STAND. COM. REP. NO. **376**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 , 2025

H.B. No. 698 RE: H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 698 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to increase the category offense for various animal cruelty offenses.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Green Party of Hawai'i; Hina's Legacy Rescue Foundation; Animal Rights Hawai'i; Fur-Angel Foundation; Hawaiian Humane Society; Omizu Architecture Inc.; Hawaii SPCA; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that animal cruelty is a serious crime with strong links to violence against humans, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, intimate partners, and the elderly. Research indicates that many violent offenders have a history of abusing animals, and exposure to such cruelty during childhood increases the likelihood of future abusive behavior. This measure enhances penalties for animal cruelty offenses to ensure harsher consequences for offenders and improve community safety.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 698, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 698, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature

Hscr 826

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:		Date:			
HB 698	JHI	1		02/20/2025		
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.						
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)						
JHA Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused	
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)		\checkmark				
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2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	A "NAME TO SERVE MINISTERNAL TO SERVE			sanggun king kan Mining panggarawa		
			Secondary Street Control			
3. BELATTI, Della Au						
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4. COCHRAN, Elle						
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	APS CESS OF THE SECOND					
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	A THE TAXABLE PROPERTY OF THE	$\overline{}$	in the state of th	SULLA CARACTE	inger and the second	
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.			•	<u> </u>		
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	484-452 Jan 1886 1 1886 1 1886 1 1		1 (1) (2000) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	rependicus (5)	Titler Aller St. 191 Sales	
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9. TODD, Chris				19 		
10. GARCIA, Diamond						
To: GARCIA, Diamond						
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	(MARCHADACS EDUCATION EXCERCION)		ser i hakutta ilian ili			
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TOTAL (11))	9	0			
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)						
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:						
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO						