hawai'i island, I strongly support HB2058. Many areas of the Big Island's vast, sparsely populated subdivisions are plagued by roaming packs of hungry, vicious dogs. These animals pose a serious threat to people, property, and pets. Jurisdictional changes to Hawai'i County animal control functions have effectively eliminated emergency response to life-threatening situations. HB2058 will help make dangerous dog-owners fully accountable for the destruction caused by their "pets."

Thank you.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:44:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Stowell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB2058. Dangerous dog owners need to be held accountable for inexcusable vicious behavior of their animals.

I am shocked by the recent dog attacks on people, children and elderly included, and the lack of any prosecution. The fact that someone recently was attacked and died a few days later from a dog attack and the owners not held accountable is appalling. What is wrong with our justice system?

Please do the right thing and protect the people.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:50:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Usinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is time to stop this threat and put an end to senseless injury and death from careless dog owners that let their dogs run wild on our streets. The death of Bob Northrop was preventable if only the people who owed these dogs had taken the steps to contain their animals.

I have children and grandchildren who live in Oceanview where this senseless death occurred and I fear for their safety and want to make sure that this never happens again.

These individuals must be forced to build fences and keep their dogs off the streets where innocent people are walking.

I fully support HB2058 and trust that this bill will pass and prevent anything like this from ever happening in the future.

Thanks you,

Gary Usinger

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:33:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Hallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Tarnas and JHA Committee:

I strongly support HB2058.

I cannot believe that this bill is not already law. Dangerous dogs have disfigured, maimed and killed humans and other animals for years in Hawai'i. **THIS IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE.**

Please waste no time to pass this important legislation!!!

Thank you for taking my testimony.

Mahalo,

Lisa Hallett

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:18:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Tarnas, Vice Chairperson Takayama and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Please support House Bill 2058 as it would, to my understanding, improve current laws on dangerous dogs. This law would be statewide, not left to counties, and rules would be standardized. Law enforcement tools would be improved. Pre-paid boarding should reduce the damaging effect of long term impoundment of dogs.

Again, please support House Bill 2058.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:54:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jonathan jay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full respect for hunting and responsible dog owners, but this bill is needed to hold owners responsible for dangerous dogs. Please pass this bill. mahalo, Jonathan Jay, Hilo Hawai'i

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:19:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Members of the JHA and FIN Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of enforceable requirements and penalties for dog owners whose pets are deemed dangerous, as well as for the impounding of such dogs under certain conditions. Irresponsible dog owners have resulted in countless innocent individuals being harmed by uncontrolled dogs, which is unacceptable.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa, North Kona, Hawai`i Island



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:33:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelea Hollander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB2058. It is a shame that we've allowed a culture of senseless harm to countless citizens because enforcing laws is difficult. It is acceptable for this to be difficult, and do it anyway. I regularly walk in my Pa'auilo mauka neighborhood need to protect myself from dogs that are allowed to roam the roads. I avoid certain roads because the dogs are too vicious. It is important that my daughters and I feel safe on our public roads; and also, that when harm is done, that justice is brought forth to the irresponsible owners of untrained dogs. This is basic civility, something that shouldn't even need a bill. Thank you for your support in moving this bill forward.

Best,

Angelea Hollander

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:47:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Namaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Tarnas, Chair; Rep. Takayama, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I support this bill HB2058

Mahalo

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:51:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Light	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and it's about time.

Mahalo

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:06:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jim Scancella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, this bill must be passed. Who else can do something about this? We depend on our elected officials to do so. Just think if one of your family was harmed or even killed by a vicious dog...? You can help make sure that this doesn't happen again.

Mahalo,

Jim

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:08:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauran Chapple	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am in support of this bill.

The only way we can control dangerous dogs is by holding their owners accountable.

A few years ago, I was bitten by a pit bull when I saved a baby chick in the road, and I'm just glad my young children were not with me.

There are many irresponsible dog owners on the island, and something must be done.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:44:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Mentnech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

I worked with a friend for over forty years, I hadn't seen him for a while, when one day he came to work with half of his ear missing. It turned out he was one of the elderly people attacked by vicious dogs resulting in the death of his companion.

As they get older people speculate about how they would prefer to leave this world. Going quietly in your sleep is a popular one, another is surrounded by my family, and loved ones. However I have racked my memory, and I cannot ever remember someone saying; " I want to die by having my throat ripped out by vicious dogs"

The present system of putting the responsible dog to sleep as the remedy to this problem is insufficient. It is the equivalent of destroying the gun used in a random shooting , and calling it: "case closed!"

