

MAR 8 - 2019

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL  
AUDIT, TO INCLUDE OPERATIONS AND PROCUREMENT, OF THE CITY  
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S 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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30           WHEREAS, animals that had treatable conditions or were  
31 underweight were routinely euthanized instead of being placed  
32 into foster care with volunteers and rescue groups - a best  
33 practice embraced by shelters across the United States to save  
34 lives; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, recent scrutiny involving alleged criminal wrongdoing by various, high-level City and County of Honolulu officials requires the State to take a leadership role in protecting Oahu taxpayers, animals, and the people that care for them; and

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1 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State move forward with  
 2 an audit prior to releasing any state grant in aid funds to  
 3 support construction of the Hawaiian Humane Society's new West  
 4 Oahu shelter; now, therefore,

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 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 7 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
 8 Auditor is requested to conduct a management and financial  
 9 audit, to include operations and procurement, of the City and  
 10 County of Honolulu's animal control contract with the Hawaiian  
 11 Humane Society; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested  
 14 to contract support from an entity with sufficient expertise and  
 15 knowledge to audit the animal welfare policies and programs of  
 16 the Hawaiian Humane Society and provide recommendations for  
 17 reducing euthanasia; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
 20 suspend release of any state grant funds awarded to the Hawaiian  
 21 Humane Society until an audit clears the organization of any  
 22 wrongdoing; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, State Auditor, and  
 26 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Humane  
 27 Society.

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OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Hishikawa

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 Michelle Tedeni  
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 Kurt Jensen