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Statement of Support for Hawaii HB1653: Enhanced Penalties for Aquatic Resource Violations

Pet Advocacy Network Executive Vice President of Government Affairs Bob Likins:

“On behalf of the responsible pet care community, we at the Pet Advocacy Network commend Hawaii legislators for advancing HB1653 that will increase penalties for aquatic resource violation convictions, and we urge Governor Ige to sign this important legislation into law. Illegal activity threatens the balanced management of the responsible, sustainable and legal fishery that is essential to the Hawaiian economy and to the individuals and their families whose livelihoods depend on fish collection for food as well as for aquariums. We support the enhanced penalties that this bill would implement in order to empower Hawaiian law enforcement with criminal activity deterrents and to better protect the ecosystem that is well-maintained by responsible aquatic life collection.”

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About Pet Advocacy Network

The [Pet Advocacy Network](https://www.petadvocacy.org) connects the experience and expertise of the responsible pet care community to lawmakers and governing bodies, advocating for legislative and regulatory priorities at the local, state, federal and international levels. Since 1971, the organization has worked to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure access to healthy pets, including small animals, cats, dogs, fish, reptiles and birds. Pet Advocacy Network members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations.

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