Please support this measure.

Michael Mentnech

Resident Hawaiian Paradise Park

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:05:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

UNFORTUNATELY, *there is a need for this bill* to amplify sanctions on irresponsible dog owners. It is so sad that recent tragic cases of death and maiming here on the Big Island have opened some people's eyes to the problem this bill identifies and seeks to remedy.

Please move this bill by all means now to ensure we can live with each other's animals in peace and harmony in the future.

Mahalo!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:12:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Ewall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha representatives,

Please support this bill. I'm horrified to hear that a friend's father was killed by a pack of four dangerous dogs. No one should have to lose a loved one because of negligent dog owners allowing dangerous dogs to run free and put people at risk.

Mahalo,

Mike



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:18:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Snook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the past few years 2 elderly residents of my community have been killed by dogs as they were out walking. Another seriously injured on Thanksgiving. A child bit in the face and scarred for life in Mountain View. It is not enough to euthanize these dogs, the owners must be severely punished and held accountable. I don't know the dispensation of most of these cases but I do know that in the case of Robert Northup there has been no accountability assigned to the dog owner. Also the family is provided with almost no information about progress on the case. This needs to change, these attacks need to be dealt with promptly and with the serious consequences that should be attached to any crime that involves loss of life or serious injury. This bill is only a partial solution, law enforcement and the DA's office must be required to pursue these crimes and keep the affected families updated on the progress of the case.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:33:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2058 in favor of holding owners of dangerous dogs accountable for the actions of themselves and their animals regarding public safety and serious harm to individuals.

Marsha Hee

Resident

Volcano, Hawaii

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:42:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and members of the JHA

I support HB2058

**There must be enforced penalties and remedies for pets that threaten the health and well being of the public. Both the animal and it's owner must accountable for injuries and damages.**

**Thank you for your consideration,**

**Keith Neal**

**Waimea**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:48:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Connie Ritchey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am from Volcano on the Big Island and support HB 2058. I encourage the committee to move this bill forward so that there will be stronger and more enforceable legislation to assist those (and families of those) injured or killed by dangerous or stray dogs. There needs to be more accountability on the part of dangerous dog owners. Families of dog attack victims need more support and we need your help in doing the right thing by passing this bill.

Almost 6 months have past since my friend Bob Northrop's passing, and the family is seeing no accountability. This hurts my heart and lack of any enforceable legislation up to this point is a stain upon the legislature. Past this bill NOW for the sake of our Kapuna, like Bob, our Keikii, and all others, who may be so unfortunate as to suffer from a dog attack. Thank you for reading my testimony.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:58:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support the Hawaiian Humane Society's position

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:08:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:14:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marianne Cagampang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This situation needs to be taken seriously. I live in Ocean View Hawaii, and we've had numerous dogs attacks. I myself had to deal with it, with my neighbors. It took me 3 years calling the police and AnimalControl almost daily, before something finally got done.

If anybody else gets injured, the blood is going to be on the hands of the politicians in Hawaii.

Also, dog owners need to be held accountable. Not a slap on the wrist. The people of Hawaii are tired of the revolving door for criminals.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:16:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Libadisos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed bill that aims to establish requirements and penalties for owners of dangerous dogs. The safety of our communities is paramount, and this legislation addresses a critical issue that directly impacts public well-being.

By setting clear standards for responsible dog ownership, the bill not only protects individuals from potential harm but also fosters a safer environment for everyone. Implementing penalties for owners of dogs that attack and cause harm serves as a deterrent, reinforcing accountability for those who fail to control their pets.

It is crucial to prioritize public safety when certain dogs pose a significant risk. Holding owners accountable for the actions of their pets, especially in cases where attacks result in severe injuries or fatalities, is a necessary step toward creating a safer and more secure community.

I urge legislators to support this bill as it addresses a pressing issue that directly impacts public safety. Establishing clear guidelines and consequences for owners of dangerous dogs is a responsible and necessary measure to ensure the well-being of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

-Malia Libadisos



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:26:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support this bill. I have been a resident of Ocean View for 9 years. In the past few years and specifically the last 6 months, dogs here have gotten out of control. Our community members feel that there is no help or assistance in this issue. Dogs roam wild and bark incessantly making it unsafe to walk and difficult to sleep at night. My good friend was attacked and suffered injuries for months. My son was attacked while walking. Thankfully he is ok. A resident was attacked and killed last year. This is absolutely unacceptable. When I drive one mile from my house, it is not uncommon for me to see up to 4 different dogs roaming wild. When speaking to dog owners whose dogs bark nonstop, they have an apathetic attitude. Stiffer punishment and enforcement of laws is absolutely necessary.

