

JAN 29 2008

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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22 WHEREAS, the woman charged in the case claimed that she had
23 planned to go into business to breed dogs; and
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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
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30 WHEREAS, a breeder license or permit would provide, at
31 minimum, for registration of the operator, inspection of the
32 breeding facility to ensure adequacy and cleanliness,
33 information to the agency of the number of live births with each
34 litter, the disposition (for example, sale or gift) of each



1 animal after birth, and the payment of licensing or permit fees;
2 and

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

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

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

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

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
28 assistance of the Department of Agriculture, report its findings
29 and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
30 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009, including
31 but not limited to, recommendations for legislation if any
32 legislation is necessary or, in the alternative, an analysis of
33 whether current Hawaii statutes provide the authority for the
34 adoption of administrative rules to regulate the breeding of
35 dogs and cats; and

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

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
44 Agriculture; President and Chief Executive Officer of the




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1 Hawaiian Humane Society, Maui Humane Society, Kauai Humane
2 Society, and Hawaii Island Humane Society; and the K-9 Animal
3 Rescue League.

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OFFERED BY:



By Request

