

FACT SHEET

HB 699 PET-FRIENDLY HOUSING

This bill addresses housing challenges faced by pet owners that restrict the number of homes available to animals in need and force families to choose between shelter and keeping a beloved pet. A 2024 survey revealed that 30% of O'ahu households who had to surrender pets in the past five years cited housing limitations. The 2023 Point in Time Count found that 29 percent of O'ahu's homeless residents have at least one pet.

WHAT IT DOES

- Limits monthly pet fees that can be charged to renters
- Caps pet security deposits
- Addresses housing challenges for pet owners

WHAT IT DOES NOT

- Eliminate a landlord's rights to manage property
- Prevent landlords from recouping the cost of damages

KEY FINDINGS

Source: Michelson Found Animals

- Evidence supports pet owners make excellent tenants
 - Residents in pet-friendly housing stay 21% longer than non-pet-friendly housing (which is the equivalent of 10 additional months)
 - 79% of owner/operators said pet-friendly units are easier to fill
- Only 9% of pets are reported to cause any damage of any kind, and the average damages were just \$210

RENTAL RESTRICTIONS

- Limits additional monthly fees for pet ownership for multi-dwelling units with pet common areas
- Allows landlords to charge an additional security deposit for pets, but limits these additional fees to one-third of one month's rent

POTENTIAL IMPACT IF NOT ENACTED

- Continued housing insecurity for pet owners
- Higher pet surrender rates
- Increased strain on animal welfare organizations
- Economic and emotional stress for families with pets

Learn more about our advocacy efforts at:
HawaiianHumane.org/advocacy



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.