



**WRITTEN 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:**  
S.B. NO. 2565, RELATING TO PUBLIC PARKS.

**BEFORE THE:**  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Friday, February 16, 2024      **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Wade H. Hargrove III,  
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 587-3050)

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments.

This bill adds a new section to chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), mandating that no county prohibit leashed dogs in public parks, and adds a new section in chapter 339, HRS, that prohibits any person from leaving dog excrement on any public or private property or in any public or private waters, except under certain circumstances prescribed in section 339- (a), and includes penalty provisions in sections 339- (b) and (c).

We suggest making two technical amendments, as follows:

First, on page 1, lines 15 and 17, it appears that the word "receptacle" was intended to be used instead of "receptable" to refer to a type of litter container, and that should be corrected.

Second, the penalty provisions in new section 339- (b) and (c), substantially duplicate the existing penalty provisions in section 339-8, HRS, which apply to the entire chapter, unless another penalty is specified. Therefore, the addition of section 339- (b) and (c), appears to be unnecessary and may create the potential for confusion, and should be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 13, 2024

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2565, RELATING TO PUBLIC PARKS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which bars counties from prohibiting leashed dogs in public parks and establishes penalties for leaving dog excrement on public or private property.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure allows residents to enter and enjoy public parks with their leashed dogs, which is beneficial for quality of life and helps to maximize public benefit from State and county parks.
2. This measure also establishes appropriate penalties for leaving dog excrement on any public or private property, promoting responsible pet ownership.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

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**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 8:48:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ilene Cohen Harrington	Testifying for Domestic Violence Hurts Animals and People	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the ability for dog owners to walk their leashed dog in a public park



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

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

Date: Feb. 15, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2565: Relating to Public Parks  
Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Room 016 & Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 2565, which prohibits counties from prohibiting leashed dogs in public parks and establishes penalties for leaving dog excrement on public or private property.

Companion animals are an integral part of our lives and our community. In the most recently available data, about 55 percent of O‘ahu households reported owning pets and 43 percent of households owned dogs. Yet our beaches, trails, parks, restaurant regulations and housing policies restrict options for pet owners to be with their companions.

Non-dog owners may not realize just how dysfunctional the current rules are. Hawaiian Humane maintains a list of dog-friendly parks and beaches on O‘ahu that took months of sleuthing to compile because of the arbitrary nature of the status quo. Fewer than half of O‘ahu’s City and County parks allow leashed dogs. Arbitrary distinctions seem designed to confuse pet owners. For example, while leashed dogs are allowed on sidewalks in Honolulu, they are prohibited on the paved oceanfront walkway makai of Kapiolani Park, which is considered part of the park.

We would recommend including state parks in this measure, as the situation there is equally confounding. Only 5 of 19 state parks on O‘ahu allow leashed dogs and some having rules that permit dogs on hiking trails but not in the picnic grounds between the parking lot and the hiking trail. It’s not hard to understand how dog owners may have trouble navigating such a system.

Allowing leashed dogs in public parks should be the rule, not the exception. Please pass SB 2565 in support of the health of the people and pets of our state. Mahalo for your consideration.



February 15, 2024

To: Chairs Sens. Glenn Wakai and Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chairs Sens. Brandon J.C. Elefante and Henry J.C. Aquino  
And Members of the Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, and the Committee on Health and Human Services

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: SB2565: Relating to Public Parks

**Testimony in support.**

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports Senate Bill 2565, which would allow dog owners that are compliant with leash laws utilize public parks.

There are limited options where dog owners can safely walk their pets. Kaua`i has limited sidewalks, so most walking takes place in the road. Though Kaua`i is rural with large expanses of land these areas are privately owned or State owned and do not permit dog walkers. There are only two small dog parks for the entire island of Kaua`i. Kaua`i County parks do not permit animals in all or portions of the parks leaving very limited space for pet owners and their dogs to safely walk.

