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

February 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 2, 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.



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

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

Date: Jan. 31, 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: 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. 2, 2024, 3:00 p.m., Room 225 & 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.

Promoting the human-animal bond is a key component of Hawaiian Humane's mission. Companion animals are an integral part of our lives and our community. In the most recently available data, about 55 percent of Oahu 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.

Fewer than half of Oahu's City and County parks allow leashed dogs. Two parks, Ala Moana Beach Park and Crane Park, allow dogs only for permitted events. To make matters worse, 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.

The importance of the human-animal bond requires changing the landscape of our community to allow pets to truly be a part of our day-to-day lives. Allowing leashed dogs in public parks should be the rule, not the exception. We urge you to pass SB 2565 in support of the health of the people and pets of our state. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 1:39:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are informed that **SB2565** Related to Public Parks, which prohibits counties from barring leashed dogs from public parks and establishes penalties for leaving dog excrement on public or private property will be heard at a joint hearing of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and the Committee on Health and Human Services on Friday, Feb. 2.

We are informed by friends at the excellent organisation *Hawaiian Humane Society* that fewer than half of Oahu's City and County parks allow leashed dogs, which deprives families of a healthy outlet for exercise close to their homes.

Even some paved walkways in city parks are off - limits to dog walkers.

We join with Hawaiian Humane in strong support of this measure, which would open all county parks to leashed dogs and their families.

This is a Bill which promotes the human-animal bond which is beneficial to all, and we beg to support it.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:23:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Many of us consider pets to be members of the family. It is unconscionable that we cannot enter public parks with our dogs on a leash. This is almost as bad as pets being banned from emergency shelters. I also like the punitive aspects, don't clean up after your pet, you et to pick up letter in public places. Please move this bill forward.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:50:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, thank you for moving this issue forward. I support SB2565 which prohibits counties from prohibiting leashed dogs from public parks. In Ewa we have 10 City Parks and only one, Ewa Beach Community Park, is allowed to have leashed dogs in the park IAW Title 19, Chapter 5 City and County of Honolulu Administrative rules of Parks and Recreation Rules Governing Dogs in Public Parks.

Best Regards,

John Rogers

Ewa Neighborhood Board Parks and Recreation Committee Co-chair

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:51:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for setting this bill for a hearing. Dogs on leashes belong in public parks; unleashed dogs do not. All dog owners should clean up after their dogs. This is a health issue that should not be ignored, especially since we still have rat lungworm disease. The penalties in the bill seem quite reasonable and appropriate.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:03:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a resident of Kaneohe with two wonderful dogs, I find it frustrating to have to walk my dogs outside of our parks. Responsible dog owners should have access to these parks just as everyone else. We are deprived the enjoyment of these common areas even though we are paying taxes to maintain them.

ONLY dog owners who abide to the leash law should be allowed in these public areas.

People who walk dogs and leave their excrement on public or private property should be penalized. Penalties should be steep as there is NO REASON to not pick up after your dog(s).

Dog excrement is not only unsightly but unvaccinated dogs can contain parasites and can pass on diseases and conditions to people, other dogs and animals.

I strongly support passing SB2565.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:15:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Well behaved dogs deserve to be with their owners outside, so I agree that they should be allowed on a leash in a public park IF the owners pick up their dog's feces. It annoys most dog owners immensely when other dog owners act irresponsibly.



**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:46:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 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 this measure which would open all county parks to leashed dogs and their families.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:00:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of bill HB2565

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:03:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support. I am a dog trainer, dog walker and Dog owner. There are very few dog parks and dog parks are not safe. Allow everyone to enjoy public parks safely and with their pets. Make Hawaii more pet friendly so there are less stray pets.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:27:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

There is no reason why dogs on leash should not be allowed in parks. However, irresponsible owners should be heavily fined when not picking up after their dog, if dogs are off leash, or if a dog harms someone or another dog. I am a Hawaii native and reside in Palolo.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:18:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

<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 this measure. Our dogs are our part of our families and they should be allowed in parks when they are on a leash. Thank you.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:19:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 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. Dogs are family members and should be allowed to accompany their human family to all of Oahu's parks as long as the dogs are leashed and under the control of their human guardian.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:45:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

ALL PARKS SHOULD ALLOW DOGS ON LEASH IN HAWAII. Our pets are an important part of our families and it is hardship to not be able to bring them to the places where we recreate.

Dog poop bags should be available at all parks to aid in collecting feces.

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 10:51:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu, and I support SB2565.



**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:53:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2565. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI 96816

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 1:14:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 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 Wakai, Vice Chairperson Elefante and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and Chairperson Buenaventura, Vice Chairperson Aquino and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Please support Senate Bill 2565 which would prohibit counties from barring leashed dogs in public parks and establish penalties for leaving dog excrement on public or private property. There should be a law for counties to uniformly follow in allowing leashed dogs in parks. People who are responsibly leashing dogs with them should not be deprived of the opportunity to enjoy walks with their dogs in public parks. The section establishing penalties for not cleaning dog excrement from public and private property should strengthen support for statewide acceptance of leashed dogs in public parks.

Again, please support Senate Bill 2565.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**LATE**

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 3:05:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Virginia M Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Our dogs are part of our families and our county parks should be open to our leashed pets as well.

**LATE**

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 9:58:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm a Kaimuki resident that enjoys many of the parks including Ala Moana Park. We have a dog and love walking her but since dogs were disallowed at Ala Moana, we don't enjoy the park with her any longer and thus feel excluded. Dogs on lease should be allowed and of course owners should always pick up their pet's waste. That's aloha.

**LATE**

**SB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 10:05:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**I'm in strong support of SB2565. The irresponsible behavior of a few should not dictate the needs of many. Rather, meaningful consequences should be imposed. The public parks belong to the public. Dogs need to be walked, for health and behavioral reasons. There should be Stiff penalties for irresponsible dog owners who don't pick up their dog's excrement.**

**Thank you for your consideration to do what's in the best interest of the community, and holding those who don't care about our community accountable.**

**Ginny Tiu**