

HCR 134

REQUESTING ALL ACTIVE, RESERVE, AND GUARD COMPONENTS OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND THE ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO MAKE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUAL CARE FOR THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS OWNED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WHO ARE REQUIRED TO DEPLOY OR RELOCATE.

From: Hawaii Cat Foundation [mailto:hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 8:39 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Re: HCR 134 - Relating to Pets/Military

Dear House Members:

Please support this resolution. Hawaii Cat Foundation (a non-profit cat rescue on O'ahu since 1993) strongly supports measures that promote responsible care for pets by all pet guardians, including those pet guardians who may be members of the various military armed services.

Adopted pets are frequently left behind - either simply abandoned, or turned in to a shelter - when the pet guardian relocates away from Hawaii. This action is often a result of lack of preparation and/or commitment to care of the pet.

In almost 20 years of rehoming over 1500 cats on the island, we note that the percentage of adoptions by members of the U.S. military is 70%.

While many of the adopting military families provide caring, lifetime homes for their pets, approximately 90% of our returned or abandoned cats were adopted by military members.

This resolution will serve to assist pet animals in need by raising awareness to the issue of abandonment and providing legal guidelines regarding specific expectations for provisions of continued care of pets in the event of relocation or deployment.

Thank you for your support of HCR 134.

Christin Matsushige, President
Hawaii Cat Foundation
www.hicat.org

Christin Matsushige, President
HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION
www.hicat.org
hcf@hicat.org
808.688.8822

" Humane Solutions in Feral Cat Management "

From: Stephanie Ryan Oahu SPCA [mailto:stephanie@oahuspca.org]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 10:13 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** US Military Responsible Pet Ownership

Re: HCR 134

Dear Honorary Committee Members,

I Stephanie Ryan have been Founder and President of the Oahu SPCA for the past 20 months and Hawaii Dog Foundation President since fall of 2007. I can account that majority of the animals rescued who have been taken into these two non-profit organizations (privately funded and volunteer driven) have been a result of owner relinquishments. Most of the owner relinquishments are due to the number of transient residents inhabiting the island of Oahu. The population of military individuals that live on Oahu consist of only 5% of the population. Yet, the total number of animals rescue, due to the owner relinquishment of military families consists of approximately 30% of the animals rescued and taken in to the above mentioned private non-profit organizations. These families have not been given the resources or the advanced notice to make provisions for their family members.

The island of Oahu has a population of approximately one million individuals. There are simply not enough families or people on the island to take care of the increasing number of abandoned companion animals on the island. Consequently the number of abandoned/homeless companion animals on our island are in eminent danger unless discovered and rescued.

The state of Hawaii must put in place the same immigration laws that require that require the sponsorship of individuals that immigrate to Hawaii (exotic breeds that are imported from Australia and sold for a huge profit). Emigrants (the population of companion animals that fly to the State of Hawaii from families relocating from the mainland) must have the same regulations imposed on them as well. Every animal who relocates to the State of Hawaii or is purchased and shipped to our islands (an exotic breed of dog or cat from a breeder outside of the State of Hawaii) should have a sponsor or guarantor similar to humans attempting to immigrate to the United States. In order for these companion animals to pass the airport quarantine, the registered owner and shipper must guarantee the care for the life of the animal entering into Hawaii.

Thank you,



Stephanie Ryan
Oahu SPCA
Co-Founder and President
808-349-3475
stephanie@oahuspca.org
Save a life. Spay and neuter all your pets!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 12:50 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: audy@audykimura.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR134 on 4/13/2011 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/13/2011 1:20:00 PM HCR134

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Audy Kimura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: audy@audykimura.com
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

I urge our legislators to support this resolution in order to prevent further suffering and abuse. Please take this important step in reducing the feral population, reducing the overload on animal shelters and most of all stopping cruelty to animals.

With Aloha,
Audy Kimura

From: AudyKimura.com [<mailto:audy@audykimura.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 9:50 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: FW: HCR 134 - Relating to Pets/Military / From Audy Kimura

Dear Senator Espero,

I met you at Chris Pablo's memorial service on January 9, 2010. Please see the testimony of Christin Matsushige below.