Mahalo for your time,

Laura Roberts

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:41:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am very much in support of this bill. We have already had two deaths on our island resulting from dangerous dogs, but more importantly negligent owners. Recently there was a mailing on Oahu and I can recall another on Maui. I have personally been mauled by a dangerous dog owned by my neighbor. I am tired of seeing this happening with little to no consequence. It is time to end this issue. Owners should be held criminally accountable and dangerous dogs should be surrendered. Fines do not work. I would like to see stiffer consequences for the owners. Loss of humane life, permanent scarring, disfigurement are but a few consequences. The trauma associated with these attacks goes far beyond the day that it happens. Please **DO SOMETHING NOW**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:49:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nona b wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill in light of the horrific events following an attack on Bob Northrop in Ocean View. Although he perished due to a dog attack, there has been no closure for the family or penalties for the dog owners. A travesty at best and a blight on our court system. .

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:51:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hilary Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Everyday people deserve to walk around their neighborhoods without the risk of being attacked by dangerous dogs. The onus should be on dog owners to control their dogs, not on citizens to protect themselves from poorly behaved animals. Please hold dog owners accountable so that everyone can enjoy going for a walk in peace.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:00:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bridgit Bales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The recent horrific death of an elderly man who was MAULED TO DEATH by a pack of dogs is incomprehensible. How is it that the owner of the dogs is not being held accountable? I am the victim of injuries caused by a dog whose owner repeatedly and routinely failed to follow applicable "leash laws" governing our County, so I understand why this Bill is absolutely necessary. I strongly support this Bill.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:00:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support establishing clear guidelines for owners of dangerous dogs and introducing penalties for non-compliance. Please help the victims and their families.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:01:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2058, which provides new tools to protect people from dangerous dogs.

Several years ago, my wife was bitten by two unrestrained, medium-size dogs that, without warning, charged out of their yard and bit her leg as she was walking by. The bites became infected and required two rounds of antibiotics to heal. Had the provisions of this bill been in place then, the owners would have been required to restrain and register the dogs to protect other neighbors from their dangerous behavior. And serious penalties could have been imposed if the dogs had gone on the attack again.

This bill will create a statewide dangerous dog law, enabling a felony penalty for bites that maim or kill a person. And it will improve law enforcement tools, including the authority of officers to declare a dog dangerous, with the goal of preventing future bites.

I urge you to approve this measure and advocate for its approval by the full House.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:21:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorene Maki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB 2058.

Mahalo,

Lorene Maki



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:43:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Schafer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support I support HB2058. This law will hold people with dangerous dogs accountable. There have been too many serious injuries and deaths on account of dangerous dogs on Hawaii Island. I want my children to be able to walk and ride bikes on public roads without the risk of them being attacked and killed by a dog.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:48:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Fine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unless owners of dangerous dogs are subject to mandatory criminal charges there will be no impetus for them to control those dogs. It cannot be okay in a modern society for people to be unsafe in their own neighborhoods because of dogs which are allowed by their owners (either from neglect or from inadequate restraint) to roam off property. In the cases of severe injury or death by dog attack, the owners of said dogs must face criminal consequences.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:56:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly sup[port this bill.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:57:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Briana Rodrique	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the members of the JHA. We've all been hearing the stories of our neighbors, friends, or family members getting attacked and killed or seriously injured by loose dogs for far too long without doing anything to actually try and stop it. How many of us fear for our lives or those we are in charge of keeping safe while going for a walk - anywhere? If we become victims, who will be our champion? Who will make sure the same people responsible for neglecting their dangerous dogs won't be allowed to do the same exact thing again? Right now, the answer is no one. Today, please help us all feel safer and take the step to start holding the people neglecting these dogs accountable.

Mahalo piha,

Briana Rodrique, resident of Pana'ewa

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:00:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikiya White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB2058. This is an important step needed to both define "dangerous dogs" and put penalties in place for owners of "dangerous dogs" who cause damage or injuries. Mahalo!

I support HB2058 which holds dog owners accountable for the deaths of innocent human or animal victims.

