



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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Hawaiian Humane Society's Stephanie Kendrick awarded 2022 Top Animal Defender Award

**HONOLULU, HI (February 23, 2022)** – In recognition of National Justice for Animals Week, Stephanie Kendrick, Hawaiian Humane Society's director of community engagement, has been named a 2022 Top Animal Defender by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals. This national honor recognizes her efforts to improve Hawai'i's animal protection laws.

Every year, the Animal Legal Defense Fund honors America's Top Animal Defenders—individuals who have made a significant difference for animal cruelty victims. Kendrick was listed number one in the list of recipients, with special mention of the comprehensive state legislative campaign in 2021 spearheaded by Kendrick and resulting in the passage of three significant animal protection bills. A ban on the sexual abuse of animals, restrictions on dog tethering and a bill requiring veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty (while providing them liability protections for doing so), were all signed into law Summer 2021 thanks to the leadership of Hawaiian Humane and the support of its community advocates, who championed the various bills.

"It is an honor to be recognized by ALDF for the work we've done in the past year to improve our state animal laws," shared Kendrick. "Building strong relationships is critical, both to successful advocacy and to creating a socially conscious animal community. Hawaiian Humane is committed to being a good partner in that effort. I am grateful for the support of our legislative champions and community advocates. None of this would have happened without them."

Earlier this month, the state of Hawai'i was ranked number one in improvement, year over year, in the 16th annual year-end U.S. Animal Protection Laws Rankings Report (2021) by ALDF.

"While there is still much room for improvement in Hawai'i's animal laws, Kendrick is dedicated to building on the considerable progress she has already achieved," stated ALDF in a press release.

For more information on Hawaiian Humane's advocacy efforts and how to get involved, please visit [HawaiianHumane.org/Advocacy](http://HawaiianHumane.org/Advocacy).

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*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](http://HawaiianHumane.org) to learn more.*