County parks are some of the few places where bathroom facilities are available and easily accessible to the public. The Kaua`i Humane Society has received dogs that were ultimately stolen from pet owners utilizing the bathroom facilities as their dogs were not allowed in County parks. This is not how we should be treating people utilizing a facility that their taxes contribute to.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 2565 as it will promote responsible dog ownership and instead of penalties this bill will reward pet owners that are complying with leash laws. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,  
Nicole Schafer Crane  
Executive Director  
Kaua`i Humane Society  
nicole@kauaihumane.org

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:23:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a dog owner, I support this bill to allow leashed dogs in parks. They need exercise too.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:49:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Chimera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

SB 2565 transfers the SFCA and the King Kamehameha celebration commission to DBEDT and repeals the SFCA commission, requiring the governor to select the ED of the SFCA with the advice and consent of the Senate. I oppose this. I am a Hawaii-born practicing artist who has been directly supported by the SFCA with its independence and artistic integrity. The SFCA should retain autonomy in the arts and not be a political entity.

With aloha,

Melissa Chimera

Honokaa, HI

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:44:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Serota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 2565. My name is Nathan Serota, most people call me Nate. Although I work for the Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as their spokesman and head of public relations, the comments submitted here do not reflect the official position of the City and County of Honolulu nor the Department of Parks and Recreation. I am submitting this testimony on my own free will, during non-business hours, using personal facilities. Though, it is very much based on the nearly eight years of experience I have serving in the City, and 10 years prior to that as a journalist.

It is very encouraging to read all of the testimony in support of this bill, and I have yet to see any written testimony opposing this measure. However, based on the information provided in some of the testimony it appears most people are unaware how truly unfriendly City parks on O`ahu are towards dog owners. Of the 402 designated park locations operated by DPR, only 45 of these locations legally allow leashed dogs. There are only 9 off-leash areas, some of which are located within those 45 parks. You can see this for yourself by visiting the DPR Dog Park website: [bit.ly/OahuDogParks](https://bit.ly/OahuDogParks)

The rest of the parks will typically display the blue reflective DPR signs near the main points of entry outlining some of the most relevant rules, including “NO ANIMALS ALLOWED”. The situation is the worst in DPR District 3 (Leeward O`ahu) where there is only a single park allowing leashed dogs (Ewa Beach Community Park) amongst the 49 City parks from Ewa to Kea`au.

This effectively makes the vast majority of responsible dog owners subject to citation or more severe punishment. While it may seem rare that police would cite a dog owner traversing a park with a leashed dog, minding their business, and removing their dog’s mess... it does happen. Police are mandated to enforce the laws, and DPR rules are law.

Government should be encouraging dog owners to utilize City parks for recreational enjoyment with their dogs, not punishing them. One of the best ways to dissuade and remove negative, criminal elements (such as vandalism) from public places is to activate it with the positive recreation for which it is meant. Walking your dog is positive park activation and we need more of it.

I applaud Senator Lee on crafting this simple yet effective bill, as it utilizes one of the fairest means of governance in a democratic society; taking with one hand and giving with the other. It



takes money and time away from the dog owners who are too irresponsible to remove their dogs mess, while giving permission and legal protection to the vast majority of dog owners who cleanup after their pooches. Mahalo again for your time and consideration. Take care and stay healthy. ~ Nate Serota

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 3:30:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharlene Chun Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Shar Chun-Lum of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui and I am opposed to SB 2565 for several reasons.

The State Legislature began the session with the declaration that there were many critical issues to tackle with limited resources that must be allocated and utilized responsibly—housing, health, employment, tourism, etc.

Consequently, I was disappointed to find that a bill such as SB 2565 had been introduced and has been moving through two Senate Committee without opposition. In fact, a committee report states that this law is necessary because...”Your Committees find that fewer than half of Oahu's county parks allow leashed dogs. According to testimony received by your Committees, there is significant confusion about leash laws and many dog owners have expressed frustration at the lack of consistency through the State.” **Hawaii’s law requiring dogs to be on leash has been in effect since January 21, 1963.**

SB 2565 Section 1 proposes a blanket mandate that forces counties to allow leashed dogs in all public parks, without regard to special restrictions or limitations each park may have (think Botanical Gardens or beaches that have special requirements to protect marine life, flora and fauna). Furthermore, in a time of limited resources, it gives no thought for how counties will provide the additional resources for staffing, equipment and refuse supplies like litter receptacles, new signs, etc. to manage dogs coming to previously restricted parks. The City and County of Honolulu (Oahu) has already established specific dog parks, diverting public funds that could be used to maintain bathrooms on the Leeward coast, etc. With no money offered in this bill, it is just more work for the counties and the Department of Health, who recently responded negatively to another bill’s proposed additional task, citing that it would divert already scarce resources from more critical needs and issues.

It is evident that the drafters of this bill anticipated that this mandate would create a poop problem. Owners, especially those without yards where they live or who may live under strict community rules, take their dogs to the park to poop. This bill offers a “bone” to the public, proposing in Section 2, that dog owners must take responsibility to pick up their pets’ poop or face fines and/or community service. (This is obviously an expansion of HRS 19, 339-4 Prohibition, adapted specifically address dog excrement.) But, in reality, who would enforce these laws? It’s not the park staff or park rangers who have been told that “It’s not their job or place” to deal with people breaking the rules. It’s the police, who are already stretched thin, and

who have more critical issues to address—that involved the lives of humans and their properties, rather than enforce the increased offenses of people not picking up their dog poop.

What's even more ludicrous is the adaptation of HRS 19, 339-8, Penalties, that suggests the director of the department of health will supervise this enforcement, with first and second offense penalties. It will even require environmental court judges to be involved should the violator be incapable of litter removal and pick up. They have more important things to do.

Does anyone here really think this is an enforceable law? There are too many dogs in too many places at too many times to have eyes on this health and safety problem. End result? No enforcement + more mess => more health and safety problems at parks throughout the State.

SB 2565 does not take into account the rights of other park users who are fearful of dogs or prefer to enjoy the parks free of dogs, on leash or not. As a frequent park user, I see dogs off leash every weekday that I am at Ala Moana Beach Park. Those users would also like to “express frustration” at the behavior of some irresponsible dog owners who, once in the park, let their dogs loose from their leashes to run on the beach or on park grounds, to poop and play. Remember, the sand is often a keiki's playground or a family's picnic area. Poop and pee in these places don't just disappear. Even if owners attempt to pick up the excrement, what's left below the surface can breed worms that get into our skin. Dogs sometimes run up to unsuspecting park users, sniffing, barking or jumping on them, even in the water, before their owners can reign them in. In the past few months, people have reported dogs jumping on unsuspecting swimmers coming out of the water or running up to seals resting on the beach.

Need I say more? Senators, you are better than this. Don't create new laws that create new problems without enforceable solutions. There are enough real issues that need your attention and all the resources our State can muster. Do not pass SB 2565.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 4:44:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because if dogs are on a leash they should be able to go with their owners in a public place. I also love this bill because there are those bad actors who don't pick up after their dog, and so it reflects badly on all dog owners. There definitely should be penalties, at least the threat of a penalty so that one dog owner can have the backing of the bill when they confront another owner who ignores public health.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 5:44:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diana Claire Chavez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my support. As a responsible dog owner and a fervent advocate for pet-friendly public spaces, I believe that this policy change would have numerous benefits for both dog owners and the community at large.

First and foremost, allowing leashed dogs in parks promotes responsible pet ownership. Dog owners who take the time to properly leash and control their pets are more likely to clean up after them and ensure that they behave appropriately around other park-goers. This would contribute to a cleaner and more respectful park environment.

Moreover, allowing leashed dogs in Hawaii's parks would also encourage physical activity and socialization. Dog owners could enjoy outdoor activities with their pets, leading to healthier lifestyles and stronger community connections. Many dog owners consider their pets to be integral family members, and being able to include them in recreational activities fosters a sense of belonging and well-being.

Additionally, embracing a dog-friendly policy can attract more tourism to Hawaii. Many travelers seek destinations where they can take their pets along, and by accommodating this need, Hawaii can appeal to a broader range of visitors. This would have a positive impact on the local economy and the hospitality industry.

I believe that by allowing dogs on leashes in all parks, Hawaii can enhance the overall park experience for its residents and visitors. It's important to emphasize that dog owners would be required to adhere to strict leash and waste cleanup guidelines to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the park for all visitors.

I hope that together, we can create a more inclusive and vibrant park environment for all members of our community.

Thank you.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:01:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2565. As a tax payer that pays for parks and the upkeep of the parks, I seem no justifiable reason to not allow dogs in City parks as long as the owners are keeping the dogs on leash and picking up their dogs' poop. Please pass this bill out. Thank you.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

[SB2565](#) Related to Public Parks.

- Friday, February 16, 2024, 10:00 am
- Conference Room 016 & Videoconference, State Capitol

In Support of the Bill

I have seen the Committee's schedule today - the issues are serious and require your thoughtful deliberation. I am thankful that you are considering this Bill.

