

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2012

RE: S.B. No. 2208
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 2208 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support spay and
neuter initiatives in Hawaii that help to reduce pet
overpopulation by:

- (1) Establishing a spay and neuter special fund to cover the
costs of reducing the number of feral animals through
spaying and neutering, educating the public regarding
the importance of spaying and neutering, and preventing
homeless animal overpopulation;
- (2) Establishing an advisory committee to assist the
Department of Budget and Finance in developing special
fund disbursement eligibility criteria and procedures;
and
- (3) Providing taxpayers with a state income tax refund of \$5
or more, or for a joint return with a state income tax
refund of \$10 or more, the option of designating a
portion of their income tax refund to be deposited into
the special fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaiian Humane Society, the Maui Humane Society, and two



hundred private individuals. Testimony in opposition to this measure was submitted by the Department of Budget and Finance and the Department of Taxation. The Tax Foundation of Hawaii submitted comments.

Your Committee finds that pet overpopulation is caused by too many animal litters and lack of affordable and accessible spay and neuter options. This measure provides additional funding to help reduce pet overpopulation and decrease pet euthanasia.

Your Committee notes the concerns raised by the Department of Budget and Finance regarding its limited budget and staff complement to provide sufficient oversight of the spay and neuter special fund as well as the advisory committee established under this measure. As such, your Committee believes that the monies generated from the income tax check-off should be used to cover the special fund's administrative costs, and merits further discussion by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to ensure further discussion;
- (2) Inserting a five-year sunset date to allow the Department of Budget and Finance to review and assess the viability of the special fund; and
- (3) 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 and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2208, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2208, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



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



CLAYTON HEE, Chair