Christin is widely credited as having rescued more cats than anyone in Hawaii. She currently cares for approximately 250 cats including some in critical condition and requiring IV drugs, 24/7 with a licensed Veterinarian on staff. She and her husband Cary have devoted their lives to caring for animals in need.

When I visited her shelter she showed me a case where a cat was so traumatized by the owner giving him up and the sudden change of habitat that he simply stopped eating and moving. There is a name for this known medical condition. They are force feeding him and hoping he will recover. It is truly pitiful.

Please see paragraph 3. In Christin's experience the military accounts for about 70% of the cats given up for adoption at her shelter.

I sent my brief testimony in by internet. Thank you for your support of and work on this resolution which I hope will eventually become law.

With Aloha,
Audy Kimura

Cel: (808) 271-2920
audy@audykimura.com

From: Jennifer Kitazaki [jkitazaki60@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 2:08 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: HCR 134

To all concerned,

I support this resolution. I do believe if the military population is provided with the resources on animal care options, animal abandonment could be greatly reduced.

I've been feeding and neutering cats in Pearl City near the high school for about 7 years. Full size and teenage cats do show up occasionally. They are not neutered. Some of them become friendly quite quickly which tells me they were probably pets. There is no way for me to say that the military families are the only ones responsible for abandoning these cats. But, providing resources for animal care options would certainly help to educate people in that there are better choices than just setting your pet free.

Please do pass this resolution.

Thank you,
Jennifer Kitazaki
98-729 Moanalua Loop #112
Aiea, HI 96701
ph# 294-7111

From: punahouoidog@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:03 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Sen. Will Espero

I support HCR 134.

There is an urgent need to stem the number of pets being left behind when a military family has to leave the islands, whether it is because of deployment, or a move.

It will bring down the euthanasia rate of all these pets left homeless.

Thank you.

P Fearn

From: Warren Leong [1toynut@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 10:26 PM
To: PGM Testimony; Sen. Will Espero
Subject: HCR134, Wed, April 13th at 1:20 p.m.

Aloha Distinguished Hawaii State Senators,

I am very happy to hear that HCR134 is being heard and I wholeheartedly support this resolution. I have been a volunteer at several animal rescue organizations on Oahu and have witnessed first hand the drain on the very limited resources of these humane groups by the high turnover rate of military adoptions. It is grossly unfair to the conscientious people of these groups working to improve the lives of helpless abandoned and homeless animals and ultimately the lives of our entire community. Just as importantly, if not more so, it is extremely unfair to all of the animals seeking a permanent home.

I strongly encourage your committee to pass HCR134.

Sincerely,
Warren Leong

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 6:42 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: gerraine_s@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR134 on 4/13/2011 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/13/2011 1:20:00 PM HCR134

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gerraine santos
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gerraine_s@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

pls support this concurrent bill relating to military pets, which will lower the influx of military pets being "dumped" into shelters.

thank yo.

Committee On Public Safety, Government Operations, And Military Affairs
HCR 134 Wednesday, April 13, 2011; 1:20 PM

Dear Committee Members:

House Concurrent Resolution 134 (companion HR114) needs your support.

Please help Hawaii's unwanted cat and dog populations and the caregivers whom never stop helping these abandoned animals. Animals are a gift that bring comfort and love into our lives. These animals are not virtual pets (nano-pets) or vermin to be disposed of or eradicated out of convenience.

All of the cats in my family are rescue cats. All had been abandoned by other military families, on military bases, from Guam Naval base to Hickam Air Force base. The feral cat colony that I also care was 'grandmother-ed' by a certain calico cat, which was relocated from the U.S. Coast Guard base on Sand Island by a well-meaning but sadly misinformed neighbor. The neighbor let the cat roam without being spayed and her progeny numbers 17.

The military has the ability to improve this situation. The time has passed for the military commanders to simply close their eyes and hire someone else to do their dirty work. It is not acceptable to trap these animals and drop them off on other parts of the island or have them destroyed by the Humane Society. The Commander's of Hawaii's military bases should be made aware of the extensive network of animal caregivers in the surrounding communities. These caregivers are willing and able to give their time and money to trap, spay and neuter, and return the animals for humane co-existence. This and other measures will put an end to the re-population of abandoned pets on their military bases, by their military members, at almost no cost to the military.


The military commanders can require spaying and neutering of military members pets before authorizing their entry into military housing. They have the authority to require microchips in the military member's pets. They have the authority to ensure that members do not exceed the number of pets authorized in military housing. Requirements for the humane treatment of military member's pets can be enforced as well. When departing the island, the military commander should ensure that the proper care is taken if an animal was authorized at arrival. The military commanders should step up to provide for the humane treatment of the animal if the military member does not have the financial means to take the animal with him.

Hawaii is not the military's disposal ground for unwanted pets. Pets are not virtual entities; they are still here in the surrounding communities when the gates are closed. They starve, they thirst and they feel pain when they are abused (including being used as practice for dog fighting). Many times the animals are killed accidentally, or on purpose- sometimes inhumanely so (poisons).

The military commanders of Hawaii can address the inhumane treatment of animals and help stop a major source of the problem. They have 100% control of all military personnel on the islands and they could, and should, help to keep the island the way it was before the entered. I am a proud military veteran myself and the wife of a retired military officer. I love the military and honor its way of life. But, I am ashamed at times that the military does not have higher ethical standards when it comes to the humane treatment of animals.

I support HCR 134/HR114 and ask you to please support this resolution too.

Sincerely,


Sandra Tosatto
98-1514 Akaaka Street
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Pam Longenecker [mahina2@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:40 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: HCR134, Wed, April 13th at 1:20 p.m.

Dear Members,

I have so much to say in support of this resolution that I hardly know where to begin except to tell you that I worked feverishly with the 15th Air Base Wing for about 2 years (2002 – 2003, plus time from 1999 to 2005 in other capacities) to implement procedures to help military members be RESPONSIBLE for their pets. It covered everything from the benefits of Trap, Neuter, Return, and Manage (for feral progeny of those abandoned) to:

- editing of a then already outdated (1997) 15 ABWI 48-104, *Pet Control*
- creation of an educational brochure to help people keep their pets
- suggestions/creation of forms for use by shelters/rescue organizations/humane society to help the veterinary clinic (where ALL animals are to be registered) track the adoption and/or surrender of pets living on Hickam AFB
- registration/deregistration forms for animals entering/exiting the base upon permanent change of station (this was adopted in a MUCH watered down version....basically taking the word of the military member rather than having them prove, via ticket purchase or shelter surrender intake number, that the animal was not roaming the base)
- a website that offered pet transportation information (including a timeline for vaccinations, airline reservations, kennel requirements, etc.) and transient living allowance-approved hotels that accepted pets
- suggestions to post signs at the entry points of the base letting people know animal abandonment was illegal on base and in Hawaii

All the aforementioned materials were shot down by the base (except where mentioned and a new but unenforced ABWI). All the work was encouraged and completed by me, but not one thing was incorporated. I was told signage is limited on base (yet they put up signs and crashed cars periodically to remind people not to drink and drive). I was told the website (which is no longer in existence because the shelter, S.A.F.E. House Cat Rescue no longer exists) could not be linked to the Hickam site because S.A.F.E. was a "club" and if they did for one they had to do for all. Yet, I received calls at my home for advice....from people who knew people that I knew....the NEED was there!

Re: the abandoned animals. It was perfectly fine for the base to periodically pay for the round up and killing of animals claiming the federal requirement to protect the wetlands and migratory birds. YET, DESPITE HAVING SAID IT AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE BASE REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE AND HOLD RESPONSIBLE (and we KNOW it can be done) MILITARY MEMBERS WHO SHARE MOST HEAVILY IN THE CAUSE of stray animals by 1. Not taking them with them (and I have been told on more than one occasion that it is *cheaper to get a new one at the next assignment*) and 2. Not having those pets sterilized. Concerning the "cheaper to get a new one" elsewhere, S.A.F.E. House even entertained developing a revolving-pet program (to ensure a pet had a place to go for the duration of an assignment, and if the family could not or would not take it, S.A.F.E. would take the cat back and "foster" it out to another family. Unfortunately, this was a program that was beyond our housing capacity and staffing ability....S.A.F.E was completely volunteer run).