Alexia Aberee

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:37:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adam Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is absolutely necessary for the safety of the community to strengthen the laws and enforce them in regard to dangerous dogs. This is true for the entire island, but especially true for Ocean View. There have been multiple attacks, even deaths. This situation is completely unacceptable and change is required. As far as loud, barking dogs, the fines are a joke. Making it the neighbors responsibility to record their own contact and then record the dog for a certain amount of time while also proving the dog is barking for something other than be provoked is untenable. We do not feel safe on our own property, much less feel safe going for a walk in our neighborhood. The time for change has long passed. For the sake and safety of our community, punish those that are guilty for allowing dangerous dogs to roam freely and get these dogs off the streets.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:48:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alejandro Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

im in favor of HB2058 dangerous dog owners should be held accountable for killings and injury to others



Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.  
15-2782 Papio Street  
Pahoa, HI 96778

Date: Jan 31, 2024

TO: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Tarnas

RE: Support for HB2058

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

The County of Hawaii needs you to pass this important legislation. The Hawaii County Council attempted to deal with the dangerous dog issue in a code revision last year, although the measure was deemed unenforceable due to the need for changes in State law.

We've had two deaths and multiple serious maulings by loose, aggressive, large dogs in the last two years alone. While loose and dangerous dogs have always been an issue on the Big Island, the tremendous growth in our population (now over 200,000), especially in our rural subdivisions, has increased the danger exponentially. As the County is currently reshaping its animal control program, there has been less enforcement of dangerous dogs leaving many people terrified to even walk their dogs on leash outside of their properties. My leashed Corgi/Jack Russell mix was attacked by a pack of rabid dogs at the entrance to Ace Hardware in Pahoa not too long ago, requiring veterinarian attention (the human also experienced bites).

This is not a laughing matter but a serious public safety issue. We need the State to step up and approve this proposed measure HB 2058

Respectfully requesting your support of HB 2058

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen O'Hara".

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:52:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2058 by Rep. Ilagan. We have a serious problem on Big Island with loose dangerous dogs attacking people and other pet animals. I know that other islands face the same problems. We have had two deaths from dog attacks and at least one near death recently. Dog owners who let aggressive dogs run loose are risking the health and safety of their neighbors. This has to stop. Kapuna are afraid to walk in their own neighborhoods. Children can't play outside safely.

The requirement of liability insurance for a dangerous dogs is particularly important. I am also impressed with the thoughtful listing of provocations that protect the dog from harassment by people intent on causing trouble.

This legislation will be a big help for all people on the islands and will encourage responsible dog ownership. Please pass this bill out of committee and send it to the floor.

Mahalo on behalf of responsible dog owners.

Renee Rabb

District 4

Keaau, HI

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:08:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory Gasman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of Bill HB2058.

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:23:45 PM

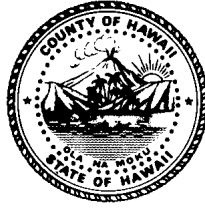
Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Crystal Cathcart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 2058. I am a homeowner in Kurtistown, Hawai'i Island. My dear friend's father, Bob Northrop, was brutally killed by unleashed pit bulls in Ka'u, while walking outside of his home. My son's teacher was mauled by pit bulls while riding her bike in the Mountain View/Volcano area. The bumper of my own vehicle was pulled off and ripped to shreds in the Puna district by a pit bull on a very long chain. I know of at least two incidences of pit bulls mauling child acquaintances of mine on Hawai'i Island. Please act swiftly on this matter. One life lost was too many.

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272  
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

## **HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2**

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

DATE: January 31, 2024  
TO: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: HB 2058

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in strong support of HB 2058. This is a long overdue and very important bill to help protect the safety of our community. Our County passed Ordinance No. 36 in 2022 to establish fines, penalties, and other regulations for those who own dangerous dogs.

Dog attacks have continued to occur since the enactment of our County legislation, which has demonstrated the need for stronger laws and enforcement. We have been made aware through attempted prosecution of County laws that there are inconsistencies between the State and County laws and we therefore need this legislation to help with clarification and enforcement.

Our County Council office is introducing Resolution 430 in support of HB 2058 and it will be heard in our Governmental Operations and External Affairs Committee next Tuesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2058.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jenn Kagiwada

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:30:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg McKim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Several of my friends and a family member have been attacked by dogs, which would not have happened if those owners had kept their dogs on leash or enclosed. Please pass this bill to provide measures for holding negligent owners accountable for their dog's behavior.

