



GOV. MSG. NO. 1280

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2016

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 30, 2016, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1668 SD1 CD1

RELATING TO THE USE OF A DOG IN JUDICIAL  
PROCEEDINGS  
**ACT 178 (16)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

JUN 30 2016

on \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL ACT 178

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016  
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO.

1668  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE USE OF A DOG IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
2 adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read  
3 as follows:

4 "§ Use of a facility dog. (a) For purposes of this  
5 section:

6 "Facility dog" means a dog that is a graduate of an  
7 assistance dog organization that is accredited by Assistance  
8 Dogs International or a similar internationally recognized  
9 organization whose main purpose is to grant accreditation to  
10 assistance dog organizations based on standards of excellence in  
11 all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training, and  
12 placement. A "facility dog" shall be specially trained to  
13 provide emotional support to witnesses testifying in judicial  
14 proceedings without causing a distraction during the  
15 proceedings.

16 "Vulnerable witness" means a witness whose ability to  
17 testify in a judicial proceeding will be hampered or ineffective  
18 without the assistance of a facility dog, for reasons including



1 but not limited to intellectual or emotional disability,  
2 intimidation, or age.

3 (b) A court may permit the use of a facility dog in a  
4 judicial proceeding involving the testimony of a vulnerable  
5 witness if the court determines that there is a compelling  
6 necessity for the use of a facility dog to facilitate the  
7 testimony of the vulnerable witness.

8 (c) Before the use of a facility dog in a judicial  
9 proceeding, the moving party shall file a motion certifying to  
10 the court:

- 11 (1) The credentials of the facility dog;
- 12 (2) That the facility dog is adequately insured; and
- 13 (3) That a relationship has been established between the  
14 witness and the facility dog.

15 (d) To the extent necessary, the court may impose  
16 restrictions, or instructions to the jury, regarding the  
17 presence of the facility dog during the proceedings."

18 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

H.B. NO. 1668  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

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APPROVED this 30 day of JUN 1, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII