
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CONDUCT A
MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL AUDIT, TO INCLUDE OPERATIONS AND
PROCUREMENT, OF ITS ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT WITH THE
HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Humane Society has received
2 complaints by many in the animal welfare community, particularly
3 regarding the high rate of euthanasia of healthy adoptable
4 animals by the organization; and
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6 WHEREAS, using euthanasia to manage dog and cat
7 overpopulation causes health issues and emotional stress in
8 employees involved, increases staff turnover, and has financial,
9 moral, and ethical ramifications for communities; and
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11 WHEREAS, employees and former employees recently organized
12 a group called "People for Animals First" to bring forward
13 concerns about the practices and management of the Hawaiian
14 Humane Society and spark the change necessary to save the
15 organization from further deterioration; and
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17 WHEREAS, the group has provided state lawmakers with
18 testimonies and evidence that under the current leadership, and
19 with the oversight of the Hawaiian Humane Society Board of
20 Directors, the Hawaiian Humane Society routinely encourages
21 euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals, violates standard
22 safety procedures and labor practices, and supports a hostile
23 work environment; and
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25 WHEREAS, under the current leadership, sixty-two workers
26 have been fired or have resigned in the period of roughly one
27 year, a pattern repeated from when the current leadership was at
28 the Hawaii Island Humane Society; and
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1 WHEREAS, animals that had treatable conditions or were
2 underweight were routinely euthanized instead of being placed
3 into foster care with volunteers and rescue groups – a best
4 practice embraced by shelters across the United States to save
5 lives; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Humane Society animal control
8 contract with the City and County of Honolulu rewards the
9 Hawaiian Humane Society for euthanizing dogs, cats, and other
10 animals; and

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12 WHEREAS, a review of the animal control contract annual
13 reports from 2012 to 2016 indicates that there was an increase
14 of roughly twenty-two percent of the funds provided to the
15 Hawaiian Humane Society; and

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17 WHEREAS, while the counties of Kauai and Hawaii have moved
18 forward with audits of the animal control contactors and Maui
19 Humane Society has successfully made changes to reduce its
20 euthanasia rate, the Hawaiian Humane Society has not been
21 audited by the State since 1995 or by the City and County of
22 Honolulu since 1997; and

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24 WHEREAS, although California shelters take in over four
25 hundred thousand cats and dogs per year, their forty percent
26 euthanasia rate is a result of their commitment to following
27 national best practices, which do not appear to be embraced by
28 the Hawaiian Humane Society on Oahu; and

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30 WHEREAS, the proliferation of affordable spay and neuter
31 options for the public in the past ten years, including The Big
32 Fix clinics and Animal Balance clinics, have greatly reduced pet
33 overpopulation challenges and euthanasia; and

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35 WHEREAS, social media has mobilized the community to aid in
36 returning lost and found pets to their owners, rescuing stray
37 animals, and avoiding surrender to the Hawaiian Humane Society,
38 which has contributed to the reduction in the intake and
39 euthanasia of animals; and

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41 WHEREAS, recent scrutiny involving alleged criminal
42 wrongdoing by various, high-level City and County of Honolulu



1 officials requires the State to take a leadership role in
2 protecting Oahu taxpayers, animals, and the people that care for
3 them; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is imperative that an audit is conducted prior
6 to releasing any state grant in aid funds to support
7 construction of the Hawaiian Humane Society's new West Oahu
8 shelter; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
12 Representatives concurring, that the City and County of Honolulu
13 is requested to conduct a management and financial audit, to
14 include operations and procurement, of its animal control
15 contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
18 is requested to consider best practices for the euthanasia of
19 animals in its audit; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
22 suspend release of any state grant funds awarded to the Hawaiian
23 Humane Society until an audit clears the organization of any
24 wrongdoing; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
28 the City and County of Honolulu, and President and Chief
29 Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Humane Society.
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