Thank you,

Greg McKim

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:30:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Velvet Replogle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support of the law that was enacted over a year ago to hold owners of dangerous dogs legally accountable for their animals actions. It seems this law is not being enforced. This is the will of the people. I have an 80 year old friend who was attacked and mauled by a pit bull IN HER OWN YARD. Nothing was done. The dog was NOT destroyed or the owner cited. She spent months in the hospital. A man was killed by a pack of dogs recently two blocks from my home. I am 72 years old and enjoy walking in my neighborhood but am afraid to. My friend who is 96 and legally blind was afraid to go out and feed the birds in her own yard because 2 dogs that lived across the street came onto her lanai and attacked her little dog. I called animal control and got NO response. The owners of these animals have to be held accountable! What will it take. How many more people have to be injured or killed before this is taken more seriously?

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:41:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Im an extremely concerned citizen living in Ka'ū and in the short 2 years that I've been here, I've witnessed the most horrible and horrific situations concerning negligent dog owners and negligence on behalf of HPD in properly addressing offenders. How can people die from being mauled to death and nothing still gets done? Gov. Josh Green, I've also submitted an email to your office on how animal control and the humane society are NOT doing what they're supposed to do and it would be great to get a response. However, I can also speak from personal experience. I was bit by a neighbor pit bull, went to the hospital, filed a report and the officers response to me was..".Well, we'll talk to the owners of the dog, but you Do realize you moved to the country don't you? This isn't the mainland."

What????? Couldn't believe my ears, neither could the nurse at the hospital.

I responded, I was on a main public road, this dog ran after me from a residential home and I've lived here for 35 yrs but just moved from another district, so YES, I realize this is not the mainland.

This is my testimony and I think it should speak volumes. This is like the policies of a third world country and absolutely ridiculous.

Mahalo for your time and I hope something can be done.



**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:51:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering this long overdue bill. My friend Shannon Matson endured the horrific loss of her father due to a pack of unrestrained dogs. Think about how terrifying that must have been for him. I urge you to pass this bill before another tragedy occurs.

Thank you

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:51:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Schamber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Anna Schamber, born n raised on the big island of Hawaii have seen some horrible dog attacks and zero consequences for the dog owners, that is why I'm in support of this bill. There needs to be consequences for irresponsible dog owners so that no one is ever killed again. My father was murdered by these dogs and was the direct result of a dog owner's negligence.

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:40:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark A Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators, I live in Kapaau, Hawaii Island. I am writing in support of bill HB2058 for more enforcement of dangerous dog laws. We have a neighbor across the way who has between 12-20 dogs that are allowed to roam freely with no controls outside his yard. They have become aggressive many times. Just one example for you; my wife and I were walking on the public road in front of our house, and 4-5 of his dogs came rushing out of the owners property and we were in fear of being bitten. We literally ran back to our house with the dogs tight on our heels. PLEASE help get these dogs away from public property.

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:18:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear JHA Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

I am an owner of rescued dogs and I keep my dogs fenced at home and leashed when in public. Although I love dogs, loose or feral dogs can be dangerous and lethal. There have been several deaths and many more injuries here in Puna alone. I am fearful when I walk my dogs and more so if walking alone.

I ask you to make our communities safer by passing this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Volcano HI 96785

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:46:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this HB2058.

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:05:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CT Reatherford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the four years since I have become of citizen of the state of Hawaii, I have had first hand experience more than once of rogue packs of dogs killing and maiming livestock on my small farm. I have read about more than one dangerous attack on people in my vacinity including small children by dogs that are allowed to roam freely or "slipped off the property". Almost every one of my neighbors that has livestock have had at least one but usually multiple incursions by neighborhood dogs that are not contained and have suffered substaintial financial and emotional losses by these dogs. There are at least two illegal "rescues" within a two block radius of my farm where multiple dogs are kept and allowed to terrorize the neighborhood daily. In trying to contact Animal Control on the Big Island, the phone number given either just rings or goes directly to voicemail and contacting the police, we are told that there is only one person that responds to that line and it is overwhelmed by the constant barrage of dangerous dog incidences throught this island. The only way that this issue will begin to be addressed is if there is legislation that deals directly with the owners of these dogs with appropriate consequences or with the necessary resources to remove the feral dogs from the public. Please make this happen.

