



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawaiian Humane celebrates passage of laws that offer greater protections to animals statewide

HONOLULU, HI (July 6, 2021) – The Hawaiian Humane Society is celebrating the passage of all three of its top legislative priorities for 2021. These new laws will help bring greater protections for animals across the state of Hawai'i.

Hawaii became the 48th state to ban animal sexual assault when Governor David Ige signed Act 31 on June 7. With a growing body of research showing a correlation between animal sexual abuse and interpersonal violence, this new law will protect the most vulnerable people and animals in our community.

In signing Act 91 on June 25, Gov. Ige protected veterinarians from civil liability for rendering emergency aid to an animal and required veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty. This law will allow all of the county animal service providers, as well as private veterinarians, to render immediate care to animals in need even if an owner cannot be located. It also gives law enforcement eyes and ears on the front lines of animal care to guard against abuse.

HB416 Dog Tethering, which prohibits unsafe tethering practices and the unsupervised tethering of puppies, officially becomes law today, July 6, and takes effect immediately. This law will give humane officers clear guidelines that they can use to educate dog owners and keep people and pets safe.

"I am grateful to the bill sponsors, House and Senate leaders, and our community advocates for supporting Hawaiian Humane's commitment to enacting laws to protect the animals of Hawai'i and their caretakers," said Steph Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate for the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Those interested in Hawaiian Humane's advocacy efforts can join the organization's advocacy mailing list to keep updated on public policy issues that impact animal welfare laws at HawaiianHumane.org/advocacy.

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About the Hawaiian Humane Society

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.