I have a rescue pup adopted from the Hawai'i Humane Society, live in Ewa Beach, and am often looking for safe, shady, new places to take our pup. We frequently head to available trails and parks with family, friends, and our pups. We always need to verify that the parks we select are actually open for pet use. It's frustrating to realize that fewer than half of Oahu's City and County parks permit leashed dogs. The prospect of having ALL parks open and accessible for our leashed pets is game-changing! This will make a huge difference for all Hawai'i's families looking for healthy places to gather and recreate with their pets in a safe, clean environment.

Further, I fully support the language in the bill that establishes penalties for leaving dog excrement on public or private property. We need to maintain clean healthy environments for our reiki and our pets. The policing will be difficult (pet trash bins may help) and the penalties seem soft, but the initiative is good.

Thank you for your consideration of this Bill.

I support the position of the Hawaiian Humane Society on this Bill.  
Testimony/Anne Forshey/anneforshey@gmail.com/Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:48:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2565. I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.



**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:28:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<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 that will help families get exercise time with their canine companions at our public parks. I am a responsible dog owner who has shared her home with four papillons over the past 30 years in Hawaii. All of my dogs are/were obedience trained and well behaved and socialized in public. My first papillon, Kona, was a top obedience champion and also a therapy dog who visited children at Tripler Hospital. However, on one occasion, I was walking her through Kapiolani Park on a leash and was stopped and given a warning by a policeman who said dogs are not allowed in the park. So, I never took my dogs to public parks and instead just walked them around the Mililani Mauka neighborhood where I live. It deprived me and my dogs of quality time at our parks. This bill should be passed. My dogs are better behaved than many people's children.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:50:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill that allows leashed dogs i public parks. Frankly, I don't see the problem here if the animal is leashed and the owner picks up any excrement. No brainer

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 7:02:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Jonathan Masaki Shiroma. I am a single, divorced man without any children. What I do have is two male purebred keeshonds (my boyz) named Nalu and Koa and they are my furry kids, my life, my pride and joy.

I retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in December, 2022 and returned to my native Hawai'i after accepting a TV news anchor offer from Hawai'i News Now.

Obviously, I was so excited to return home for so many reasons to include being closer to my elderly mom, my other family members and to take my boyz for walks/runs at the beach.

One day, about a month after I had moved back, we were running around Magic Island when I noticed a woman taking photos of us. When i stopped, she approached me and continued to take photos. Being a news personality, and the fact that my boyz are strikingly good looking, I am comfortable with strangers taking photos of me and honestly that's what I thought was going on. Boy, was I wrong. Once she got near, she immediately said "you do know that bringing/walking your dogs here is illegal." This took me by surprise and I was actually shocked that she had the audacity to stop me for something so stupid. I responded "excuse me, are you serious?: I asked. She responded "yes, don't you read signs, it states at the entry way to the park NO DOGS." Again, I was in a state of shock and replied, "no, I did not see the signs."

I honestly did not see the signs nor paid attention to the signage at any of the parks simply because I really didn't think any state would have a law banning dogs from public parks. Her last comment to me was "well maybe you should pay closer attention." This infuriated me and i wanted to lash out at this lady but perhaps there was something to what she was saying coupled with the fact that I am a public figure and she would probably video tape me in an outburst so all I said to her was "You have a nice day, Aloha, malama pono." At that point she left me and I observed her maneuvering around Magic Island approaching other dog owners with her grass roots enforcement.

As I left the park,sure enough, I noticed at the entry parking lot to Magic Island, I saw those awful words "NO DOGS ALLOWED" on several signs throughout Magic Island and Ala Moana Park. I came home and researched this and did find that State Law does in fact state no dogs are public parks. My thoughts were how backwards is this and how ridiculous. I had just moved from California where leashed dogs are allowed at all public parks and beaches provided you pick up after them.

Obviously, being a law abiding citizen, I altered my exercise path for my boyz. We no longer go to any public parks for our run/walks. Instead, I take them to the South Village in Kakaako, the Victoria Ward properties where there are two private parks where dogs are more than welcomed. As you can imagine, so many other furry parents are there as well since their pooches are able to enjoy the grassy areas and company of other dog owners. We all know each other and greet each other daily. This is how it should be at our public parks as well.