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:51:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In SUPPORT of the bill HB2058

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:55:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill which decreases my rights as a dog owner and fancier.



**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:41:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I approve of HB2058 and i stand with ALL animals to make sure the offenders go to JAIL

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:13:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TIFFANY KIM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB2058. Owners should be held responsible for their dangerous dogs.

Tiffany Kim

Ewa Beach, Hawaii

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:41:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Are Eidet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Big Island resident, land steward and livestock caretaker I strongly support this bill. In the two years I have lived on Hawaii Island my ducks have been attacked more times than I can count. I would have had more than 30 ducks if they had all survived. I now have 4 ducks left that still face the risk of dog attacks every single day. Just a couple of days ago I chased away a pack of 3 dogs from killing my friend and neighbors animals. I chased the dogs back to their home, a few properties over, and informed the owner of what had happened and they simply do not care. I saw the same dogs back out on the road later the same day. I've also had to stop going on walks in the neighborhood after several encounters with aggressive and threatening dogs. I don't feel safe being out in the neighborhood without a knife on me. This is really sad. It's having a huge effect on peace of mind and the well-being of people and animals. One dog by itself can cause a lot of damage, but the much scarier fact is that these dogs form stray packs that terrorize large areas. Most people would have a very hard time trying to defend themselves against 4+ violent dogs at the same time.

Too many people out here are not at all qualified to take care of their dogs. They get them as alarm systems, and forget they are living creatures with needs.

My next door neighbor has so many dogs they started giving them numbers instead of names. They have no fence and most of the dogs run around loose. The regularly come into my property and kill animals. I have called the police multiple times, but nothing has changed. The dogs are still there and they keep getting more. It's a sad reality and it's time to change it.

Mahalo for your time!

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:38:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I fully support this bill to support keeping dangerous animals a crime. We are having way too many incidents of dogs mauling people on the Big Island. This is due to following reasons:

1. Lack of education in Hawaii on how to properly care for a healthy dog which will be part of a healthy community.
2. Lack of actual enforcement. We have too many laws that are not enforced due to lack of enforcement and terror of confronting individuals and their dogs that are actually a danger to the community.
3. Rehabilitation of the owners who commit the crime of neglecting to stop their dogs from getting out and attacking people, pets and farm animals. People who have animals that are involved in maulings of humans are likely to have more animals that will exhibit dangerous habits.
4. A law and license for breeding dogs in Hawaii. We have so many backyard breeders and people here that don't have their animal fixed, it has led to a huge number of dogs neglected, abused, and left to starve on the Big Island and other places. This lack of training and care for animals leads to a lack of control.

Stronger verbage needs to be added to this bill but its a start.

H.B. 2058 Relating to Dangerous Dogs

**LATE**

Page 1

This bill is a good bill but it needs another part. What I mean is that since the animal (dogs, cats, etc.) are owned by humans, there should be a prevention section. Not all humans tells the truth as to why the animal is being given up, etc. Therefore, a standardize questionnaire with pertinent questions should to be filled out, e.g., have you ever hit the animal and with what, your hands, newspaper, etc. b) what the animal was used for: pet, guarding, etc. c) what did you feed the animal (dog food, human food, both). d) did you teach any commands, e) have you notice any weird/strange behavior. The answer to the questionnaire should help the next owner decided if they want the animal and may show any possible behavioral problems.

If the human decides to adopt the animal, the animal should use a “red” collar which tells other humans not to touch or come near. It should also tell humans that the animal may be aggressive and may bite. If the human wants a different color collar, the human needs to take the animal to a behavioralist who can certify that the animal meets the requirements of good behavior.

Also, the human before adopting an animal should attend a course on how to own, care, etc. an animal, like the citizens of Denmark or Norway do before they can own an animal.

For example, I adopted two (2) dogs from the Hawaii Humane Society (HHS). My second dog, Shogun, which I have had for a year, growls, barks, and nips. He has nipped me many times which have drawn my blood. HHS only told me that he had heart worms, heart murmur, and was female possessive. HHS did not tell me about his nipping nor that he is food aggressive.

Just remember there are no bad dogs, only bad people who train dogs to have bad behavior. Humans don't realize that they are training the animal every day that the animal is with their human.

Thank you for letting me testify.

**LATE**

**HB-2058**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:15:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I'm in strong support of HB2058.  
mahalo for this opportunity and your kind consideration to do this, in the best interest of both people and animals .**

**ginny Tiu**