

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2975

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 01 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2561
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2561, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMAL ENDANGERMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Prohibit intentionally leaving or confining pet animals in a vehicle under conditions that endanger their health, safety, or well-being;
- (2) Permit law enforcement officers, animal control officers, and firefighters to enter an unattended vehicle to protect the health, safety, or well-being of a pet animal that is endangered by being left or confined in an unattended vehicle; and
- (3) Allow private citizens to rescue a pet animal that has been left in an unattended vehicle under certain circumstances.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain, and fourteen individuals.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General, Hawaii Association for Justice, and Hawaiian Humane Society.

Your Committee finds that every year, hundreds of pet animals lose their lives when their owners leave them alone in parked vehicles in extreme temperatures. Your Committee further finds that fourteen states have already passed measures granting certain immunities from civil and criminal liability for individuals who rescue unattended pets left in vehicles. By protecting individuals who intervene to remove unattended animals contained in vehicles, this measure will protect and save pet animals from injury or death due to dangerous temperatures.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of April 14, 2112, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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. 2561, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2561, S.D. 2.

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




KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2561 SD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>AEN (PSM, JDC)</i>	Date: <i>02/28/24</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				✓
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	
TOTAL	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**