

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 695

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2021

RE: S.B. No. 189  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 189 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOG BITES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to remove the requirement to prove that the dog has bitten on two separate occasions for dog bite victims to bring legal action against a dog's owner.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that dog bites are among the top reasons for emergency room visits, ranking higher than injuries occurring on motorcycles, to pedestrians, and from gunshots. Your Committee further finds that the current state law only allows a dog bite victim standing in district court if it can be proven to the court that the dog has bitten and injured on a prior separate occasion. However, your Committee notes that there is no systematic tracking system for dog bites in Hawai'i and many of the incidences go unreported. This measure therefore allows for a legal right to action for dog bite victims without proof of a prior bite on a separate occasion.



Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 189, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 189, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 189</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/23/21</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended  Pass, with amendments  Hold  Recommit

2312    2311    2310    2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Recommendation:  Adopted  Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution:** Original                          Yellow                          Pink                          Goldenrod  
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**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**