I do understand being upset with those who do not pick up after their dogs or let their dogs loose. Irresponsible dog owners should be held responsible for their pets. I also get upset with the aforementioned violators. At the same time, I believe most of my fellow responsible dog parents should not be lumped in with these offenders. If you observe most of us, you will see that our dogs are controlled, we pick up after them and we have a network of parents similar to gatherings of moms/dads enjoying the park with their kids.

Our public parks and beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world. We should feel free to enjoy ke kai and the aina with our furry ones in a responsible way and not be penalized just because of a few who don't act responsibly on behalf of their pets.

I urge you to strike this outdated law down and open our state parks and beaches to our dogs without fear of being written up and cited for simply taking a walk in the park with our furry kids.

Mahalo for your time.

Jonathan Masaki Shiroma, HNN News Anchor/Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel

[jonathan.masaki@hawaiiinewsnow.com](mailto:jonathan.masaki@hawaiiinewsnow.com)

916-205-1584

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 7:07:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Myself and lots friends of mine own dogs some of them are seniors. When they walk their pet in parks it is a safely to have them by their side instead of walking alone.

I personally have saw two different seniors being ticketed for having their elderly dog in a stroller who was leashed and another senior walking their dog on leash. One was a friend who is still traumatized from the police telling them it was a crimial offense.

Living here we spend a lot of our time outdoors enjoying our parks it would be great to extend this opportunity to our pets who are a part of our family.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 7:09:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

it is OK to walk a leashed dog in a county park. Fewer than half of Oahu's City and County parks permit leashed dogs, depriving families of a healthy outlet for exercise close to their homes.

Hawaii Kai

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 7:42:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Please support SB 2565 which prohibits counties from banning leashed dogs in parks and establishes penalties for leaving dog excrement on public and private property. There should be a uniform state law which allows leashed dogs in public parks. It's unfair and an injustice if some counties allow leashed dogs and others do not. People who responsibly leash their dogs should have the opportunity to enjoy walks with them in parks. The penalty for not cleaning up dog excrement should bolster support for allowing leashed dogs in all public parks.

Again, please support SB 2565.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 8:32:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

People should be able to walk their leashed dogs in public parks.



**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 9:17:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eric Komori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 2565.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 9:57:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bruce Lum  
SB2565 Testimony  
February 15, 2024

Aloha kākou Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and honorable senators Elefante, San Buenaventura, Awa,

My name is Bruce Lum.

I will try my best to nudge this honorable committee in the right direction as you deliberate on whether to adopt or set aside SB2565.

Even at first glance SB2565 looks and feels very off to me. Why? Because a blanket, one-size-fits-all way of law making is unrealistic and murky. Where’s the supporting data to add clarity and validity to support the need for this rash and heavy handed measure? Where is the proof that this proposal is representative of the whole?

My understanding of the origin of this bill is that a few persuaded a senator to sponsor SB2565 because current public park law and practice prohibits pets from entering public parks that are not designated dog parks or did not include designated areas within the park for dogs to use. Instead all animals are prohibited.

This bill proposes to change home rule powers over public parks that counties had been granted by state law so counties could manage its public parks and to promulgate county laws appropriate to suit and meet the purposes for having public parks, and to serve all park users as a whole.

The approach SB2565 takes, is a blanket one-size-fits all way of law making that assumes suitable for all and good for all outcomes would naturally follow. This bill is onerous to me in three fundamental ways.

First, it will amend a state law to negate existing county law and powers that it was given the right to promulgate to manage its parks and administer penalties for the abuse of park regulations.

Second, it will redirect power and oversight to the Department of Health, without funding the increased needs for DOH resources and operations.

Third, all of the above is without regards for home rule or home representation. IMHO, the most developed and most invested counties will be impacted the most, and Oahu, the most densely populated island with the most developed public park system...the City & County of Honolulu, will be more greatly impacted.

I think this committee is especially duty bound to notify the DOH about what is coming and to invite home rule representation into this SB2565 vetting process.

Measure SB2565 will surely please the select few that this bill responds to. However, this measure is bound to disappoint the whole.

I oppose SB2565 and recommend pausing this harsh application of law long enough to check the data, check the facts, check the anecdotal context that thrusts this proposed measure ahead of more pressing and credible issues in the long list before this 32nd legislative session. Seriously, test this measure. Apply the acid test and ask, is SB2565 justified, reasonable and feasible? Set this proposed measure aside, do not advance SB2565, what it aims to do is not in the list of more critical and pressing issues of this 2024 season.

Any law that can not improve upon the law(s) it replaces is a waist of tax payer dollars and implicate all who were purveyors of the hoax. The making of laws is not trivial, so please, do not falter, pause and ask where is the data?

Truthfully, the suggestion and assumptions of the proposed Limitations statement I just point to is a gross under estimating and presumptuous over-reaching in the context of home-rule. I think this committee is especially duty bound to invite home rule representation into the vetting process of SB2565.

As you, our legislators, roll up your sleeves to dig deep into the heap of introduced measures covering your desks, public scrutiny appears to be especially intense. Coming out of this 2024 legislative session, with the right laws to satisfy our state's most critical needs will be very problematic this election year if public expectation is not satisfied.

Clean water, de-fueling and clean-up of Red Hill, Maui recovery, wild fire prevention, affordable housing, mental health, homelessness, climate change, renewable energy will surely defy all the rules of budget shaping and tempering long before closing day or voting ballots are cast.

Against that daunting backdrop, I erge this honorable body in the right direction as you deliberate on whether to adopt or set aside SB2565. The assumption this bill makes is that a blanket one-size-fits-all way of law making will be suitable for and good for all.

Arbitrarily punching a gaping hole through age old laws adopted to protect public parks, park users, flora and fauna from negative impacts should never be regarded as trivial. Yet, SB2565 propose to do just that and without any data to demonstrate an irrefutable justification to

disregard the larger segment of park users preferences, but give deference to a smaller segment of public park users.

I hope you agree that SB2565 should not leap ahead on the list of higher priority proposals and that you will defer or set aside SB2565 to, at the very least, prevent an “undesirable diversion of already scarce resources” (quote from DOH).

Mahalo for hearing and allowing me to testify,

Bruce Lum,  
Aiea

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 12:07:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Watase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Dave Watase and I've been a resident of Honolulu and have owned several dogs throughout my lifetime. I OPPOSE SB2565 because I don't believe it is necessary and i believe the Counties and Agencies should be able to decide for themselves where and when it is appropriate to permit leashed dogs into parks and the State should not micromanage their ability to set their own rules to the specific location, concerns and issues, and demographics of the area. Mahalo, Dave Watase

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 3:09:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill! Being able to legally bring your leashed dogs into parks will give families a healthy way to get outdoors with their dogs. The island is inundated with unwanted pets, the rescues are overwhelmed. Think of how many unwanted behaviors that eventually lead to a family having to rehome a dog or drop it at the shelter that could be helped by having this access to get exercise and enrichment away from home. Cannot voice my support enough!

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 3:21:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the bill to prohibit counties from prohibiting leashed dogs in public parks. As long as dogs are leashed and owners pick up the poo (a part of this bill), public parks should be for the domain and enjoyment of families and their dogs. This is a way to socialize animals, exercise them, and maintain their health and wellbeing. These are PUBLIC properties and should be for the enjoyment of the public.

Thank you,

Jennifer Wood

808-221-7229

2502 Henry Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 5:28:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary-Ann Dorsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senators

I am opposed to *SB 2565*. The budget & staff to support this SB is beyond the means available.

There currently is a law relative to monitoring unkeashed digs in a public park, etc that is not being enforced.

Mahalo for your time.

Mary-Ann Dorsey



**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 5:31:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DIANE CHOY FUJIMURA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is too general and should not apply to all parks. The problem has been that there is absolutely no enforcement of existing laws, ordinances as they currently apply. A specific course came is Ala Moana Beach Park. Dogs are already running around unleashed, doing their business is the sand, owners do not control their dogs, and have no regard for the rules. To pass such a blanket bill is a disservice to all. There is no such thing as a one size fits all in this situation!

,

My name is Stan Sakai, a resident of Pearl City, and a frequent park user, especially Ala Moana Beach Park. I am opposed to SB 2565.

I am dog lover and find that many times, dogs are socially better than some humans. Though there are many responsible dog owners, unfortunately, it's the few who disobey the laws that compel the establishment of laws. But, SB2565 is "too broad" a mandate. It does NOT consider that there are unique situations at many parks and it's a "one size fits all" approach that will create more bad than good.

Since I frequent Ala Moana Beach Park, I'll use it as an example. Ala Moana Beach Park, remember it's a "beach" park, is the most heavily used park in the State. In recent times, I've noticed that even some tourists have discovered the park which they see as an open green haven next to calm ocean waters. Over the last few years, there has been an increasing influx of dogs in the park, even though the small blue posted park-rules signs prohibit animals and in recent years large clearly visible electronic signs at the park entrance have been posted that specifically say "No Dogs Allowed in the Park." I'm sure that the dog owners who bring their dogs to the park are nice people, but because they see other dogs in the park and NO ENFORCEMENT they don't hesitate to break the law. Some have been told about the law but they've replied "Go FU\_\_ K Yourself." Nice people.

I don't have much time to spend on this testimony but following are some issues with SB2565:

1. It assumes that "all" dog owners will abide by the leash law. Even with the existing law and accompanying signage, this hasn't been the case at Ala Moana Beach Park. There are dogs walking unleashed, some on the sand, and some swimming near shore.

It also assumes that the owners can control the leashed dogs which isn't the case with bigger more powerful breeds. A few years ago, I remember that an older Vietnamese man was attacked by a dog and had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. Imagine if this had been one of thousands of kids that run around the park.

2. Enforcement of the park rules is currently not effective. With more parks open to dogs, and with the limited resources available, enforcement of the leash and poop laws will become worse and so more dog owners will not hesitate to break the law. Enforcement of SB2565 will require more resources, otherwise it will be nothing more than a bogus law.
3. It assumes that "all" dog owners will pick up the poop and dispose of it properly and that there will be effective enforcement at "all" the parks. I've seen dog owners leave the poop and in one instance, the lifeguard had to go outside his job responsibility to tell a woman to pick up the poop. Further, if the poop is 'wet' it's virtually impossible to get all of it and when it's on the sand some unsuspecting sunbather might walk, sit, or lie on it. Imagine if this was tourist visitor, especially one who does social media. They'd have an interesting story to tell back home and on social media about the 'pristine' beaches and parks in Hawaii.

In addition to more enforcement resources, there will be an increased need for maintenance resources to pick up after the dogs at “all” the parks.

The health concerns of dog poop in the parks need input from the Department of Health.

4. SB2565 does not take into consideration: (1) not everyone likes dogs, some fear them, (2) not all dogs get along which could lead to dog fights, (3) dogs pollute and this is a problem especially in the sand where people sit and lie down, which would potentially be a health hazard, (4) wild life and dogs are incompatible. (5) barking dogs can be a nuisance in a park setting.

Clearly, dogs need places to exercise and play but this should not be at “all” public parks. Some parks will be suitable for leashed dogs, while others will not. SB2565 does NOT distinguish between these; it’s too broad a mandate.

I haven’t had time to do the research, but I’m not sure that there is one state in the country that allows dogs in “ALL PARKS.” SB2565 is “too broad” and is an example of bad legislation that has not been thoroughly vetted. I recommend shelving SB2565.

Thank you for your time.

Stan Sakai

There are other parks near Ala Moana Beach Park, but I don’t know if dog owners use them as much as the beach park. Dog owners need to be informed of these options. An effort should be made to inform and educate dog owners.

There already exist many dog friendly beaches, as identified on the Hawaiian Humane Society website: <https://hawaiianhumane.org/dog-friendly-beaches/>

Dog friendly parks

<https://hawaiianhumane.org/dog-friendly-parks/>

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 6:05:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elaine Jourdane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2565.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 10:21:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pam Odo-Goto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB2565 for several reasons. This bill is too general and I have a number of questions/concerns that are not being covered.

I am a regular park user especially at Ala Moana beach park and previously at Kaimana beach. I have seen all kinds of dogs leashed and unleashed on the green areas, on the sand and in the water at all times during a day - morning, afternoon and at night as we go to enjoy a bento with visitors and catch the Friday night fireworks.

Who will enforce this new bill? where will the funds come to foot this bill?

There are so many more pressing issues right now - why are our leaders dealing with a bill with more questions than solutions?

please help us get some relief from more important n pressing issues.

mahalo nui, Pam Odo-Goto

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 10:23:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynne Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One size does not fit all. Community parks must fit the needs of the community. Beach parks are especially vulnerable to presence of dogs (turtles, monk seals, sand pollution). Please do not fast-track this bill; the issue is a serious one and needs more thought.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 10:24:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kevin o'leary	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill takes away the power of the counties to set policy for their own parks. The counties have the right to determine if dogs should be allowed in certain parks, especially beach parks.