Rest assured the military requires their personnel to have a plan in place for dependent children should a TDY or deployment require parents to leave. The same can and should be done for the animals. Please do not let them play a pet is essential to the "quality of life for our members" card. We also, too, have to remember the quality of life for the animal, the environment and the wildlife.

There is SO much more I can say about my experiences. I know in 1996 someone tried to make a dent in what was happening on Hickam. I know again in the late 1990s, Kay Santarelli, Gen Santarelli's wife, saw a need and voila, things

started happening, both “properly” and not, on Hickam. When Kay left, it became “so what colonel’s wife is behind you?”

I KNOW THERE IS A NEED FOR THE MILITARY TO WORK WITH THE RESCUES AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HAD THERE NOT BEEN SO MANY RESTRAINTS, SO MUCH COULD’VE ALREADY BEEN ACOMPLISHED....AND I KNOW, at least while I was there, some of these things would not have cost the military one red cent.

My apologies if my testimony is a bit here and a bit there. As you can tell, nearly 6 years after departing Hawaii, I am still passionate about what goes on back in Oahu and hope fervently that this step, one that should have happened decades ago, is a positive one for the animals. Let Hawaii break the chain of disgrace that have occurred wherever military and animals have been throughout the world, over decades.

Yours most sincerely,

Pam Longenecker
Annapolis, MD
443.482.9288
Mahina2@verizon.net

P.S. I think HCR 134 was VERY kindly written. I am glad the point of abandonment was made clear.

From: Germaine E. Okino [mailto:GOkino@stfrancishawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:33 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: HCR 134

I am writing to encourage the support of HCR 134. The problem of stray animals, along with abused and neglected animals is a growing concern. Not to say that only people in the military tend to give away, sell, or abandon their dogs, as others do as well, but if you look at Craigslist, the majority of animals being sold or given away on Craigslist are due to being deployed or some reason associated with the military. Please highly consider supporting HCR 134. Thank you.

From: Carole [<mailto:hawaiianimalsanctuary@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 12:58 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Subject: HCR 134

Aloha,

I write in support of House Concurrent Resolution 134. I volunteer for a Hawaii non-profit group which specializes in abandoned and abused animals; thus, I have seen first hand what happens when the military abandon pets. Our group has even rescued some pets left locked in empty former residences without food or water.

Thank you.

carole r. richelieu

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Carole

Volunteer

Hawaii Animal Sanctuary

hawaiianimalsanctuary@hawaiiantel.net

From: Richard Diaz [<mailto:rickdiaz11@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 12:51 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Subject: HCR134

Dear Senator Espero,

We are kindly asking for your support regarding HCR134, a small but crucial measure to help protect our companion animals. I have witnessed, many times, family pets abandoned when their caretakers leave them behind, kittens left locked in a bathroom for two weeks, pets forced to fend for themselves, looking for food as they roam the parking lot of the apartment building where they once lived. There are many sad stories. Some of these animals are not spay/neutered, contributing to the already exploding stray dog/cat population.

Please, let us extend our Aloha spirit to the animals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Diaz

From: Genni Day [mailto:gkday26@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 8:44 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: HCR134

Senator Espero,

I am writing to request that you please schedule a hearing for HCR134. So many pets are abandoned every year by military members as they are sent on short notice deployments and for other reasons. A resolution to help these animals is so important and very needed! I support this resolution 110%!
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Genni Day
CMR 42 Box 1684
APO, AE 09180

From: Warren Leong [<mailto:1toynut@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 10:26 PM

To: PGM Testimony; Sen. Will Espero

Subject: HCR134, Wed, April 13th at 1:20 p.m.

Aloha Distinguished Hawaii State Senators,

I am very happy to hear that HCR134 is being heard and I wholeheartedly support this resolution. I have been a volunteer at several animal rescue organizations on Oahu and have witnessed first hand the drain on the very limited resources of these humane groups by the high turnover rate of military adoptions. It is grossly unfair to the conscientious people of these groups working to improve the lives of helpless abandoned and homeless animals and ultimately the lives of our entire community. Just as importantly, if not more so, it is extremely unfair to all of the animals seeking a permanent home.

I strongly encourage your committee to pass HCR134.

Sincerely,
Warren Leong