



Hawaiian Humane Society People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Media Contact:

Jessica Tronoski, Communications Manager
jtronoski@hawaiianhumane.org | 808-356-2206

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawaiian Humane Society celebrates state's progress as Hawai'i ranks "Most Improved Jurisdiction" in U.S. animal protection laws

HONOLULU, HI (February 8, 2022) – The state of Hawai'i has ranked number one in improvement, year over year, in the 16th annual year-end U.S. Animal Protection Laws Rankings Report (2021) by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals.

"Hawai'i was previously ranked 39th but rose 12 ranks...The rankings are based on a comprehensive review of each jurisdiction's animal protection laws, including over 3,000 pages of statutes. This is the longest-running and most authoritative report of its kind and tracks which states are taking animal protection seriously," stated the Animal Legal Defense Fund in a press release.

Hawaiian Humane and its volunteer community advocates championed three new laws in 2021 that protect animals across the state:

ACT 31 – Criminalizes sexual assault of an animal. Standard veterinary, animal husbandry and conformation judging practices are exempt. This state law took effect June 7, 2021.

ACT 91 – Protects veterinarians from civil liability for rendering emergency aid to an animal, even if an owner is not available to consent to care. Requires veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty or the injury or death of an animal as part of a staged fight. Protects veterinarians from civil liability for making such reports. This state law took effect June 25, 2021.

ACT 182/"Buzz's Law" – Bans the unsupervised tethering of a dog under the age of six months. Bans tethering in a configuration that endangers the dog. Bans the use of tow or log chains to tether a dog. This state law took effect July 6, 2021.

"2020 and the passage of Bill 59 by the City & County of Honolulu set the tone for the large gains we were able to make in 2021 in regard to how our entire state protects animals," said Steph Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate for the Hawaiian Humane Society. "We are grateful to ALDF for this recognition that we are headed in the right direction as a state, community and organization. We are committed to building on that success as there is still an enormous amount of work to be done."

For more information on Hawaiian Humane's advocacy efforts and how to get involved, please visit HawaiianHumane.org/Advocacy.

###

The Hawaiian Humane Society is an education and advocacy organization that shelters, protects, rescues, reunites and rehomes animals. It is O'ahu's largest animal welfare organization that is a resource for all animals. Established in 1883, the nonprofit organization is not a chapter of any group as there is no national humane society. Visit HawaiianHumane.org to learn more.