

JAN 29 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO EXPLORE THE ADVISABILITY OF ENACTING LAWS OR
ADOPTING REGULATORY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO REGULATE THE
BREEDING OF DOGS AND CATS.

1 WHEREAS, there does not exist any state statute or county
2 ordinance in Hawaii to regulate the breeding of dogs and cats;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, in 2003, a woman accused of operating a "puppy
6 mill" out of her Hawaii Kai condominium was charged with
7 twenty-five counts of cruelty to animals, one count per animal;
8 and
9

10 WHEREAS, investigators from the Hawaiian Humane Society
11 discovered the dogs in cages crammed into a filthy condo,
12 describing the kennels as "filled with feces, urine, and
13 infested with insects, including cockroaches, flies, spiders,
14 and other pests" (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* article of November 10,
15 2007, reporting on court dismissal of the charges); and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Humane Society conducted a nearly
18 month long investigation into suspected animal cruelty and
19 determined that the dogs were kept in "deplorable conditions and
20 small cages - well below standards considered acceptable"; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the woman charged in the case claimed that she had
23 planned to go into business to breed dogs; and
24

25 WHEREAS, this cruelty to animal incident might have been
26 avoided if dog and cat breeders were licensed by the State or
27 county or otherwise required to obtain a permit as a
28 prerequisite to conducting a breeding operation; and
29

30 WHEREAS, a breeder license or permit would provide, at
31 minimum, for registration of the operator, inspection of the



1 breeding facility to ensure adequacy and cleanliness,
2 information to the agency of the number of live births with each
3 litter, the disposition (for example, sale or gift) of each
4 animal after birth, and the payment of licensing or permit fees;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, a breeder license or permit could require that the
8 each breed of animal be outfitted with a microchip to verify the
9 legitimate ownership of the animal, particularly a thoroughbred;
10 and

11
12 WHEREAS, a breeder license or permit would also alleviate
13 the deplorable situation of a super abundance of stray cats and
14 dogs, resulting from the indiscriminate and uncontrolled
15 breeding of these animals; and

16
17 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions may have statutes, ordinances,
18 or rules that require a license or permit to breed cats and
19 dogs; now, therefore,

20
21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
24 Agriculture is requested to convene a task force to study the
25 laws, ordinances, and rules of other jurisdictions that require
26 licenses or permits to breed cats and dogs to determine whether
27 or not the breeding of dogs and cats should be regulated in the
28 State of Hawaii and what the implementation of such a regulatory
29 mechanism would entail; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
32 assistance of the Department of Agriculture, report its findings
33 and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
34 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009, including
35 but not limited to, recommendations for legislation if any
36 legislation is necessary or, in the alternative, an analysis of
37 whether current Hawaii statutes provide the authority for the
38 adoption of administrative rules to regulate the breeding of
39 dogs and cats; and


40
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
42 include, but not be limited to, representatives of dog and cat
43 breeders, fanciers, pet shops, and the humane society of each
44 county; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
4 Board of Agriculture; President and Chief Executive Officer of
5 the Hawaiian Humane Society, Maui Humane Society, Kauai Humane
6 Society, and Hawaii Island Humane Society; and the K-9 Animal
7 Rescue League.

8
9
10

OFFERED BY:



By Request

